

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6422

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain
EPA geographic programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. McDONALD RIVET) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain EPA geographic programs, 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 “American Water Stew-
5 ardship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.**

7 Section 118(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI) of the Federal Water Pol-
8 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI)) is

1 amended by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting
2 “each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 3. LONG ISLAND SOUND.**

4 Section 119(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
5 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(h)) is amended by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 4. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION.**

8 Section 123(d)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution
9 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1275(d)(6)) is amended by strik-
10 ing “and 2021” and inserting “through 2031”.

11 **SEC. 5. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

12 Section 125 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
13 Act (33 U.S.C. 1276a) is amended—

14 (1) in the section heading, by striking
15 “**GRANT**”; and

16 (2) in subsection (e)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
18 “GRANT PROGRAM” and inserting “PROGRAM
19 IMPLEMENTATION”;

20 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “or other
21 means to State and local agencies, special dis-
22 tricts, and public or nonprofit agencies” and in-
23 serting “interagency agreements, contracts, or
24 other funding mechanisms to Federal, State,
25 and local agencies, special districts, public or

1 nonprofit agencies, and other public or private
2 entities”; and

3 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Amounts provided
6 for a project, activity, or study under this section
7 shall not exceed an amount that is equal to 75 per-
8 cent of the total cost of such project, activity, or
9 study.

10 “(3) ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTI-
11 TIES.—Not less than 25 percent of the cost of any
12 project, activity, or study carried out using amounts
13 provided to a non-Federal entity under this section
14 shall be provided from non-Federal sources.”.

15 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 320 of the Federal Water
17 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “and
19 Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida” and inserting
20 “Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida; and Mis-
21 sissippi Sound, Mississippi”; and

22 (2) in subsection (i)(1), in the matter preceding
23 subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting
24 “2031”.

1 (b) INELIGIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO FISCAL YEARS
2 2026 AND 2027.—With respect to the amendment made
3 by subsection (a)(1), the Administrator of the Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency may not use for the implemen-
5 tation of that amendment, including, with respect to Mis-
6 sissippi Sound, Mississippi, convening a management con-
7 ference, developing or carrying out a comprehensive con-
8 servation and management plan, or providing grants
9 under section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330)—

11 (1) any amounts appropriated to carry out the
12 national estuary program under that section for fis-
13 cal year 2026; or

14 (2) unless the total amount appropriated to
15 carry out that program for fiscal year 2027 is at
16 least \$850,000 more than the total amount appro-
17 priated to carry out that program for fiscal year
18 2024, any amounts appropriated to carry out that
19 program for fiscal year 2027.

20 **SEC. 7. COASTAL RECREATION WATER QUALITY MONI-**
21 **TORING AND NOTIFICATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—

23 (1) PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMEN-
24 TATION GRANTS.—Section 406 of the Federal Water

1 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1346) is amend-
2 ed—

3 (A) in subsection (b)—

4 (i) in paragraph (3)(A)—

5 (I) in clause (i), by striking
6 “and” at the end;

7 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)
8 as clause (iii); and

9 (III) by inserting after clause (i)
10 the following:

11 “(ii) in the case of a State that uses
12 such grant to identify specific sources of
13 contamination pursuant to paragraph (5),
14 any data relating to such identified sources
15 of contamination; and”; and

16 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(5) IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC SOURCES OF
19 CONTAMINATION.—A State or local government re-
20 ceiving a grant under this subsection may use such
21 grant to identify specific sources of contamination
22 for coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or
23 similar points of access that are used by the pub-
24 lic.”; and

1 (B) in subsection (i), by striking “2001
2 through 2005” and inserting “2026 through
3 2031”.

4 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
5 Section 8 of the Beaches Environmental Assessment
6 and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–
7 284; 114 Stat. 877) is amended by striking “2001
8 through 2005” and inserting “2026 through 2031”.

9 (b) DEFINITION OF COASTAL RECREATION
10 WATERS.—Section 502(21)(A)(ii) of the Federal Water
11 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362(21)(A)(ii)) is
12 amended by striking “(including coastal estuaries)” and
13 inserting “(including coastal estuaries, the mouths of riv-
14 ers and streams, nearby shallow waters, and waters
15 present on beaches)”.

16 (c) GUIDANCE.—In providing guidance to States and
17 local governments receiving grants under section 406 of
18 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
19 1346), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
20 Agency shall ensure that such guidance reflects innova-
21 tions in testing technologies for water contamination.

22 **SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**

23 No Federal funds made available for any of fiscal
24 years 2026 through 2031 to carry out section 118, 119,

1 123, 125, 320, or 406 of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
2 trol Act may be provided to any non-Federal entity—

3 (1) that is domiciled in, headquartered in, or
4 organized under the laws of, or the principal place
5 of business of which is located in, a foreign country
6 of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the Re-
7 search and Development, Competition, and Innova-
8 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 19237)); or

9 (2) that has in place any agreement or partner-
10 ship with a foreign country of concern.

11 **SEC. 9. GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM REPORT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
14 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
15 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Environment and Pub-
17 lic Works of the Senate a report on EPA geographic pro-
18 grams.

19 (b) REQUIRED EVALUATION.—In preparing the re-
20 port required under subsection (a), the Comptroller Gen-
21 eral shall include an evaluation, with respect to each EPA
22 geographic program, of—

23 (1) the management of funds, including the ef-
24 ficiency and effectiveness of program operations and
25 the use of Federal funds;

1 (2) the progress towards achieving program
2 purposes, goals, and objectives, including the status
3 of program goals and objectives and the extent to
4 which the program has demonstrated measurable
5 outcomes;

6 (3) obstacles to program success or progress;

7 (4) the efficacy of coordination with other Fed-
8 eral, State, Tribal, and local programs and actions,
9 including whether there is any duplication of efforts
10 among such programs and actions; and

11 (5) the ethics policies and practices of the office
12 of the Environmental Protection Agency responsible
13 for implementing the program.

14 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Comptroller General
15 shall include in the report required under subsection (a)
16 recommendations, as appropriate, to improve EPA geo-
17 graphic program efficiency, accountability, and effective-
18 ness in achieving program purposes, goals, and objectives.

19 (d) EPA GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this
20 section, the term “EPA geographic program” means—

21 (1) the Chesapeake Bay Program under section
22 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
23 U.S.C. 1267);

1 (2) the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
2 under section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution
3 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268);

4 (3) the Long Island Sound program under sec-
5 tion 119 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
6 (33 U.S.C. 1269);

7 (4) the Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin
8 Program under section 120 of the Federal Water
9 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1270);

10 (5) the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration
11 Program under section 121 of the Federal Water
12 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273);

13 (6) the Columbia River Basin Restoration Pro-
14 gram under section 123 of the Federal Water Pollu-
15 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1275);

16 (7) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Pro-
17 gram under section 125 of the Federal Water Pollu-
18 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1276a);

19 (8) the Puget Sound program under section
20 126 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
21 U.S.C. 1276b);

22 (9) the Gulf of America Program carried out by
23 the Administrator;

24 (10) the South Florida Program carried out by
25 the Administrator; or

- 1 (11) the Southeast New England Program car-
- 2 ried out by the Administrator.

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