

MID-ATLANTIC RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS REVIEW ACT

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRAVES, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3428]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3428) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

CONTENTS

	Page
Purpose of Legislation	2
Background and Need for Legislation	2
Hearings	2
Legislative History and Consideration	3
Committee Votes	3
Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations	3
New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures	3
Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate	3
Performance Goals and Objectives	6
Duplication of Federal Programs	6
Congressional Earmarks, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits ...	6
Federal Mandates Statement	6
Preemption Clarification	6
Advisory Committee Statement	6
Applicability to Legislative Branch	6
Section-by-Section Analysis of the Legislation	6
Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported	7

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 3428 is to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Susquehanna River Basin Compact, Delaware River Basin Compact, and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin Compact are the founding documents for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) (together, the “Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions”).¹ The United States is a signatory to the Susquehanna River Basin Compact and Delaware River Basin Compact, and a member of the ICPRB.²

Congress provided authorizing consent to each of these interstate compacts prior to the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate and provide various water management duties within each river basin. The SRBC and DRBC hold certain regulatory authorities regarding water quality.³

Each of the Mid-Atlantic RBCs is comprised of commissioners representing each state in the respective basin, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, as the Federal representative. Each member state traditionally contributes a share of funding for each Mid-Atlantic RBC, and each Mid-Atlantic RBC is authorized to receive Federal funding. Recently, a state level audit of the SRBC raised concerns about compliance with ethics and appropriate use of state funds.⁴

H.R. 3428 directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the Mid-Atlantic RBCs, specifically focusing on ethics practices, communication with the public, and how each carries out Federal responsibilities.

The bill requires GAO to submit a report to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee outlining their findings, along with recommendations to improve the RBC’s transparency and ethics practices. The bill also requires each RBC to report to Congress 90 days following the GAO report, and for five years annually thereafter, on actions they have taken to comply with GAO’s recommendations.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of rule XIII, clause 3(c)(6)(A) of the 119th Congress, no hearings were used to develop H.R. 3428.

¹ Pub. L. No. 91–575, 84 Stat. 1509 [hereinafter *Susquehanna River Basin Compact*]; Pub. L. No. 87–328, 75 Stat. 688; Pub. L. No. 91–407, 84 Stat. 856.

² INTERSTATE COMM. ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN, *About ICPRB*, (June 24, 2025), available at <https://www.potomacriver.org/about-icprb/>.

³ See *Susquehanna River Basin Compact & Delaware River Basin Compact*, *supra* note 1.

⁴ YORK DAILY RECORD, *Pa. House Members Demand Resignation After Audit Reveals Agency Used Tax Dollars to Party*, (June 24, 2025) available at <https://www.ydr.com/story/news/2018/11/09/susquehanna-river-basin-commission-andrew-dehoff-kristin-phillips-hill-dan-moul-auditor-general/1943314002/>.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CONSIDERATION

H.R. 3428, the “*Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act*” was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on May 15, 2025, by Representative Rob Bresnahan of Pennsylvania and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R. 3428 was referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3428 on June 11, 2025.

The Committee considered H.R. 3428 on June 11, 2025, and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, without amendment, by voice.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against.

No recorded votes were requested during consideration of H.R. 3428.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee’s oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3428 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or

revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Week of September 8, 2025]

Bill number	Title	Effect on direct spending	Effect on revenues	Additional information on direct spending and revenue effects	Link to published estimates	Suspension bill text at docs.house.gov
H.R. 2591	Mental Health in Aviation Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61623	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%202591.pdf
H.R. 3055	TRANSPORT Jobs Act, as amended	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203055.pdf
H.R. 3423	FROST Act, as amended	Increase by Less Than \$500K.	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61630	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203423.pdf
H.R. 3424	SPACE Act of 2025	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203424.pdf
H.R. 3425	POST Act of 2025, as amended	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203425.pdf
H.R. 3426	CASE Act, as amended	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203426%20Amended.pdf
H.R. 3428	Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act.	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%203428.pdf
H.R. 4550	United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.	Reduce by Less Than \$500K.	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61725	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/HR%204550.pdf
H. Res.—	Honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250908/MN%20Res.pdf

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goal and objective of this legislation is to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission, and for other purposes.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 3428 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of the rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (Public Law 104–4).

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee finds that H.R. 3428 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the definition of Section 5(b) of the appendix to Title 5, United States Code, are created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that this bill may be cited as the “*Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act*.”

Section 2. Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions

This section instructs the GAO to conduct a report on the ethics policies, communication practices, Federal responsibilities, and transparency efforts of the Mid-Atlantic RBCs, and submit such report to the relevant authorizing Committees.

This section also requires each RBC to report to Congress 90 days following the GAO report, and for five years annually thereafter, on actions they have taken to comply with any recommendations provided by GAO.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

As reported by the Committee, H.R. 3428 makes no changes in existing law.

