

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 2957

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2000

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

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## AN ACT

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lake Pontchartrain  
3 Basin Restoration Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

5 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Lake  
6 Ponchartrain Basin is an estuary of national significance.

7 (b) ADDITION TO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.—  
8 Section 320(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
9 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)(B)) is amended by insert-  
10 ing “Lake Ponchartrain Basin, Louisiana and Mis-  
11 sissippi;” before “and Peconic Bay, New York.”.

12 **SEC. 3. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Federal Water Pol-  
14 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended  
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 121. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN.**

17 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATION PRO-  
18 GRAM.—The Administrator shall establish within the En-  
19 vironmental Protection Agency the Lake Pontchartrain  
20 Basin Restoration Program.

21 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall  
22 be to restore the ecological health of the Basin by devel-  
23 oping and funding restoration projects and related sci-  
24 entific and public education projects.

25 “(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the Ad-  
26 ministrator shall—

1           “(1) provide administrative and technical assist-  
2           ance to a management conference convened for the  
3           Basin under section 320;

4           “(2) assist and support the activities of the  
5           management conference, including the implementa-  
6           tion of recommendations of the management con-  
7           ference;

8           “(3) support environmental monitoring of the  
9           Basin and research to provide necessary technical  
10          and scientific information;

11          “(4) develop a comprehensive research plan to  
12          address the technical needs of the program;

13          “(5) coordinate the grant, research, and plan-  
14          ning programs authorized under this section; and

15          “(6) collect and make available to the public  
16          publications, and other forms of information the  
17          management conference determines to be appro-  
18          priate, relating to the environmental quality of the  
19          Basin.

20          “(d) GRANTS.—The Administrator may make  
21          grants—

22                 “(1) for restoration projects and studies rec-  
23                 ommended by a management conference convened  
24                 for the Basin under section 320;

1           “(2) for public education projects recommended  
2           by the management conference; and

3           “(3) for the inflow and infiltration project spon-  
4           sored by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water  
5           Board and Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

6           “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following  
7           definitions apply:

8           “(1) BASIN.—The term ‘Basin’ means the Lake  
9           Pontchartrain Basin, a 5,000 square mile watershed  
10          encompassing 16 parishes in the State of Louisiana  
11          and 4 counties in the State of Mississippi.

12          “(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means  
13          the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program  
14          established under subsection (a).

15          “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16          “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
17          appropriated—

18                  “(A) \$100,000,000 for the inflow and infil-  
19                  tration project sponsored by the New Orleans  
20                  Sewerage and Water Board and Jefferson Par-  
21                  ish, Louisiana; and

22                  “(B) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
23                  2001 through 2005 to carry out this section.

24          Such sums shall remain available until expended.

1           “(2) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROJECTS.—Not more  
2           that 15 percent of the amount appropriated pursu-  
3           ant to paragraph (1)(B) in a fiscal year may be ex-  
4           pended on grants for public education projects under  
5           subsection (d)(2).”.

6 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

7           It is the sense of the Congress that all recipients of  
8           grants pursuant to this Act shall abide by the Buy Amer-  
9           ican Act. The Administrator of the Environmental Protec-  
10          tion Agency shall give notice of the Buy American Act re-  
11          quirements to grant applicants.

          Passed the House of Representatives May 3, 2000.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*