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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

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

Mr. NORCROSS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-
25 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.