

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4350

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish the Southeast New England Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2026

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN) 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 establish the Southeast New England 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 “Southeast New Eng-
5 land Program Authorization Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM.**

7 Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
8 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 127. SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITION OF COASTAL WATERSHEDS OF
3 SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND.—In this section, the term
4 ‘coastal watersheds of southeast New England’ means all
5 of the watersheds of Rhode Island and southeastern Mas-
6 sachusetts that drain into coastal waters between Long
7 Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine.

8 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
9 Environmental Protection Agency a program, to be known
10 as the ‘Southeast New England Program’ (referred to in
11 this section as the ‘Program’).

12 “(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program shall
13 be to protect, enhance, and restore the coastal watersheds
14 of southeast New England by developing, funding, and ad-
15 vancing implementation of protection and restoration
16 projects in collaboration with partners across the south-
17 east New England region.

18 “(d) GRANT PROGRAM.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-
20 gram, the Administrator may award grants to sup-
21 port and carry out projects in the coastal watersheds
22 of southeast New England that assist in—

23 “(A) eliminating or reducing pollution;

24 “(B) restoring contaminated sites;

25 “(C) protecting or restoring ecosystems or
26 habitat;

1 “(D) improving water quality;

2 “(E) monitoring watersheds to evaluate
3 trends;

4 “(F) reducing stormwater runoff;

5 “(G) promoting resilience of the coastal
6 watersheds;

7 “(H) supporting workforce development,
8 training, or education initiatives that contribute
9 to the health of the coastal watersheds of south-
10 east New England; or

11 “(I) providing technical assistance in car-
12 rying out projects described in subparagraphs
13 (A) through (H).

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—An entity eligible
15 for a grant under this subsection is—

16 “(A) a State;

17 “(B) a county or local government, or a
18 subdivision of such a government;

19 “(C) a federally recognized Indian tribe;

20 “(D) a regional planning organization;

21 “(E) a nonprofit organization; and

22 “(F) an institution of higher education.

23 “(3) COST-SHARE.—The Federal share of an
24 activity carried out using a grant under this sub-
25 section shall not exceed 75 percent.

1 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall co-
 2 ordinate the actions of Federal agencies that affect water
 3 quality and the living resources of the coastal watersheds
 4 of southeast New England to improve those resources and
 5 enhance efficiency.

6 “(f) AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF ADMINIS-
 7 TRATOR.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sec-
 9 tion, the Administrator may—

10 “(A) enter into interagency agreements;

11 “(B) establish interagency working groups;

12 and

13 “(C) contract for services to carry out the
 14 purposes of this section.

15 “(2) STAFFING.—The Administrator shall pro-
 16 vide adequate staff to carry out this section.

17 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 19 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this
 20 section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
 21 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

22 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts
 23 made available to award grants under subsection (d)
 24 in a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent may be
 25 used to award grants the primary purpose of which

1 is providing technical assistance pursuant to para-
2 graph (1)(I) of that subsection.

3 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
4 amounts made available under paragraph (1) in a
5 fiscal year, not more than 5 percent may be used for
6 administrative expenses.”.

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