

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1762

To establish a Gulf Coast Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2011

Mr. BONNER (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Gulf Coast Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

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 “Gulf Coast Restoration
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GULF COAST RESTORATION FUND.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
3 Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the
4 Gulf Coast Restoration Fund.

5 (b) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—Notwithstanding any
6 other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
7 deposit into the Fund amounts equal to not less than 80
8 percent of any amounts collected by the United States be-
9 fore, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act
10 as penalties, settlements, or fines under sections 309 and
11 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
12 U.S.C. 1319, 1321) in relation to the Gulf oil spill.

13 (c) AUTHORIZED USES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall be available
15 to the Task Force, as provided in appropriations
16 Acts, only for activities related to Gulf coast eco-
17 nomic development, tourism promotion, and eco-
18 system restoration.

19 (2) GRANTS TO STATES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
21 distribute the amounts made available for ex-
22 penditure from the Fund to the Gulf States to
23 be used in accordance with this subsection.

24 (B) ALLOCATION AMONG STATES.—The
25 Task Force shall allocate the amounts to be dis-
26 tributed to each Gulf State under this para-

1 graph such that no single Gulf State receives
2 less than 5 percent, nor more than 30 percent,
3 of the available amounts.

4 (C) ALLOCATION WITHIN STATES.—The
5 Governor of each Gulf State shall allocate
6 amounts distributed to the State as follows:

7 (i) Not more than 20 percent of such
8 amounts may be used by the Governor for
9 statewide economic development, tourism
10 promotion, and ecosystem restoration ac-
11 tivities.

12 (ii) Not less than 80 percent of such
13 amounts shall be distributed to local gov-
14 ernments in counties directly affected by
15 the Gulf oil spill for local economic devel-
16 opment, tourism promotion, and ecosystem
17 restoration activities.

18 **SEC. 3. GULF COAST RESTORATION TASK FORCE.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Gulf
20 Coast Restoration Task Force.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall consist of
22 the following members, or in the case of a Federal agency,
23 a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or the equiv-
24 alent:

25 (1) The Secretary of the Interior.

1 (2) The Secretary of Commerce.

2 (3) The Secretary of the Army.

3 (4) The Attorney General.

4 (5) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

5 (6) The Administrator of the Environmental
6 Protection Agency.

7 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

8 (8) The Secretary of Transportation.

9 (9) The Secretary of Agriculture.

10 (10) The Secretary of the Navy.

11 (11) Two representatives of each of the Gulf
12 States, appointed by the Governor of each such
13 State.

14 (12) Two representatives, from within each of
15 the Gulf States, of local governments having juris-
16 diction over areas directly affected by the Gulf oil
17 spill, appointed by the Governor of each State, re-
18 spectively.

19 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall administer the
20 Fund in accordance with section 2.

21 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

22 Not later than 180 days after receiving funds under
23 section 2, the Governor of each Gulf State shall submit
24 to Congress a report describing the use of such funds.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) **ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.**—The term
4 “ecosystem restoration” means any projects and ac-
5 tivities for the conservation, protection, or restora-
6 tion of coastal areas, including wetlands; the mitiga-
7 tion of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources;
8 the planning assistance and the administrative costs
9 of complying with this section; or the implementa-
10 tion of a federally approved marine, coastal, or com-
11 prehensive conservation management plan.

12 (2) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Gulf
13 Coast Restoration Fund established by section 2(a).

14 (3) **GULF OIL SPILL.**—The term “Gulf oil spill”
15 means the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico caused by
16 the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon
17 that began on April 20, 2010.

18 (4) **GULF STATES.**—The term “Gulf States”
19 means the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
20 Mississippi, and Texas.

21 (5) **TASK FORCE.**—The term “Task Force”
22 means the Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force estab-
23 lished by section 3(a).

○