

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9983

To establish a grant program to support the conservation and preservation of historic military ships and submarines, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a grant program to support the conservation and preservation of historic military ships and submarines, 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 “Save Our Ships Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. HISTORIC NAVAL SHIP PRESERVATION GRANT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
8 Department of the Interior the Historic Naval Ship Pres-
9 ervation Grant Program to support the physical preserva-

1 tion of historic military vessels, ensuring the continued
2 availability of these vessels to the American public to edu-
3 cate on the past and inspire the future of United States
4 military maritime endeavors.

5 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Program shall be admin-
6 istered by the Secretary, in consultation with the Depart-
7 ment of Homeland Security and the Department of De-
8 fense.

9 (c) GRANT USES.—In carrying out the Program, the
10 Secretary may award grants, on a competitive basis, to
11 eligible entities for the following activities:

12 (1) Conserving and preserving historic military
13 vessels at covered sites, including—

14 (A) physical upkeep and repair of the ves-
15 sels; and

16 (B) mitigating environmental hazards or
17 damage to the vessels.

18 (2) Implementing education and workforce de-
19 velopment programs related to military maritime ca-
20 reers, including shipbuilding and submarine con-
21 struction.

22 (d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-
24 gram, the Secretary may award grants to a unit of

1 State or local government or a private nonprofit or-
2 ganization that administers a covered site.

3 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
4 under the Program, an organization that admin-
5 isters a covered site shall submit to the Secretary an
6 application at such time, in such manner, and con-
7 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
8 quire.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
11 out the Program \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each
12 fiscal year thereafter.

13 (f) DEFINITION.—In this Act:

14 (1) COVERED SITE.—The term “covered site”
15 means a museum, memorial, monument, educational
16 center, or other venue that provides public access to,
17 or publicly displays, a historic military vessel.

18 (2) HISTORIC MILITARY VESSEL.—The term
19 “historic military vessel” means a vessel that has
20 been decommissioned or otherwise removed from
21 service and—

22 (A) was owned and operated by the De-
23 partment of Defense or the Coast Guard, other
24 than a time- or voyage-chartered vessel;

1 (B) was owned and operated by the De-
2 partment of Transportation and designated by
3 the Secretary of the department in which the
4 Coast Guard is operating as a vessel equivalent
5 to a vessel described in subparagraph (A); or

6 (C) was built for, or pursuant to a contract
7 with, the United States Maritime Commission
8 or other legacy branch of the Department of
9 Transportation and at some point in the ves-
10 sel's service was equipped with armaments and
11 embarked Navy Armed Guard personnel to op-
12 erate the armaments.

13 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
14 the Historic Naval Ship Preservation Grant Pro-
15 gram established by subsection (a).

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
18 rector of the National Park Service.

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