

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sea Turtle Rescue As-  
5 sistance and Rehabilitation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RE-**  
7 **SPONSE.**

8 Section 408 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act  
9 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
2 following:

3 “(10) SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION,  
4 AND RESPONSE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
6 ability of appropriations specific to address sea  
7 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, the  
8 Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the  
9 United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall  
10 include separate eligibility for grants under this  
11 subsection to address the purposes described in  
12 paragraph (2) with respect to sea turtles.

13 “(B) CONDITIONS OF GRANT.—A grant  
14 awarded under this subsection to address sea  
15 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response  
16 shall—

17 “(i) include the equivalent grant cri-  
18 teria and administration authorities and  
19 requirements described under paragraph  
20 (3), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-  
21 graph (4), and paragraphs (5) through (9),  
22 developed, as appropriate, and awarded  
23 separately for sea turtles and in consulta-  
24 tion with the United States Fish and Wild-

1 life Service in lieu of the Marine Mammal  
2 Commission; and

3 “(ii) in addition to the considerations  
4 under paragraph (4)(B), also consider re-  
5 habilitation of stranded sea turtles.

6 “(C) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In order to  
7 apply for a grant awarded under this subsection  
8 to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and  
9 response, an entity shall—

10 “(i) submit an application described  
11 in paragraph (5) to the Secretary of Com-  
12 merce with respect to sea turtles;

13 “(ii) be authorized by and in compli-  
14 ance with—

15 “(I) an authorization issued  
16 under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the En-  
17 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
18 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(A)) with respect to  
19 sea turtles; or

20 “(II) a cooperative agreement en-  
21 tered into under section 6 of the En-  
22 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
23 U.S.C. 1535) with respect to sea tur-  
24 tles;

1                   “(iii) comply with the standard condi-  
2                   tions for care and maintenance of captive  
3                   sea turtles prescribed by the Secretary of  
4                   the Interior when relevant facilities will be  
5                   utilized for such purposes; and

6                   “(iv) comply with all relevant data re-  
7                   porting, requirements, such as the Sea  
8                   Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network  
9                   data collection requirements.”;

10                  (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
11                  following:

12                  “(c) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—

13                         “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the  
14                         Treasury of the United States—

15                                 “(A) an interest-bearing fund to known as  
16                                 the ‘Joseph R. Geraci Marine Mammal Rescue  
17                                 and Rapid Response Fund’; and

18                                 “(B) an interest-bearing fund to be known  
19                                 as the ‘Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and  
20                                 Rapid Response Fund’.

21                         “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the funds  
22                         established under paragraph (1) shall be available  
23                         only for use by the Secretary to provide emergency  
24                         assistance.”; and

25                         (3) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
3 “marine mammal rescue and response”  
4 after “to carry out the”;

5 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
6 (B) as subparagraph (C);

7 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) of  
8 subparagraph (A) the following:

9 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS  
10 WITH RESPECT TO SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHA-  
11 BILITATION, AND RESPONSE.—There is author-  
12 ized to be appropriated for the Secretary of  
13 Commerce to carry out the sea turtle rescue, re-  
14 habilitation, and response grant program under  
15 subsection (b)(10), \$5,000,000 for each of fis-  
16 cal years 2025 through 2030, to remain avail-  
17 able until expended.”; and

18 (iv) in subparagraph (C), as redesign-  
19 nated by clause (ii), by inserting “or (B)”  
20 after “subparagraph (A)”; and

21 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
22 ing the following:

23 “(2) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—  
24 There is authorized to be appropriated—

1                   “(A) to the Joseph R. Geraci Marine  
2                   Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund  
3                   \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
4                   2030; and

5                   “(B) to the Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilita-  
6                   tion, and Rapid Response Fund \$500,000 for  
7                   each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.