84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4470

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 1955

Mr. Auchincloss introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Act entitled "An Act authorizing Federal participation in the cost of protecting the shores of publicly owned property", approved August 13, 1946.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 That the Act entitled "An Act authorizing Federal participation in the cost of protecting the shores of publicly owned property", approved August 13, 1946, is hereby amended to read as follows: "That (a) with the purpose of preventing damage to public and private property and promoting and encouraging the healthful recreation of the people, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States, subject to the following provisions of this Act—

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“(1) to assist in paying the cost of projects, initiated by States or political subdivisions thereof, for the construction, but not the maintenance, of works for the improvement and protection against erosion, by waves and currents, of the shores of the United States; and

“(2) in any case where a State, municipality, or other political subdivision of a State has heretofore or hereafter erected a sea wall to prevent erosion, by waves and currents, to a public highway considered by the Chief of Engineers of the Army to be sufficiently important to justify protection, to assist in paying the cost of any project, initiated by such State, municipality, or other political subdivision, for the repair and improvement of such wall and the protection thereof by the building of an artificial beach or by other appropriate means.

“(b) The Federal contribution in the case of any project referred to in subsection (a) shall not exceed one-third of the cost of the project, and the remainder shall be paid by the State, municipality, or other political subdivision in which the project is located.

“(c) The Chief of Engineers is authorized to make investigations and studies to determine the need for projects referred to in paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

“(d) No Federal contribution shall be made with re-
spect to a project under this Act unless the plan therefor shall have been specifically adopted and authorized by Congress after investigation and study by the Beach Erosion Board under the provisions of section 2 of the River and Harbor Act approved July 3, 1930, as amended and supplemented.

"SEC. 2. When the Chief of Engineers shall find that any such project has been carried out in accordance with the plan adopted and authorized by Congress he shall cause to be paid to the State, municipality, or other political subdivision involved the amount authorized by Congress.

"SEC. 3. The Chief of Engineers may, in his discretion, from time to time, make payments on such projects as the work progresses, but these payments, including previous payments, if any, shall not be more than the United States pro rata part of the value of the labor and materials which have been actually put into such project in conformity with the plan adopted and authorized by Congress: Provided, That work on projects under this Act may be undertaken by the Chief of Engineers upon the request of, and contribution of required funds by, the interested State, municipality, or other political subdivision.

"SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the word 'shores' includes
all the shore lines of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the
Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and lakes, estuaries, and
bays directly connected therewith."