

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4044

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15 (legislative day, MAY 9), 2002

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and  
Public Works

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## AN ACT

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, 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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

5 (1) Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesa-  
6 peake Bay and in Louisiana provide significant cul-  
7 tural, economic, and ecological benefits to the Na-  
8 tion.

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

13 (3) Traditional harvest methods to control or  
14 eradicate nutria have failed in Maryland and have  
15 had limited success in the eradication of nutria in  
16 Louisiana. Consequently, marsh loss is accelerating.

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

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
22 ize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assist-  
23 ance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana  
24 for a program to implement measures to eradicate or con-  
25 trol nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

1 **SEC. 2. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
3 rior (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), sub-  
4 ject to the availability of appropriations, may provide fi-  
5 nancial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State  
6 of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to  
7 eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland dam-  
8 aged by nutria.

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

10 (1) eradicate nutria in Maryland;

11 (2) eradicate or control nutria in Louisiana and  
12 other States; and

13 (3) restore marshland damaged by nutria.

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

21 (d) COST SHARING.—

22 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
23 the costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent  
24 of the total costs of the program.

25 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-  
26 eral share of the costs of the program may be pro-

1 vided in the form of in-kind contributions of mate-  
2 rials or services.

3 (e) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—

4 Not more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided  
5 by the Secretary under this section may be used for ad-  
6 ministrative expenses.

7 (f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For fi-  
8 nancial assistance under this section, there is authorized  
9 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for the  
10 State of Maryland program and \$2,000,000 for the State  
11 of Louisiana program for each of fiscal years 2003, 2004,  
12 2005, 2006, and 2007.

13 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

14 No later than 6 months after the date of the enact-  
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary and the National Invasive  
16 Species Council shall—

17 (1) give consideration to the 2002 report for  
18 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
19 titled “Nutria in Louisiana”, and the 2002 docu-  
20 ment entitled “Eradication Strategies for Nutria in  
21 the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Watersheds”;  
22 and

23 (2) develop, in cooperation with the State of  
24 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and  
25 the State of Maryland Department of Natural Re-

1 sources, a long-term nutria control or eradication  
2 program, as appropriate, with the objective to sig-  
3 nificantly reduce and restore the damage nutria  
4 cause to coastal wetlands in the States of Louisiana  
5 and Maryland.

Passed the House of Representatives May 14, 2002.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*