

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5264

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, provide grants to States to facilitate the acquisition of land, water, and interests therein, made to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area in perpetuity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2018

Mr. McEACHIN (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, provide grants to States to facilitate the acquisition of land, water, and interests therein, made to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area in perpetuity, 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 “Clean Water Partner-
3 ship Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLEAN WATER LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—To the extent that funds are made
6 available in advance for this Act, the Secretary shall make
7 grants, in accordance with the requirements and criteria
8 described in subsection (b), to States to assist the States
9 in acquiring land, water, or interests therein (including
10 conservation easements) if the Secretary determines such
11 acquisition will substantially improve, preserve, or main-
12 tain water quality for an area in perpetuity.

13 (b) **REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA.**—Not later than
14 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, after
15 providing notice and not less than 90 days for public com-
16 ment, the Secretary shall issue a final rule providing re-
17 quirements and criteria for making grants under this Act.
18 Such requirements and criteria shall include, at a min-
19 imum, the following:

20 (1) Criteria that the Secretary shall use to de-
21 termine whether an acquisition proposed to be facili-
22 tated with a grant under this Act will substantially
23 improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an
24 area in perpetuity.

25 (2) A requirement that documentation of an ac-
26 quisition facilitated with a grant under this Act con-

tain deed restrictions, reversionary clauses, or other means satisfactory to the Secretary to ensure that the acquisition shall be used in perpetuity to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area.

(3) A requirement that a State that receives a grant under this Act—

(A) provide matching funds for the acquisition proposed to be facilitated with a grant under this Act in the form of cash or an in-kind contribution in an amount equal to but not less than 100 percent of the amount of the grant; and

(B) demonstrate to the Secretary, in advance of receiving the grant, the ability of the State to provide the match required under subparagraph (A).

(4) Clarification that the cost to a State of incentives given by the State in exchange for an acquisition facilitated with a grant under this Act may be—

(A) offset with amounts from the grant;

(B) considered as an in-kind contribution of the State under paragraph (3); or

(C) a combination of (A) and (B).

1 (5) A requirement that a State requesting a
2 grant under this Act submit to the Secretary a grant
3 application at such time, in such form, and con-
4 taining such information as the Secretary requires.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
7 out this Act, \$750,000,000 for each fiscal year.

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
10 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
11 mental Protection Agency.

12 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior, acting in consultation
14 with the Administrator.

15 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any gov-
16 ernmental entity of the several States, the District
17 of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the
18 United States.

○