

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 451

To amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act.

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 “Water Resources Re-  
5 search Amendments Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARA-  
3 TIONS.—Section 102 of the Water Resources Research  
4 Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10301) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through  
6 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

7 (2) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by  
8 striking “and” at the end; and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(7) additional research is required into in-  
12 creasing the effectiveness and efficiency of new and  
13 existing treatment works through alternative ap-  
14 proaches, including—

15 “(A) nonstructural alternatives;

16 “(B) decentralized approaches;

17 “(C) energy use efficiency;

18 “(D) water use efficiency; and

19 “(E) actions to extract energy from waste-  
20 water;”.

21 (b) CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Sec-  
22 tion 104(b)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of  
23 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(b)(1)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “water-  
25 related phenomena” and inserting “water re-  
26 sources”; and

1           (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
2           at the end and inserting “; and”.

3           (c) COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Section 104(c) of the  
4 Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C.  
5 10303(c)) is amended—

6           (1) by striking “(c) From the” and inserting  
7           the following:

8           “(c) GRANTS.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the”; and

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

11           “(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of  
12           each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the  
13           Committee on Environment and Public Works of the  
14           Senate, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate,  
15           the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
16           of the House of Representatives, and the Committee  
17           on the Budget of the House of Representatives a re-  
18           port regarding the compliance of each funding re-  
19           cipient with this subsection for the immediately pre-  
20           ceding fiscal year.”.

21           (d) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH  
22 PROGRAM.—Section 104 of the Water Resources Research  
23 Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended by striking  
24 subsection (e) and inserting the following:

1       “(e) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH  
2 PROGRAM.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-  
4 duct a careful and detailed evaluation of each insti-  
5 tute at least once every 3 years to determine—

6           “(A) the quality and relevance of the water  
7 resources research of the institute;

8           “(B) the effectiveness of the institute at  
9 producing measured results and applied water  
10 supply research; and

11          “(C) whether the effectiveness of the insti-  
12 tute as an institution for planning, conducting,  
13 and arranging for research warrants continued  
14 support under this section.

15          “(2) PROHIBITION ON FURTHER SUPPORT.—If,  
16 as a result of an evaluation under paragraph (1), the  
17 Secretary determines that an institute does not qual-  
18 ify for further support under this section, no further  
19 grants to the institute may be provided until the  
20 qualifications of the institute are reestablished to the  
21 satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

22       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
23 104(f)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984  
24 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)(1)) is amended by striking  
25 “\$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011”

1 and inserting “\$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2017  
2 through 2022”.

3 (f) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WHERE RE-  
4 SEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF INTERSTATE  
5 NATURE.—Section 104(g)(1) of the Water Resources Re-  
6 search Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(g)(1)) is amended  
7 in the first sentence by striking “\$6,000,000 for each of  
8 fiscal years 2007 through 2011” and inserting  
9 “\$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2022”.

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