

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6422

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2026

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

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Water Stew-
3 ards-ship Act”.

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

5 Section 118(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI) of the Federal Water Pol-
6 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI)) is
7 amended by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting
8 “each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

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

10 Section 119(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
11 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(h)) is amended by striking
12 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

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

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

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

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

20 (1) in the section heading, by striking
21 “GRANT”; and

22 (2) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
24 “GRANT PROGRAM” and inserting “PROGRAM
25 IMPLEMENTATION”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “or other
2 means to State and local agencies, special dis-
3 tricts, and public or nonprofit agencies” and in-
4 serting “interagency agreements, contracts, or
5 other funding mechanisms to Federal, State,
6 and local agencies, special districts, public or
7 nonprofit agencies, and other public or private
8 entities”; and

9 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—Amounts provided
12 for a project, activity, or study under this section
13 shall not exceed an amount that is equal to 75 per-
14 cent of the total cost of such project, activity, or
15 study.

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

21 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

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

24 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “and
25 Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida” and inserting

1 “Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida; and Mis-
2 sissippi Sound, Mississippi”; and

3 (2) in subsection (i)(1), in the matter preceding
4 subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting
5 “2031”.

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

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

19 (2) unless the total amount appropriated to
20 carry out that program for fiscal year 2027 is at
21 least \$850,000 more than the total amount appro-
22 priated to carry out that program for fiscal year
23 2024, any amounts appropriated to carry out that
24 program for fiscal year 2027.

1 **SEC. 7. COASTAL RECREATION WATER QUALITY MONI-**
2 **TORING AND NOTIFICATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—

4 (1) PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMEN-
5 TATION GRANTS.—Section 406 of the Federal Water
6 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1346) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (A) in subsection (b)—

9 (i) in paragraph (3)(A)—

10 (I) in clause (i), by striking

11 “and” at the end;

12 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)

13 as clause (iii); and

14 (III) by inserting after clause (i)

15 the following:

16 “(ii) in the case of a State that uses
17 such grant to identify specific sources of
18 contamination pursuant to paragraph (5),
19 any data relating to such identified sources
20 of contamination; and”;

21 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(5) IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC SOURCES OF
24 CONTAMINATION.—A State or local government re-
25 ceiving a grant under this subsection may use such
26 grant to identify specific sources of contamination

1 for coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or
2 similar points of access that are used by the pub-
3 lic.”; and

4 (B) in subsection (i), by striking “2001
5 through 2005” and inserting “2026 through
6 2031”.

7 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
8 Section 8 of the Beaches Environmental Assessment
9 and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–
10 284; 114 Stat. 877) is amended by striking “2001
11 through 2005” and inserting “2026 through 2031”.

12 (b) COASTAL RECREATION WATERS DEFINED.—Sec-
13 tion 502(21)(A)(ii) of the Federal Water Pollution Control
14 Act (33 U.S.C. 1362(21)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking
15 “(including coastal estuaries)” and inserting “(including
16 coastal estuaries, the mouths of rivers and streams, near-
17 by shallow waters, and waters present on beaches)”.

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

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

2 No Federal funds made available for any of fiscal
3 years 2026 through 2031 to carry out section 118, 119,
4 123, 125, 320, or 406 of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
5 trol Act may be provided to any non-Federal entity—

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

12 (2) for projects conducted with a foreign coun-
13 try of concern.

14 **SEC. 9. GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM REPORT.**

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

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

1 (1) the management of funds, including the ef-
2 ficiency and effectiveness of program operations and
3 the use of Federal funds;

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

9 (3) obstacles to program success or progress;

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

14 (5) the ethics policies and practices of the office
15 of the Environmental Protection Agency responsible
16 for implementing the program.

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

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

1 (1) the Chesapeake Bay Program under section
2 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
3 U.S.C. 1267);

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

7 (3) the Long Island Sound program under sec-
8 tion 119 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
9 (33 U.S.C. 1269);

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

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

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

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

22 (8) the Puget Sound program under section
23 126 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
24 U.S.C. 1276b);

1 (9) the Gulf of America Program carried out by
2 the Administrator;

3 (10) the South Florida Program carried out by
4 the Administrator; or

5 (11) the Southeast New England Program car-
6 ried out by the Administrator.

Passed the House of Representatives March 24,
2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.