

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3171

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the  
National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 9, 2020

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. CARPER) 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 Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reau-  
thorize the National Estuary Program, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect and Restore  
5 America’s Estuaries Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

7 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control  
8 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “and  
2       Peconic Bay, New York” and inserting “Peconic  
3       Bay, New York; Casco Bay, Maine; Tampa Bay,  
4       Florida; Coastal Bend, Texas; San Juan Bay, Puer-  
5       to Rico; Tillamook Bay, Oregon; Piscataqua Region,  
6       New Hampshire; Barnegat Bay, New Jersey; Mary-  
7       land Coastal Bays, Maryland; Charlotte Harbor,  
8       Florida; Mobile Bay, Alabama; Morro Bay, Cali-  
9       fornia; and Lower Columbia River, Oregon and  
10      Washington”;

11           (2) in subsection (b)(4)—

12                (A) by striking “management plan that  
13       recommends” and inserting “management plan  
14       that—

15                   “(A) recommends”; and

16                   (B) by adding at the end the following:

17                   “(B) addresses the effects of recurring ex-  
18       treme weather events on the estuary, including  
19       the identification and assessment of  
20       vulnerabilities in the estuary and the develop-  
21       ment and implementation of adaptation strate-  
22       gies; and

23                   “(C) increases public education and aware-  
24       ness of the ecological health and water quality  
25       conditions of the estuary;”;

(3) in subsection (c)(5), by inserting “nonprofit organizations,” after “educational institutions,”;

(4) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (i)(2)(B)” and inserting “subsection (i)(3)(B)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), in the first sentence—

(I) by inserting “, emerging,” after “urgent”;

(II) by striking “coastal areas” and inserting “estuaries of national significance”;

(ii) in clause (vi), by inserting “, extreme weather,” after “sea level rise”;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (ix) and (x), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) stormwater runoff;

“(vii) accelerated land loss;

“(viii) problems resulting from urbanization and population growth, including—

1 “(I) increased demand for sewage  
2 treatment;

3 “(II) loss of forests and natural  
4 soil; and

5 “(III) increased amounts of im-  
6 pervious surfaces that affect water  
7 quality;”; and

8 (5) in subsection (i)—

9 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
10 paragraph (3); and

11 (B) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-  
12 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “There is  
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-  
14 trator \$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years  
15 2017 through 2021 for—” and inserting the  
16 following: “There are authorized to be appro-  
17 priated to the Administrator for the purposes  
18 described in paragraph (2)—

19 “(A) \$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years  
20 2017 through 2021; and

21 “(B) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
22 2022 through 2026.

23 “(2) PURPOSES DESCRIBED.—The purposes re-  
24 ferred to in paragraph (1) are—”.

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