

Union Calendar No. 263

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4044

[Report No. 107-442]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland for implementation of a program to eradicate nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2002

Mr. GILCHREST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

MAY 7, 2002

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 20, 2002]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland for implementation of a program to eradicate nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) *FINDINGS.*—*The Congress finds the following:*

3 (1) *Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and in Louisiana provide significant cultural, economic, and ecological benefits to the Nation.*

4 (2) *The South American nutria (Myocastor coypus) is directly contributing to substantial marsh loss in Maryland and Louisiana on Federal, State, and private land.*

5 (3) *Traditional harvest methods to control or eradicate nutria have failed. Consequently, marsh loss is accelerating.*

6 (4) *The nutria eradication and control pilot program authorized by Public Law 105–322 is to develop new and effective methods for eradication of nutria.*

7 (b) *PURPOSE.*—*The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.*

8 **SEC. 2. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

9 (a) *GRANT AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary of the Interior (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), subject to the availability of appropriations, may provide financial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate*

1 *or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nu-*
2 *tria.*

3 (b) *GOALS.—The goals of the program shall be to—*

4 (1) *eradicate nutria in Maryland;*

5 (2) *eradicate or control nutria in Louisiana and*
6 *other States; and*

7 (3) *restore marshland damaged by nutria.*

8 (c) *ACTIVITIES.—In the State of Maryland, the Sec-*
9 *retary shall require that the program consist of manage-*
10 *ment, research, and public education activities carried out*
11 *in accordance with the document published by the United*
12 *States Fish and Wildlife Service entitled “Eradication*
13 *Strategies for Nutria in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay*
14 *Watersheds”, dated March 2002.*

15 (d) *COST SHARING.—*

16 (1) *FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the*
17 *costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent of the*
18 *total costs of the program.*

19 (2) *IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal*
20 *share of the costs of the program may be provided in*
21 *the form of in-kind contributions of materials or serv-*
22 *ices.*

23 (e) *LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not*
24 *more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided by the*

1 *Secretary under this section may be used for administrative*
2 *expenses.*

3 *(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For finan-*
4 *cial assistance under this section, there is authorized to be*
5 *appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for the State of*
6 *Maryland program and \$2,000,000 for the State of Lou-*
7 *isiana program for each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005,*
8 *2006, and 2007.*

9 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

10 *No later than 6 months after the date of the enactment*
11 *of this Act, the Secretary and the National Invasive Species*
12 *Council shall give consideration to the 2002 report for the*
13 *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries titled “Nu-*
14 *tria in Louisiana”, and shall develop, in cooperation with*
15 *the State of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish-*
16 *eries, a long-term nutria control program with the objective*
17 *to significantly reduce and restore the damage nutria cause*
18 *to coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for implementation of a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.”.

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