

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5826

To implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative to ensure clean and reliable water for future generations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Ms. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative to ensure clean and reliable water for future generations, 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 “Coordinating Water
5 Research for a Clean Water Future Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
7 **INITIATIVE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall begin

1 to implement a National Water Research and Develop-
2 ment Initiative through the Council, the Coordination Of-
3 fice, and appropriate Federal agencies. The Initiative
4 shall—

5 (1) establish the goals, priorities, and metrics
6 for the evaluation of Federal water research and de-
7 velopment and other activities related to water;

8 (2) invest in Federal research and development
9 activities related to water to achieve the goals estab-
10 lished under the Strategic Plan; and

11 (3) provide for interagency coordination of Fed-
12 eral water research and development and other ac-
13 tivities related to water undertaken pursuant to the
14 Initiative.

15 (b) INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES.—The Initiative shall
16 carry out, at a minimum, the following activities:

17 (1) Conducting research on how to ensure the
18 systematic and coordinated collection of publicly
19 available data on regional and national water re-
20 sources, including information about the quantity,
21 availability, and quality of ground and surface water
22 resources.

23 (2) Conducting research on, development of,
24 and demonstration of technologies and practices to
25 enhance reliable water supply, water reuse, pollution

1 prevention, water quality, water use efficiency, and
2 energy efficiency in water use.

3 (3) Conducting research on and development of
4 tools and best practices to assist regional, State,
5 local, and tribal water resource managers in plan-
6 ning for changing and future water availability, use
7 patterns, and infrastructure impacts.

8 (4) Conducting research on the social, behav-
9 ioral, and economic barriers to the sustainable use of
10 water resources, including public acceptance of water
11 technologies and practices and conflict resolution so-
12 lutions for competing water resource management
13 requirements.

14 (5) Conducting research to enhance the under-
15 standing of water-related ecosystems, ecosystem
16 services, and the impact on water resources of
17 invasive species, chemical contaminants, natural dis-
18 asters, long-term ice coverage, and changing water
19 levels.

20 (6) Analyzing the energy required to provide re-
21 liable water supplies and the water required to pro-
22 vide reliable energy supplies.

23 (7) Providing guidance to minority serving in-
24 stitutions on funding opportunities to perform re-
25 search as part of the Initiative.

1 (c) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The Council shall
2 oversee the planning, management, and coordination of
3 the Initiative. The Council, itself or through an appro-
4 priate subgroup it designates or establishes, shall—

5 (1) establish goals and priorities for the Initia-
6 tive based on national needs;

7 (2) coordinate all Federal research, develop-
8 ment, demonstration, data collection and dissemina-
9 tion, education, and technology development and
10 transfer activities pertaining to water;

11 (3) coordinate the activities of the Initiative
12 with the water-related research and development ac-
13 tivities of the United States Global Change Research
14 Program;

15 (4) develop the Annual Report under subsection
16 (d);

17 (5) develop the Strategic Plan under section 5;
18 and

19 (6) through the Coordination Office, provide for
20 public input and outreach to be integrated into the
21 Initiative, including the convening of workshops.

22 (d) ANNUAL NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH RE-
23 PORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall submit the
25 Annual National Water Research Report to Con-

1 gress at the time of the President’s budget submis-
2 sion for each fiscal year. The Council shall consider
3 and utilize information from regional, State, local,
4 and tribal governments and other stakeholders in
5 the development of the Annual Report.

6 (2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The Annual
7 Report shall include—

8 (A) for each Federal agency that partici-
9 pates in the Initiative—

10 (i) the Initiative budget for the cur-
11 rent fiscal year; and

12 (ii) the proposed coordinated Initiative
13 budget for the next fiscal year;

14 (B) an analysis of the progress, and indi-
15 cators used to measure such progress, made to-
16 ward achieving the goals and priorities estab-
17 lished for the Initiative in the Strategic Plan;
18 and

19 (C) an analysis of the extent to which the
20 Initiative has incorporated the recommendations
21 of the Advisory Committee and the public.

