

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 425

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2011

Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes.

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 “Great Lakes Water
5 Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SEWAGE DUMPING INTO THE**
2 **GREAT LAKES.**

3 Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
4 Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 “(s) PROHIBITION ON SEWAGE DUMPING INTO THE
7 GREAT LAKES.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) BYPASS.—The term ‘bypass’ means
10 an intentional diversion of waste streams to by-
11 pass any portion of a treatment facility which
12 results in a discharge into the Great Lakes.

13 “(B) GREAT LAKES.—The term ‘Great
14 Lakes’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
15 tion 118(a)(3).

16 “(C) TREATMENT FACILITY.—The term
17 ‘treatment facility’ includes all wastewater
18 treatment units used by a publicly owned treat-
19 ment works to meet secondary treatment stand-
20 ards or higher, as required to attain water qual-
21 ity standards, under any operating conditions.

22 “(D) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term
23 ‘treatment works’ has the meaning given the
24 term in section 212.

25 “(2) PROHIBITION.—A publicly owned treat-
26 ment works is prohibited from intentionally diverting

1 waste streams to bypass any portion of a treatment
2 facility at the treatment works if the diversion re-
3 sults in a discharge into the Great Lakes unless—

4 “(A)(i) the bypass is unavoidable to pre-
5 vent loss of life, personal injury, or severe prop-
6 erty damage;

7 “(ii) there is not a feasible alternative to
8 the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treat-
9 ment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or
10 maintenance during normal periods of equip-
11 ment downtime; and

12 “(iii) the treatment works provides notice
13 of the bypass in accordance with this sub-
14 section; or

15 “(B) the bypass does not cause effluent
16 limitations to be exceeded, and the bypass is for
17 essential maintenance to ensure efficient oper-
18 ation of the treatment facility.

19 “(3) LIMITATION.—The requirement of para-
20 graph (2)(A)(ii) is not satisfied if—

21 “(A) adequate back-up equipment should
22 have been installed in the exercise of reasonable
23 engineering judgment to prevent the bypass;
24 and

1 “(B) the bypass occurred during normal
2 periods of equipment downtime or preventive
3 maintenance.

4 “(4) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—A publicly
5 owned treatment works shall provide to the Adminis-
6 trator (or to the State, in the case of a State that
7 has a permit program approved under this sec-
8 tion)—

9 “(A) prior notice of an anticipated bypass;
10 and

11 “(B) notice of an unanticipated bypass by
12 not later than 24 hours after the time at which
13 the treatment works first becomes aware of the
14 bypass.

15 “(5) FOLLOW-UP NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—In
16 the case of an unanticipated bypass for which a pub-
17 licly owned treatment works provides notice under
18 paragraph (4)(B), the treatment works shall provide
19 to the Administrator (or to the State in the case of
20 a State that has a permit program approved under
21 this section), not later than 5 days following the
22 date on which the treatment works first becomes
23 aware of the bypass, a follow-up notice containing a
24 description of—

25 “(A) the cause of the bypass;

1 “(B) the reason for the bypass;

2 “(C) the period of bypass, including the
3 exact dates and times;

4 “(D) if the bypass has not been corrected,
5 the anticipated time the bypass is expected to
6 continue;

7 “(E) the volume of the discharge resulting
8 from the bypass;

9 “(F) any public access areas that may be
10 impacted by the bypass; and

11 “(G) steps taken or planned to reduce,
12 eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the by-
13 pass.

14 “(6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF NOTICES.—A
15 publicly owned treatment works providing a notice
16 under this subsection, and the Administrator (or the
17 State, in the case of a State that has a permit pro-
18 gram approved under this section) receiving such a
19 notice, shall each post the notice, by not later than
20 48 hours after providing or receiving the notice (as
21 the case may be), in a searchable database accessible
22 on the Internet.

23 “(7) SEWAGE BLENDING.—Bypasses prohibited
24 by this section include bypasses resulting in dis-
25 charges from a publicly owned treatment works that

1 consist of effluent routed around treatment units
2 and thereafter blended together with effluent from
3 treatment units prior to discharge.

4 “(8) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180
5 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,
6 the Administrator shall establish procedures to en-
7 sure that permits issued under this section (or under
8 a State permit program approved under this section)
9 to a publicly owned treatment works include require-
10 ments to implement this subsection.

11 “(9) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY
12 FOR VIOLATIONS OCCURRING AFTER JANUARY 1,
13 2031.—Notwithstanding section 309, in the case of a
14 violation of this subsection occurring on or after
15 January 1, 2031, or any violation of a permit limita-
16 tion or condition implementing this subsection occur-
17 ring after such date, the maximum civil penalty that
18 shall be assessed for the violation shall be \$100,000
19 per day for each day the violation occurs.

20 “(10) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall
21 apply to a bypass occurring after the last day of the
22 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of
23 this subsection.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREAT LAKES CLEANUP FUND.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Federal Water Pol-
3 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating section 519 (33 U.S.C.
5 1251 note) as section 520; and

6 (2) by inserting after section 518 (33 U.S.C.
7 1377) the following:

8 **“SEC. 519. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREAT LAKES CLEANUP**
9 **FUND.**

10 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the Great
12 Lakes Cleanup Fund established by subsection (b).

13 “(2) GREAT LAKES; GREAT LAKES STATES.—
14 The terms ‘Great Lakes’ and ‘Great Lakes States’
15 have the meanings given the terms in section
16 118(a)(3).

17 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is estab-
18 lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
19 to be known as the ‘Great Lakes Cleanup Fund’ (in this
20 section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

21 “(c) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—Effective January 1,
22 2031, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund
23 amounts equivalent to the penalties collected for violations
24 of section 402(s).

25 “(d) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Adminis-
26 trator shall administer the Fund.

1 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall—

2 “(1) make the amounts in the Fund available
3 to the Great Lakes States for use in carrying out
4 programs and activities for improving wastewater
5 discharges into the Great Lakes, including habitat
6 protection and wetland restoration; and

7 “(2) allocate those amounts among the Great
8 Lakes States based on the proportion that—

9 “(A) the amount attributable to a Great
10 Lakes State for penalties collected for violations
11 of section 402(s); bears to

12 “(B) the total amount of those penalties
13 attributable to all Great Lakes States.

14 “(f) PRIORITY.—In selecting programs and activities
15 to be funded using amounts made available under this sec-
16 tion, a Great Lakes State shall give priority consideration
17 to programs and activities that address violations of sec-
18 tion 402(s) resulting in the collection of penalties.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO STATE REVOLV-
20 ING FUND PROGRAM.—Section 607 of the Federal Water
21 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1387) is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
23 “There is”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(b) TREATMENT OF GREAT LAKES CLEANUP
2 FUND.—For purposes of this title, amounts made avail-
3 able from the Great Lakes Cleanup Fund under section
4 519 shall be treated as funds authorized to be appro-
5 priated to carry out this title and as funds made available
6 under this title, except that the funds shall be made avail-
7 able to the Great Lakes States in accordance with section
8 519.”.

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