

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9987

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a standardized national database for tracking recyclable materials, recycling infrastructure capacity, material recovery outcomes, landfill diversion, geographic areas with limited access to recycling collection services and processing facilities, and extended producer responsibility program performance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a standardized national database for tracking recyclable materials, recycling infrastructure capacity, material recovery outcomes, landfill diversion, geographic areas with limited access to recycling collection services and processing facilities, and extended producer responsibility program performance, 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 “Recycling Infrastruc-
3 ture and Data Accountability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EPA STUDY AND REPORT ON A NATIONAL RECY-**
5 **CLING DATA AND INFRASTRUCTURE TRACK-**
6 **ING DATABASE.**

7 (a) STUDY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-
9 duct a study on the feasibility of establishing a
10 standardized national database for tracking recycla-
11 ble materials, recycling infrastructure capacity, ma-
12 terial recovery outcomes, landfill diversion, geo-
13 graphic areas with limited access to recycling collec-
14 tion services and processing facilities, and extended
15 producer responsibility program performance.

16 (2) INCLUSIONS.—In conducting the study
17 under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

18 (A) identify regions with limited access to
19 recycling infrastructure, excessive distances for
20 transporting recyclable materials, and high reli-
21 ance on landfill disposal;

22 (B) identify and catalog the location, facil-
23 ity type, ownership, capacity, materials accept-
24 ed, and annual throughput of all waste facilities
25 and recycling facilities with an annual through-
26 put of not less than 25,000 tons (or other

1 threshold the Administrator determines appro-
2 priate);

3 (C) analyze the permitted and operational
4 processing capacity of facilities identified under
5 subparagraph (B);

6 (D) analyze challenges for permitting, and
7 economic barriers impacting, the development,
8 expansion, modernization, and operation of re-
9 cycling facilities and material recovery facilities;
10 and

11 (E) identify geographic areas where addi-
12 tional recycling facilities or material recovery
13 facilities are needed to improve collection ac-
14 cess, reduce transportation distances, or in-
15 crease processing capacity.

16 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
18 mit to Congress a report on the results of the study con-
19 ducted under subsection (a), including recommendations
20 regarding the establishment of a standardized national
21 database for tracking recyclable materials, recycling infra-
22 structure capacity, material recovery outcomes, landfill di-
23 version, geographic areas with limited access to recycling
24 collection services and processing facilities, and extended
25 producer responsibility program performance.

1 (c) NATIONAL RECYCLING DATABASE.—If, pursuant
2 to the study conducted under subsection (a) and the report
3 submitted under subsection (b), the Administrator finds
4 that establishing a standardized national database for
5 tracking recyclable materials, recycling infrastructure ca-
6 pacity, material recovery outcomes, landfill diversion, geo-
7 graphic areas with limited access to recycling collection
8 services and processing facilities, and extended producer
9 responsibility program performance is feasible, and rec-
10 ommends establishing such a standardized national data-
11 base, not later than 1 year after the date the report is
12 submitted under subsection (b), the Administrator shall
13 establish and maintain publicly online such a standardized
14 national database.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
17 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
18 mental Protection Agency.

19 (2) EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY
20 PROGRAM.—The term “extended producer responsi-
21 bility program” means a Federal, State, Tribal, or
22 local government program under which producers of
23 products or packaging bear financial or operational
24 responsibility for the collection, recycling, reuse, or

- 1 end-of-life management of such products or pack-
- 2 aging.

