

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6804

To improve processes for alternative wastewater systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Mr. BABIN (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve processes for alternative wastewater systems,
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 “Onsite Wastewater Re-
5 cycling Efficiency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING.**

7 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that providing communities with the knowledge and

1 resources necessary to fully use decentralized wastewater
2 systems can provide affordable wastewater recycling and
3 treatment to millions of people in the United States.

4 (b) DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In this sec-
5 tion, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator
6 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

7 (c) WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

9 (A) for each of the programs described in
10 paragraph (2), update the information for those
11 programs to include information on cost-effec-
12 tive and alternative wastewater recycling and
13 treatment systems, including onsite and decen-
14 tralized systems; and

15 (B) disseminate to units of local govern-
16 ment and nonprofit organizations seeking Fed-
17 eral funds for wastewater systems information
18 on the cost effectiveness of alternative waste-
19 water treatment and recycling systems, includ-
20 ing onsite and decentralized systems.

21 (2) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The programs re-
22 ferred to in paragraph (1)(A) are programs that
23 provide technical assistance for wastewater manage-
24 ment, including—

1 (A) programs for nonpoint source manage-
2 ment under section 319 of the Federal Water
3 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329);

4 (B) the permit program for the disposal of
5 sewer sludge under section 405 of the Federal
6 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1345);

7 (C) technical assistance for small public
8 water systems under section 1442(e) of the
9 Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-
10 2(e)); and

11 (D) other programs of the Administrator
12 that provide technical assistance for wastewater
13 management.

14 (d) ALTERNATIVE WASTEWATER SYSTEM CERTIFI-
15 CATION.—

16 (1) CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS.—
17 Section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
18 Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) (as amended by section
19 5004(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(k) ALTERNATIVE WASTEWATER SYSTEM CERTIFI-
22 CATION.—In providing assistance from the water pollution
23 control revolving fund of the State established in accord-
24 ance with this title for a project for a wastewater system
25 serving a population of not more than 2,500, the State

1 shall ensure that an entity receiving assistance from the
2 water pollution control revolving fund of the State certifies
3 that the entity has considered an individual or shared on-
4 site, decentralized wastewater system as an alternative
5 wastewater system.”.

6 (2) WIFIA.—Section 5028(a) of the Water In-
7 frastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014
8 (33 U.S.C. 3907(a)) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 “(7) ALTERNATIVE WASTEWATER SYSTEM CER-
11 TIFICATION.—In the case of a project carried out by
12 the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure
13 that, for a project for a wastewater system serving
14 a population of not more than 2,500, the eligible en-
15 tity receiving financial assistance certifies that the
16 eligible entity has considered an individual or shared
17 onsite, decentralized wastewater system as an alter-
18 native wastewater system.”.

19 (3) WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL LOAN &
20 GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 306(a) of the Consoli-
21 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1926(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(27) ALTERNATIVE WASTEWATER SYSTEM
25 CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that,

1 for a wastewater project serving a population of not
2 more than 2,500, the recipient of the financial as-
3 sistance certifies that the recipient has considered an
4 individual or shared onsite, decentralized wastewater
5 system as an alternative wastewater system.”.

6 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less fre-
8 quently than every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator
9 shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

10 (1) the amount of financial assistance provided
11 by State water pollution control revolving funds es-
12 tablished under title VI of the Federal Water Pollu-
13 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) to deploy
14 decentralized wastewater recycling technology;

15 (2) the barriers impacting greater use of decen-
16 tralized wastewater recycling technologies;

17 (3) the cost-saving potential to communities
18 and future infrastructure investments from further
19 deployment of decentralized wastewater recycling
20 technology;

21 (4) the environmental benefits to the commu-
22 nity and groundwater quality from additional invest-
23 ments in decentralized wastewater recycling; and

- 1 (5) the actions taken by the Administrator to
- 2 assist States in identifying eligible projects using de-
- 3 centralized wastewater recycling technology.

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