22 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM COORDINATION.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish
24 a National Water Research Coordination Office with a Di-
25 rector and full-time staff.

1 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Coordination Office shall—

2 (1) provide technical and administrative support
3 to—

4 (A) the Council, including support needed
5 for the development of the Strategic Plan and
6 the Annual Report; and

7 (B) the Advisory Committee;

8 (2) serve as the primary point of contact on
9 Federal water research and development activities
10 for regional, State, local, and tribal government
11 agencies, organizations, academia, industry, public-
12 private collaborations, commercial end users, and
13 others to exchange information related to the Initia-
14 tive;

15 (3) conduct public outreach, including the dis-
16 semination of findings of research based on the ac-
17 tivities conducted pursuant to the Initiative and rec-
18 ommendations of the Advisory Committee through a
19 publicly accessible Web site;

20 (4) solicit input and recommendations from a
21 wide range of stakeholders during the development
22 of each Strategic Plan and Annual Report through
23 the solicitation of public comments and the con-
24 vening of at least 1 workshop with invitees from aca-
25 demia, industry, Federal laboratories, regional,

1 State, local, and tribal governments, and other rel-
2 evant organizations and institutions; and

3 (5) promote access to and early application of
4 innovations, best practices, and expertise derived
5 from Initiative activities.

6 (c) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The operation of the Coordi-
8 nation Office shall be supported by funds contrib-
9 uted from each agency represented on the Council.

10 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The portion of the total
11 budget of the Coordination Office that is provided by
12 each agency for each fiscal year shall be in the same
13 proportion as each such agency's share of the total
14 budget for the Initiative for the previous fiscal year,
15 as specified in the Annual Report.

16 (d) REPORT.—Within 180 days after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science
18 and Technology Policy shall transmit to Congress a report
19 on the funding of the Coordination Office. The report shall
20 include—

21 (1) the amount of funding required to ade-
22 quately fund the Coordination Office;

23 (2) the adequacy of existing mechanisms to
24 fund the Coordination Office; and

1 (3) the actions taken by the Director to ensure
2 stable funding of the Coordination Office.

3 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established a Na-
5 tional Water Research Initiative Advisory Committee.

6 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint
8 as members of the Advisory Committee individuals
9 that are—

10 (A) qualified to provide advice and infor-
11 mation on water research, development, dem-
12 onstrations, technology development and trans-
13 fer, and commercial application; and

14 (B) primarily from academic institutions,
15 industry, nongovernmental institutions, and re-
16 gional, State, local, and tribal governments.

17 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In appointing mem-
18 bers to the Advisory Committee, the President may
19 seek and give consideration to recommendations
20 from Congress, industry, the scientific community
21 (including the National Academy of Sciences, sci-
22 entific professional societies, and academia), the de-
23 fense community, regional, State, local, and tribal
24 governments, and other appropriate organizations.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall advise
2 the President and the Council on matters relating to the
3 Initiative, including assessing the following:

4 (1) Trends and developments in water research
5 and development.

6 (2) Progress made in implementing the Initia-
7 tive.

8 (3) The need to revise the Initiative.

9 (4) The balance among the activities of the Ini-
10 tiative described in section 2(b), including funding
11 levels for the Federal programs developed to address
12 the goals and priorities of the Initiative.

13 (5) Whether the goals and priorities are ena-
14 bling the Initiative to help maintain a reliable and
15 clean supply of water for the United States.

16 (6) Whether the Initiative is enabling an ade-
17 quate workforce to help maintain a reliable and
18 clean supply of water for the United States.

19 (7) The management, coordination, implemen-
20 tation, and activities of the Initiative.

21 (8) Whether the concerns of regional, State,
22 local, and tribal governments are being addressed
23 adequately by the Initiative.

24 (d) REPORTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
2 once every 3 fiscal years, the Advisory Committee
3 shall submit to the President and the Council a re-
4 port on its assessment under subsection (c) and its
5 recommendations for ways to improve the Initiative.

