

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3171

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 9, 2020

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, 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 “Protect and Restore
5 America’s Estuaries Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

7 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
8 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “and
2 Peconic Bay, New York” and inserting “Peconic
3 Bay, New York; Casco Bay, Maine; Tampa Bay,
4 Florida; Coastal Bend, Texas; San Juan Bay, Puer-
5 to Rico; Tillamook Bay, Oregon; Piscataqua Region,
6 New Hampshire; Barnegat Bay, New Jersey; Mary-
7 land Coastal Bays, Maryland; Charlotte Harbor,
8 Florida; Mobile Bay, Alabama; Morro Bay, Cali-
9 fornia; and Lower Columbia River, Oregon and
10 Washington”;

11 (2) in subsection (b)(4)—

12 (A) by striking “management plan that
13 recommends” and inserting “management plan
14 that—

15 “(A) recommends”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(B) addresses the effects of recurring ex-
18 treme weather events on the estuary, including
19 the identification and assessment of
20 vulnerabilities in the estuary and the develop-
21 ment and implementation of adaptation strate-
22 gies; and

23 “(C) increases public education and aware-
24 ness of the ecological health and water quality
25 conditions of the estuary;”;

(3) in subsection (c)(5), by inserting “nonprofit organizations,” after “educational institutions,”;

(4) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (i)(2)(B)” and inserting “subsection (i)(3)(B)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), in the first sentence—

(I) by inserting “, emerging,” after “urgent”;

(II) by striking “coastal areas” and inserting “estuaries of national significance”;

(ii) in clause (vi), by inserting “, extreme weather,” after “sea level rise”;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (ix) and (x), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) stormwater runoff;

“(vii) accelerated land loss;

“(viii) problems resulting from urbanization and population growth, including—

1 “(I) increased demand for sewage
2 treatment;

3 “(II) loss of forests and natural
4 soil; and

5 “(III) increased amounts of im-
6 pervious surfaces that affect water
7 quality;”; and

8 (5) in subsection (i)—

9 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
10 paragraph (3); and

11 (B) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
12 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-
14 trator \$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2017 through 2021 for—” and inserting the
16 following: “There are authorized to be appro-
17 priated to the Administrator for the purposes
18 described in paragraph (2)—

19 “(A) \$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2017 through 2021; and

21 “(B) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2022 through 2026.

23 “(2) PURPOSES DESCRIBED.—The purposes re-
24 ferred to in paragraph (1) are—”.

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