

Federal Legislative Report - April 2024

Last Updated: April 03, 2024

Bills by Issue

Priority: High (6)

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 Sarah Sapirstein at Apr 3, 2024, 6:52 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. The bill was unanimously adopted as an amendment to H.R. 7023 on the House floor. The House passed H.R. 7023 on a vote of 213-205 and it has been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>Introduction Date: 2023-02-24</p>		
HR 2964	Ordered To Be Reported Amended By The Yeas And Nays 42 0 2023 12 06	In House	Monitor	High
<p>Title WIPPES Act</p> <p>Primary Sponsors Lisa McClain</p>		<p>Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Jan 4, 2024, 9:37 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 "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipes, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. The requirements mirror California's labeling law and has the support from the wipes industry, national clean water sector, civil engineers, and environment advocates. Companion Senate bill: S. 1350.</p> <p>Introduction Date: 2023-04-27</p>		

Bill Number
HR 7194

Last Action
**Referred To The Subcommittee On
Environment Manufacturing And
Critical Materials 2024 02 02**

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

Priority
High

Title
PFAS Accountability Act of 2024

Primary Sponsors
Madeleine Dean

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Feb 20, 2024, 5:46 PM

H.R. 7194 would create a cause of action under the Toxics Substances Control Act to allow a citizen or class of citizens to litigate against a manufacturer of PFAS that improperly discharged PFAS into the environment and created a public health impact. Companion legislation in the Senate: S. 3725. Sponsor: Rep. Madeline Dean (D-NH)

Introduction Date: 2024-02-01

Bill Number
S 1350

Last Action
**Read Twice And Referred To The
Committee On Commerce Science And
Transportation 2023 04 27**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

Priority
High

Title
WIPPES Act

Primary Sponsors
Jeff Merkley

Bill Summary: Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Jan 4, 2024, 9:38 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 "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipes, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. The requirements mirror California's labeling law and has the support from the wipes industry, national clean water sector, civil engineers, and environment advocates. Companion House bill: H.R. 2964.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-27

Bill Number
S 1430

Last Action
**Read Twice And Referred To The
Committee On Environment And Public
Works 2023 05 03**

Status
In Senate

Position
None

Priority
High

Title
Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Description
Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act This bill exempts specified water management entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. Specifically, the entities covered under the bill are public water systems, publicly or privately owned or operated treatment works, municipalities with a stormwater discharge permit, political subdivisions or special districts of a state that act as a wholesale water agency, and contractors performing the management or disposal activities for such entities. Under the bill, the exemption only applies if a specified entity transports, treats, disposes of, or arranges for the transport, treatment or disposal of PFAS consistent with applicable laws and during and following the conveyance or treatment of water under federal or state law, such as through the management or disposal of biosolids consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Liability for damages or costs associated with the release of certain PFAS must not be precluded if an entity acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Primary Sponsors
Cynthia Lummis

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Mar 28, 2024, 8:47 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.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-03

Bill Number
S 2162

Last Action
**Committee On Energy And Natural
Resources Subcommittee On Water And
Power Hearings Held 2023 07 19**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

Priority
High

Title
STREAM Act

Primary Sponsors
Dianne Feinstein

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Feb 20, 2024, 5:49 PM
S. 2162 renews expiring provisions of the WIIN Act. It would increase 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). It would also provide for enhanced water transfers to support temporary fallowing of agriculture lands to support wildlife habitats. (BILL PROVISIONS LIKELY TO INCORPORATED INTO LARGER WESTERN WATER LEGISLATION) No Sponsor at the writing

Introduction Date: 2023-06-22

Priority: Medium (1)

Bill Number
HR 250

Last Action
**Referred To The Subcommittee On
Water Resources And Environment
2023 02 01**

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

Priority
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: Low (2)

Bill Number
HR 1729

Last Action
**Referred To The Subcommittee On
Commodity Markets Digital Assets And
Rural Development 2023 04 25**

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

Priority
Low

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

Description
Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023 This bill increases funding for water infrastructure, including funding for several programs related to controlling water pollution or protecting drinking water. Specifically, it establishes a Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Trust Fund. The fund may be used for specified grant programs. The bill increases the corporate income tax rate to 24.5% to provide revenues for the fund. In addition, the bill revises requirements concerning the clean water state revolving fund (SRF) and the drinking water SRF, including by prohibiting states from providing financial assistance using amounts from the clean water SRF for projects that will provide substantial direct benefits to new communities other than projects for constructing an advanced decentralized wastewater system. It also creates or reauthorizes several grant programs related to water infrastructure, such as grants for removing lead from drinking water.

Primary Sponsors
Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Feb 20, 2024, 5:55 PM
Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Coleman D-NJ Co-Sponsor: Rep. Katie Porter D-CA

Introduction Date: 2023-03-22

Bill Number
S 938

Last Action
**Read Twice And Referred To The
Committee On Finance 2023 03 22**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

Priority
Low

Title

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

Description

Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023 This bill increases funding for water infrastructure to control water pollution or protect drinking water. Specifically, it establishes a Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Trust Fund. The fund may be used for specified grant programs. The bill increases the corporate income tax rate to 24.5% to provide revenues for the fund. In addition, the bill revises requirements concerning the clean water state revolving fund (SRF) and the drinking water SRF, including by prohibiting states from providing financial assistance using amounts from the clean water SRF for projects that will provide substantial direct benefits to new communities other than projects for constructing an advanced decentralized wastewater system. It also creates or reauthorizes several grant programs related to water infrastructure, such as grants for removing lead from drinking water.

Primary Sponsors

Bernie Sanders

Bill Summary: Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Feb 20, 2024, 5:56 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. Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders I-VT

Introduction Date: 2023-03-22

Priority: None (2)

Bill Number
HR 1837

Last Action
**Referred To The House Committee On
Ways And Means 2023 03 28**

Status
In House

Position
None

Priority
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
S 115

Last Action
**Read Twice And Referred To The
Committee On Environment And Public
Works 2023 01 26**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

Priority
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

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