

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3615

To delay enforcement and establishment of certain water quality standards within the Great Bay Estuary, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

Mr. GUINTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To delay enforcement and establishment of certain water quality standards within the Great Bay Estuary, 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 “Great Bay Regulatory
5 Improvement Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. GREAT BAY ESTUARY.**

7 (a) DELAY OF ENFORCEMENT AND ESTABLISH-
8 MENT.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Envi-
10 ronmental Protection Agency may not—

1 (1) require a covered treatment works to com-
2 mence construction on any upgrade of a facility for
3 the purpose of enforcing water quality standards or
4 effluent limitations with regard to nitrogen under
5 section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
6 Act (33 U.S.C. 1342); or

7 (2) establish any water quality standard or ef-
8 fluent limitation with regard to nitrogen in the
9 Great Bay Estuary under title III of such Act (33
10 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.).

11 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
14 shall conduct, and make available to the public the
15 results of, a peer-reviewed study regarding eelgrass
16 levels, and the causes of any loss of eelgrass habitat,
17 in the Great Bay Estuary.

18 (2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Adminis-
19 trator shall allow for public participation in the de-
20 velopment of the study conducted under this sub-
21 section.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) COVERED TREATMENT WORKS.—The term
24 “covered treatment works” means a publicly owned
25 treatment works, as that term is defined in section

1 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
2 U.S.C. 1292), that contributes nitrogen loadings to
3 the Great Bay Estuary.

4 (2) GREAT BAY ESTUARY.—The term “Great
5 Bay Estuary” means the estuarine zone that extends
6 from the mouth of Portsmouth Harbor, in the vicin-
7 ity of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to the head-of-
8 tide for the 8 rivers (including the tributaries of
9 those rivers) that flow into Great Bay, Little Bay,
10 and the Piscataqua River.

11 (3) ESTUARINE ZONE.—The term “estuarine
12 zone” has the meaning given that term in section
13 320(k) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
14 (33 U.S.C. 1330(k)).

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