

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5264

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, provide grants to States to facilitate the acquisition of land, water, and interests therein, made to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area in perpetuity, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2018

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, provide grants to States to facilitate the acquisition of land, water, and interests therein, made to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area in perpetuity, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Clean Water Partner-  
3 ship Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLEAN WATER LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—To the extent that funds are made  
6 available in advance for this Act, the Secretary shall make  
7 grants, in accordance with the requirements and criteria  
8 described in subsection (b), to States to assist the States  
9 in acquiring land, water, or interests therein (including  
10 conservation easements) if the Secretary determines such  
11 acquisition will substantially improve, preserve, or main-  
12 tain water quality for an area in perpetuity.

13 (b) **REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA.**—Not later than  
14 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, after  
15 providing notice and not less than 90 days for public com-  
16 ment, the Secretary shall issue a final rule providing re-  
17 quirements and criteria for making grants under this Act.  
18 Such requirements and criteria shall include, at a min-  
19 imum, the following:

20 (1) Criteria that the Secretary shall use to de-  
21 termine whether an acquisition proposed to be facili-  
22 tated with a grant under this Act will substantially  
23 improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an  
24 area in perpetuity.

25 (2) A requirement that documentation of an ac-  
26 quisition facilitated with a grant under this Act con-

1       tain deed restrictions, reversionary clauses, or other  
2       means satisfactory to the Secretary to ensure that  
3       the acquisition shall be used in perpetuity to sub-  
4       stantially improve, preserve, or maintain water qual-  
5       ity for an area.

6               (3) A requirement that a State that receives a  
7       grant under this Act—

8                       (A) provide matching funds for the acquisi-  
9                       tion proposed to be facilitated with a grant  
10                      under this Act in the form of cash or an in-kind  
11                      contribution in an amount equal to but not less  
12                      than 100 percent of the amount of the grant;  
13                      and

14                     (B) demonstrate to the Secretary, in ad-  
15                     vance of receiving the grant, the ability of the  
16                     State to provide the match required under sub-  
17                     paragraph (A).

18               (4) Clarification that the cost to a State of in-  
19       centives given by the State in exchange for an acqui-  
20       sition facilitated with a grant under this Act may  
21       be—

22                     (A) offset with amounts from the grant;

23                     (B) considered as an in-kind contribution  
24                     of the State under paragraph (3); or

25                     (C) a combination of (A) and (B).

1           (5) A requirement that a State requesting a  
2           grant under this Act submit to the Secretary a grant  
3           application at such time, in such form, and con-  
4           taining such information as the Secretary requires.

5           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
7           out this Act, \$750,000,000 for each fiscal year.

8           (d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

9           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
10          trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
11          mental Protection Agency.

12          (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13          the Secretary of the Interior, acting in consultation  
14          with the Administrator.

15          (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any gov-  
16          ernmental entity of the several States, the District  
17          of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the  
18          United States.

○