6 (2) INITIAL DEADLINE.—The first report under
7 this subsection shall be submitted not later than 18
8 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 (3) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Direc-
10 tor of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
11 shall transmit a copy of each report under this sub-
12 section to Congress.

13 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEM-
14 BERS.—Non-Federal members of the Advisory Committee,
15 while attending meetings of the Advisory Committee or
16 while otherwise serving at the request of the head of the
17 Advisory Committee away from their homes or regular
18 places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, includ-
19 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by sec-
20 tion 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals
21 in the Government serving without pay. Nothing in this
22 subsection shall be construed to prohibit members of the
23 Advisory Committee who are officers or employees of the
24 United States from being allowed travel expenses, includ-

1 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with ex-
 2 isting law.

3 (f) EXEMPTION FROM SUNSET.—Section 14 of the
 4 Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the
 5 Advisory Committee.

6 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
 7 **STRATEGIC PLAN.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Council, with the assistance
 9 of the Coordination Office, shall develop, within 12 months
 10 after the date of enactment of this Act, and update every
 11 3 years thereafter, a 5-year National Water Research and
 12 Development Strategic Plan to guide the activities of the
 13 Initiative described under section 2(b).

14 (b) GOALS.—The Strategic Plan shall specify near-
 15 term and long-term goals for the Initiative, the anticipated
 16 timeframe for achieving the near-term goals, and the
 17 metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the goals.

18 (c) PRIORITIES.—The Strategic Plan shall prioritize
 19 the research and development activities in section 2(b) re-
 20 lated to the enhancement of reliable and clean water sup-
 21 ply systems.

22 (d) CONTENT.—The Strategic Plan shall describe
 23 how the Initiative will—

24 (1) coordinate and reduce nonbeneficial duplica-
 25 tion of multiagency activities of the Initiative;

1 (2) foster the transfer of research and develop-
2 ment results into new technologies and applications
3 for the benefit of society, including through coopera-
4 tion and collaborations with regional, State, local,
5 and tribal governments conducting water-related re-
6 search and development and other water-related ac-
7 tivities;

8 (3) encourage and support mechanisms for
9 interdisciplinary research and development in water
10 availability and water quality technology;

11 (4) address long-term challenges of regional im-
12 portance for which solutions require large-scale,
13 long-term, interdisciplinary research and develop-
14 ment;

15 (5) place emphasis on innovative projects hav-
16 ing the potential for substantial societal and ecologi-
17 cal returns on the research investment;

18 (6) strengthen all levels of water research, de-
19 velopment, demonstration, technology transfer, and
20 education and training programs to ensure an ade-
21 quate, well-trained workforce; and

22 (7) attract more women and underrepresented
23 minorities to pursue postsecondary degrees in water-
24 related research and development.

1 (e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the Strategic
2 Plan, the Council shall take into consideration the rec-
3 ommendations of the—

4 (1) Advisory Committee; and

5 (2) stakeholders whose input was solicited by
6 the Coordination Office through the public comment
7 period and the workshop convened for that purpose.

8 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Of-
9 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit to
10 the Advisory Committee and Congress the Strategic Plan.

11 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-
14 sory Committee” means the National Water Re-
15 search Initiative Advisory Committee established by
16 section 4(a).

17 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The term “Annual Re-
18 port” means the Annual National Water Research
19 Report established by section 2(d).

20 (3) COORDINATION OFFICE.—The term “Co-
21 ordination Office” means the National Water Re-
22 search Coordination Office established by section
23 3(a).

24 (4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
25 National Science and Technology Council, or an ap-

1 appropriate subgroup designated by the National
2 Science and Technology Council under section 2(c).

3 (5) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means
4 the National Water Research and Development Ini-
5 tiative established by section 2.

6 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
7 term “institution of higher education” has the
8 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

10 (7) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—The
11 term “minority serving institutions” means institu-
12 tions that are eligible institutions under section
13 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

15 (8) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The term “Strategic
16 Plan” means the National Water Research and De-
17 velopment Strategic Plan established by section 5.

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