

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R.** _____

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to award competitive grants to institutions of higher education to combat lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, through the Cooperative Science and Education Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CURBELO of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to award competitive grants to institutions of higher education to combat lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, through the Cooperative Science and Education Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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 “Finding Innovative
5 Lionfish Elimination Technologies Act of 2016” or the
6 “FILET Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGH-**
2 **ER EDUCATION TO COMBAT LIONFISH IN THE**
3 **ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE GULF OF MEXICO.**

4 Public Law 86–686 (74 Stat. 733) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 2 as section 3; and

6 (2) by inserting after the first section (16

7 U.S.C. 753a) the following:

8 “COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
9 EDUCATION TO COMBAT LIONFISH IN THE ATLANTIC
10 OCEAN AND THE GULF OF MEXICO

11 “SEC. 2. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Com-
12 merce, through the Cooperative Science and Education
13 Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
14 ministration conducted under this Act, the Fish and Wild-
15 life Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the De-
16 partments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary,
17 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (section
18 101(b) of division A of Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat.
19 2681–50), shall award competitive grants to institutions
20 of higher education to combat the species of lionfish
21 *Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*, in the Atlantic Ocean
22 and the Gulf of Mexico.

23 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
24 this section, an institution must—

25 “(1) have established research infrastructure
26 and proven capabilities of understanding the behav-

1 ior of such species and the ecosystem of the Atlantic
2 Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico; and

3 “(2) demonstrate a clear appreciation and un-
4 derstanding of the biological, chemical, and physical
5 aspects of such ecosystem.

6 “(c) USE.—Amounts awarded as grants under this
7 section shall be used—

8 “(1) for lionfish research and the impact of
9 such species on the ecosystem of the of the Atlantic
10 Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico;

11 “(2) to develop innovative technologies, includ-
12 ing autonomous cameras and active acoustic systems
13 appropriate for coastal environments, for detection
14 of lionfish and determination of priority areas for re-
15 moval of invasive species; and

16 “(3) to develop lionfish mitigation technologies,
17 including traps and countermeasures.

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for
20 grants under this section \$1,500,000 for fiscal years 2017
21 through 2021.”.