

Federal Legislative Report - September 2023

Last Updated: September 05, 2023

Bills by Issue

Priority: High (3)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
HR 1181	Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment 2023 02 27	In House	Monitor	High
<p>Title To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Description This bill extends the maximum term for certain permits issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Specifically, the bill extends the maximum term for NPDES permits issued to states or municipalities from 5 to 10 years. Under the program, the Environmental Protection Agency issues permits to discharge pollutants from point sources, such as pipes, into waters of the United States.</p> <p>Primary Sponsors John Garamendi</p>		<p>Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Mar 22, 2023, 4:55 PM H.R. 1181 would provide state permitting authorities to issue ten year NPDES permits to publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies. The authority would not extend to privately owned treatment facilities such as industrial dischargers.</p> <p>Introduction Date: 2023-02-24</p>		
HR 2964	Referred To The Subcommittee On Innovation Data And Commerce 2023 04 28	In House	Monitor	High
<p>Title WIPPES Act</p> <p>Primary Sponsors Lisa McClain</p>		<p>Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at May 2, 2023, 5:00 PM Directs the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (as appropriate depending on the type of covered product involved) to issue regulations on "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipe, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. Requirements mirrors CA's labeling law. Companion Senate bill (S. 1350).</p> <p>Introduction Date: 2023-04-27</p>		

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
S 1350	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Commerce Science And Transportation 2023 04 27	In Senate	Monitor	High
Title WIPPES Act Primary Sponsors Jeff Merkley		Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at May 2, 2023, 5:00 PM Directs the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (as appropriate depending on the type of covered product involved) to issue regulations on "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipe, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. Requirements mirrors CA's labeling law. Companion house bill (H.R. 2964). Introduction Date: 2023-04-27		

Priority: Medium (1)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
HR 250	Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment 2023 02 01	In House	Monitor	Medium
Title Clean Water SRF Parity Act Description Clean Water SRF Parity Act This bill expands the state revolving fund established under the Clean Water Act, including by allowing low-interest loans to be given to privately owned treatment works to address wastewater. Currently, loans are given to wastewater systems that are publicly owned. Primary Sponsors John Garamendi		Bill Summary: Last edited by David French at Jan 23, 2023, 3:54 PM Amends eligibility provisions for the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's Clean Water State Revolving Fund so that all wastewater customers have the ability to benefit from the program's low-interest loans. Supported by NAWCA Also introduce in 117th Congress - No Action Introduction Date: 2023-01-10		

Priority: None (6)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
HR 1729	Referred To The Subcommittee On Commodity Markets Digital Assets And Rural Development 2023 04 25	In House	None	None
Title Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023 Primary Sponsors Bonnie Watson Coleman		Introduction Date: 2023-03-22		

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
HR 1837	Referred To The House Committee On Ways And Means 2023 03 28	In House	None	None

Title
Investing in Our Communities Act

Description
Investing in Our Communities Act This bill reinstates the exclusion from gross income for interest on certain bonds issued to advance the refunding of a prior bond issue. The exclusion was repealed for bonds issued after 2017.

Primary Sponsors
David Kustoff

Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Apr 5, 2023, 4:08 PM
Legislation restores tax-exempt advance refunding for municipal bonds to allow states and local governments to more efficiently invest in projects.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-28

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
S 115	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Environment And Public Works 2023 01 26	In Senate	Monitor	None

Title
Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act of 2023

Description
Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act of 2023 This bill revises the formula the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses to determine how to distribute funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Under the program, the EPA allocates funding to states for water quality infrastructure projects, such as wastewater systems and stormwater management projects. In FY2024-FY2028, the EPA must provide an initial allotment to each state that is equal to the amount the state received in FY2023. The EPA must also provide an additional allotment to each state that is based on its share of the U.S. population. In FY2029 and each subsequent fiscal year, the EPA must use an updated allotment formula, which is based on the needs of states as identified in the most recently available clean watersheds needs survey. Beginning in FY2024, the formula must also provide allotments for Indian tribes and territories. In addition, the formula must provide an allotment for EPA's oversight of SRF projects to ensure they use American iron and steel.

Primary Sponsors
Marco Rubio

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Apr 29, 2023, 9:02 PM
Provides for a set aside from Clean Water SRF appropriations to conduct Buy America oversight compliance, establishes that each state's allotment must be at the same level as FY 23 during FY 24-28 and additional allotments based on percent of state population to the nation. FY 29 and beyond allotments to be determined by new formula based upon Clean Water Needs Survey.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-26

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
S 938	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2023 03 22	In Senate	None	None

Title
Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023

Primary Sponsors
Bernie Sanders

Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Apr 5, 2023, 4:45 PM
S. 938 would establish a \$35 billion trust fund to support the construction of water and wastewater treatment systems. Funding would be derived from an increase in the corporate tax rate. The bill also imposes requirements for Department of Justice and USEPA to carryout activities to determine whether water and wastewater operators discriminate in the provision of services. USEPA must also investigate the impact of rates on service cut-offs. Additional provisions would address use of assistance to promote regionalization of systems and limitations on the use of federal assistance to support projects that address growth. The bill enjoys 500 NGO organizational support. It has five cosponsors. House companion bill, H.R. 1729 is cosponsored by Lee, DeSaulnier and Huffman along with 69 other House Democrats.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-22

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
S 1430	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Environment And Public Works 2023 05 03	In Senate	Monitor	None

Title
Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Primary Sponsors
Cynthia Lummis

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at May 30, 2023, 2:55 PM
S. 1430 would provide a limited CERCLA liability (section 107) exemption for PFAS family of chemicals for water and wastewater agencies. S. 1430 would not exempt an agency from liability in cases of gross negligence. The legislation is not expected to be approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Instead, its policy direction could be incorporated into a committee bill addressing PFAS R&D.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-03

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
S 2162	Committee On Energy And Natural Resources Subcommittee On Water And Power Hearings Held 2023 07 19	In Senate	None	None

Title
STREAM Act

Primary Sponsors
Dianne Feinstein

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Jun 27, 2023, 4:16 PM
S. 2162 is an introduction of legislation to renew expiring provisions of the WIIN Act. It is notable for its increased funding authorizations for surface and groundwater storage projects, water recycling, desalination, and ecosystem restoration projects. Among the changes that would be authorized would be priorities for water supply projects that include enhanced public benefits (fisheries, wildlife and disadvantage communities drinking water reliability. The legislation would also provide for enhanced water transfers to support temporary fallowing of agriculture lands to support wildlife habtiats.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-22