

# Union Calendar No. 485

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6422

[Report No. 119-564]

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

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## 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

MARCH 20, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. LALOTA and Ms. SCHOLTEN

MARCH 20, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole  
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 4, 2025]

# **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 Pollu-*  
8 *tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI)) is amend-*  
9 *ed by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “each of*  
10 *fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.*

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

12        *Section 119(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control*  
13 *Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(h)) is amended by striking “2023” and*  
14 *inserting “2031”.*

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

16        *Section 123(d)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-*  
17 *trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1275(d)(6)) is amended by striking*  
18 *“and 2021” and inserting “through 2031”.*

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

20        *Section 125 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act*  
21 *(33 U.S.C. 1276a) is amended—*

22            (1) *in the section heading, by striking*

23            **“GRANT”**; *and*

24            (2) *in subsection (e)—*

1           (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
2           “GRANT PROGRAM” and inserting “PROGRAM  
3           IMPLEMENTATION”;

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

12          (C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting  
13          the following:

14          “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Amounts provided for  
15          a project, activity, or study under this section shall  
16          not exceed an amount that is equal to 75 percent of  
17          the total cost of such project, activity, or study.

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

23   **SEC. 6. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

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

1           (1) *in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “and*  
2           *Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida” and inserting*  
3           *“Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Florida; and Mis-*  
4           *issippi Sound, Mississippi”;* and

5           (2) *in subsection (i)(1), in the matter preceding*  
6           *subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting*  
7           *“2031”.*

8           (b) *INELIGIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO FISCAL YEARS*  
9           *2026 AND 2027.—With respect to the amendment made by*  
10           *subsection (a)(1), the Administrator of the Environmental*  
11           *Protection Agency may not use for the implementation of*  
12           *that amendment, including, with respect to Mississippi*  
13           *Sound, Mississippi, convening a management conference,*  
14           *developing or carrying out a comprehensive conservation*  
15           *and management plan, or providing grants under section*  
16           *320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.*  
17           *1330)—*

18           (1) *any amounts appropriated to carry out the*  
19           *national estuary program under that section for fiscal*  
20           *year 2026; or*

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



1        *to identify specific sources of contamination for coast-*  
2        *al recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar*  
3        *points of access that are used by the public.”; and*

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

7                *(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sec-*  
8        *tion 8 of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and*  
9        *Coastal Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–284;*  
10        *114 Stat. 877) is amended by striking “2001 through*  
11        *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, nearby*  
17        *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 the*  
20        *Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1346), the*  
21        *Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency*  
22        *shall ensure that such guidance reflects innovations in test-*  
23        *ing 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, 123,*  
4 *125, 320, or 406 of the Federal Water Pollution Control*  
5 *Act may be provided to any non-Federal entity—*

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

12 *(2) for projects conducted with a foreign country*  
13 *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 of*  
17 *the United States shall submit to the Committee on Trans-*  
18 *portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-*  
19 *tives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works*  
20 *of the Senate a report on EPA geographic programs.*

21 *(b) REQUIRED EVALUATION.—In preparing the report*  
22 *required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall*  
23 *include an evaluation, with respect to each EPA geographic*  
24 *program, of—*

1           (1) *the management of funds, including the effi-*  
2           *ciency and effectiveness of program operations and*  
3           *the use of Federal funds;*

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

8           (3) *obstacles to program success or progress;*

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

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

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

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

23                 (1) *the Chesapeake Bay Program under section*  
24                 *117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33*  
25                 *U.S.C. 1267);*

1           (2) *the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under*  
2           *section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control*  
3           *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 Pol-*  
9           *lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1270);*

10          (5) *the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration*  
11          *Program under section 121 of the Federal Water Pol-*  
12          *lution 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 Program*  
17          *under section 125 of the Federal Water Pollution Con-*  
18          *trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1276a);*

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