

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1261

To amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make financial assistance to States under the Land and Water Conservation Fund available for water quality projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make financial assistance to States under the Land and Water Conservation Fund available for water quality projects, 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 “Land and Water Con-
5 servation Fund Water Amendments Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR WATER**
2 **QUALITY PROJECTS.**

3 Section 200305 of title 54, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), in the second sentence, by
6 inserting “and water quality improvement” after
7 “outdoor recreation”;

8 (2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(5) WATER QUALITY.—A comprehensive state-
11 wide outdoor recreation plan shall identify—

12 “(A) any body of water within the bound-
13 aries of the State for which a State water qual-
14 ity control plan has been developed pursuant to
15 section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution
16 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)); and

17 “(B) any proposed water quality project
18 (as defined in subsection (e)(4)(A)) to be con-
19 ducted with respect to a body of water that is
20 identified under subparagraph (A).”; and

21 (3) in subsection (e)—

22 (A) in the heading, by striking “AND DE-
23 VELOPMENT OF BASIC OUTDOOR RECREATION
24 FACILITIES” and inserting “, DEVELOPMENT
25 OF BASIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES,

1 AND CONDUCT OF WATER QUALITY
2 PROJECTS”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and
4 (3)” and inserting “, (3), and (4)”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) WATER QUALITY PROJECTS.—

7 “(A) DEFINITION OF WATER QUALITY
8 PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘water
9 quality project’ means any project identified in
10 a State water quality control plan developed for
11 the purpose of restoring any body of water that
12 is identified by the State under section 303(d)
13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
14 U.S.C. 1313(d)) as being impaired.

15 “(B) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary may provide finan-
17 cial assistance for the conduct of water quality
18 projects.

19 “(C) NON-FEDERAL SHARE CREDIT.—The
20 Secretary may credit toward the non-Federal
21 share required under subsection (c) funds allo-
22 cated by a State for the conduct of a water
23 quality project.

24 “(D) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary
25 shall consult with the Administrator of the En-

1 vironmental Protection Agency in carrying out
2 this paragraph.

3 “(E) LIMITATIONS.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In providing fi-
5 nancial assistance to water quality projects
6 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall
7 only provide financial assistance to water
8 quality projects that seek to improve water
9 quality by improving, restoring, remedi-
10 ating, or developing natural hydrological
11 systems, such as—

12 “(I) wetlands;

13 “(II) marshes;

14 “(III) living shorelines;

15 “(IV) near-shore estuarine
16 waters; or

17 “(V) any other naturally occur-
18 ring hydrological features the Sec-
19 retary determines to be necessary for
20 the purpose of reducing nutrient
21 loads.

22 “(ii) NO REIMBURSEMENT.—Funds
23 made available for a water quality project
24 under this paragraph may not be used to
25 reimburse the cost of any water quality

1 project that has already been completed or
2 is otherwise fully funded.

3 “(iii) EFFECT.—Nothing in this para-
4 graph—

5 “(I) expands the authority of the
6 Federal Government over nonnav-
7 igable waters; or

8 “(II) authorizes the Secretary to
9 regulate the conduct of water quality
10 projects.”.

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