

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
REVIEW ACT

SEPTEMBER 15, 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. 3427]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom
was referred the bill (H.R. 3427) to require the Comptroller Gen-
eral of the United States to review all clean water-related technical
assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and
for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably
thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as
amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act”.

SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON CLEAN WATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a comprehensive review of all covered technical assistance.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Comptroller General shall include in the review required under subsection (a) the following:

(1) A description of all covered technical assistance available to States, Tribes, local governments, and non-governmental organizations, including—

(A) the regions and populations that are served through the provision of technical assistance; and

(B) a summary of the activities and actions carried out through covered technical assistance during the 5-year period preceding this Act.

(2) A comprehensive review of how the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, through the Water Technical Assistance initiative (known as “WaterTA initiative”), identifies, selects, and partners with technical assistance providers to support communities, including—

(A) a description of the criteria, evaluation process, and contracting mechanisms used for selecting such providers;

(B) a description of the extent of coordination with State, Tribal, and regional partners in the selection and deployment of such providers;

(C) a description of how such providers are matched to meet the needs of local communities, including any pre-engagement scoping activities or community consultations;

(D) a description of how such providers identify communities in need of technical assistance, including economically distressed communities, and conduct outreach to such communities;

(E) a description of the scope and types of assistance delivered through such initiative; and

(F) a list of communities that received technical assistance support through such initiative, including the type and cost of assistance received by each such community and a summary of the outcomes associated with the provision of such assistance.

(3) An analysis of any duplication of covered technical assistance available through multiple programs of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(4) An evaluation of how the provision of covered technical assistance builds capacity in communities to access other water infrastructure programs carried out by the Administrator.

(5) An assessment of the needs of economically distressed communities eligible to receive assistance under a clean water infrastructure program carried out by the Administrator that are not addressed through covered technical assistance.

(6) An evaluation of how the Administrator carries out covered technical assistance in coordination with other Federal agencies providing technical assistance related to water infrastructure.

(7) An evaluation of how covered technical assistance supports communities in understanding, identifying, and implementing alternative and cost-effective technologies and features of treatment works that achieve long-term savings and improved outcomes in addressing water quality challenges.

(c) **REPORT.**—Upon the completion of the review conducted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the findings of such review; and

(2) any recommendations to improve covered technical assistance.

(d) **PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.**—Not later than 90 days after the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (c), and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan detailing any actions the Administrator has taken to comply with the recommendations contained in such a report.

(e) **COVERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered technical assistance” means a technical assistance authority, initiative, or program

of the Environmental Protection Agency that is related to clean water infrastructure.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 3427 is to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Through the EPA, technical assistance for water infrastructure is intended to assist communities, water utilities, and other partners in assessing water infrastructure needs, identifying and accessing available EPA funding resources, and complying with *Clean Water Act* requirements. These programs are typically tailored to support small, rural, and economically distressed communities who may not have the capacity to access EPA resources otherwise.¹

H.R. 3427 directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate EPA’s clean water technical assistance authorities, initiatives, and programs over the last five years, with a specific focus on the WaterTA initiative. The WaterTA initiative was established in March 2023 in an effort to connect more communities with available water infrastructure resources at the EPA.² The study would attempt to confirm if this initiative is properly reaching these communities.

H.R. 3427 requires the GAO to submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee outlining their findings, as well as their recommendations to improve EPA’s clean water technical assistance programs.

This legislation also requires the EPA to develop and submit to Congress a compliance plan based on GAO’s recommendations.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of rule XIII, clause 3(c)(6)(A) of the 119th Congress—

The following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 3427: The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on March 11, 2025 entitled, “*Water Infrastructure Financing: WIFIA and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.*”

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CONSIDERATION

H.R. 3427, the “*Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act*” was introduced in the United States House of Representatives of May 15, 2025, by Representative David Taylor and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R. 3427 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. 3427 on June 11, 2025.

¹ EPA, *Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)*, available at <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta>.

² *Id.*

The Committee considered H.R. 3427 on June 11, 2025, and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, with amendment, by recorded vote of 61 yeas to 3 nays.

The following amendments were offered:

An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 3427, offered by Mr. Taylor of Ohio; was AGREED TO by voice vote.

An Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 3427, offered by Mr. Perry of Pennsylvania (Perry 037): Page 3, strike lines 16 through 20 (and redesignate accordingly); was NOT AGREED TO by voice vote.

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.

The vote was as follows:

Measure: H.R. 3427.

On: final passage, as amended.

Yea 61; Nay 3.

Present 0; Not Voting 3.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Graves of MO	Y	Mr. Larsen of WA	Y
Mr. Crawford	Y	<i>Ms. Norton</i>	Y
Mr. Webster of FL	Y	Mr. Nadler	Y
Mr. Massie	N	Mr. Cohen	Y
Mr. Perry	N	Mr. Garamendi	Y
Mr. Babin	Y	Mr. Johnson of GA	Y
Mr. Rouzer	Y	Mr. Carson	Y
Mr. Bost	Y	Ms. Titus	Y
Mr. LaMalfa	Y	Mr. Huffman	
Mr. Westerman	Y	Ms. Brownley	Y
Mr. Mast	Y	Ms. Wilson of FL	Y
Mr. Stauber	Y	Mr. DeSaulnier	Y
Mr. Burchett	N	Mr. Carbajal	Y
Mr. Johnson of SD	Y	Mr. Stanton	Y
Mr. Van Drew	Y	Ms. Davids of KS	Y
Mr. Nehls		Mr. García of IL	Y
Mr. Mann		Mr. Pappas	Y
Mr. Owens	Y	Mr. Moulton	Y
Mr. Burlison	Y	Ms. Strickland	Y
Mr. Collins	Y	Mr. Ryan	Y
Mr. Ezell	Y	Ms. Hoyle of OR	Y
Mr. Kiley	Y	Mrs. Sykes	Y
Mr. Fong	Y	Ms. Scholten	Y
Mr. Wied	Y	Mrs. Foushee	Y
Mr. Barrett	Y	Mr. Deluzio	Y
Mr. Begich	Y	Mr. Garcia of CA	Y
Mr. Bresnahan	Y	Ms. Pou	Y
Mr. Hurd	Y	Ms. McDonald Rivet	Y
Mr. Shreve	Y	Ms. Friedman	Y
Mr. McDowell	Y	Ms. Gillen	Y
Mr. Taylor	Y	Mr. Figures	Y
Mr. Knott	Y		
Ms. King-Hinds	Y		
Mr. Kennedy	Y		
Mr. Onder	Y		
Mr. Patronis	Y		

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. 3427 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 3427, Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 11, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	2	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3427 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to the Congress on technical assistance provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to state, local, and tribal governments on clean water infrastructure. The bill also would require EPA to report to the Congress annually for five years on actions taken by the agency to comply with GAO's recommendations.

Using information about the timeframe and cost of similar activities, CBO expects the reports would be completed within five years and cost a total of \$2 million over the 2025–2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, 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 direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) clean water-related technical assistance authorities.

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. 3427 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. 3427 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 “Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act.”

Section 2. GAO Report on clean water technical assistance

This section directs the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office to initiate a comprehensive review of all covered technical assistance programs.

The review is to specifically address the availability of the EPA Water Technical Assistance initiative to States, Tribes, local governments, and non-governmental organizations. This review must be completed within one year of the enactment of this Act and sent to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

As reported by the Committee, H.R. 3427 makes no changes in existing law.

