

Putting Science in Action: Writing a Bill to Address Plastic Pollution

Background: The representatives that we elect to the state and federal legislature are responsible for turning scientific research into policy that benefits the public. Scientists publish their research on an environmental issue, non-profit organizations and other citizen groups bring the research to the attention of their elected officials, and then those officials and their staff write and promote a bill that addresses the problem.

Bills can set up monitoring and research programs or outline regulations for people and businesses. When our representatives write a bill, they must consider the scientific evidence, how the bill will affect people and businesses, as well as how the government will pay for any requirements in the bill. Let's consider the Clean Air Act. To decide on levels of air pollutants that would not cause significant damage to human or ecosystem health, lawmakers and federal agencies had to turn to the science. On top of the science, they had to consider how certain air pollution regulations would affect peoples' livelihoods, such as the need to burn land and thus add smoke to the air. They also had to ensure that the new regulations from the Clean Air Act would not be so costly or difficult for businesses to achieve that they would greatly affect the economy. Lastly, they had to decide how to pay for all of the extra labor it would take to enforce the Clean Air Act. That's a lot of factors to consider!

In this lesson on plastic pollution, you have learned about the different types of chemicals used in plastics, their effects on living organisms, and how those effects will ripple through the whole ecosystem. With this knowledge in hand, it is now your job to take science and make it policy. Below are instructions for writing your own bill.

Step 1: Check out some real bills from the US congress. Go to the library of congress website-

<http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/111search.html>

You can search for any terms you want to get an idea of how bills are written, but a few good terms to check out are "plastic," "pollution," and "conservation." The bills that show up will have two formats:

H.R.# - For amendments to previous bills or new actions.

H.RES.# - For "resolutions," in which congress expresses recognition of a problem or intent to solve a problem in a particular way.

Focus on the H.R.# bills. Click on the "H.R.#," and on the next screen select "Text of Legislation" to read the bill. You can also select "All Information," for a summary of the bill and its current status.

Step 2: Now its time to write your own bill. Try to focus on one narrow issue and create a focused plan to address that issue. Your bill should include the following sections-

1. Title- A title that describes the goal of your bill.
2. Sponsors- The names of all of the legislators (your group members) writing and supporting the bill.
3. Background Information (1-2 paragraphs)- A brief introduction to the issue that describes the problem and why it merits the time and money of our government. Imagine that the rest of the people in congress do not know anything about plastic pollution and you have to give them enough information to vote wisely.
4. Proposal (1 paragraph)- Describe the new law you are proposing and any necessary details. Don't get too bogged down in the nitty gritty: if the legislature and the president pass the bill into law, they will turn it over to a federal agency that will administer it and worry about the fine details.
5. Funding (1 paragraph)- Explain how the government will finance your bill, whether it be through current taxpayer dollars, a new tax you are going to levy, fines, or some other mechanism.

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

Bill Text
111th Congress (2009-2010)
H.R.54.IH

THIS SEARCH

Next Hit
Prev Hit
Hit List

THIS DOCUMENT

Forward
Back
Best Sections
Contents Display

GO TO

[New Bills Search](#)
[HomePage](#)
[Help](#)

Print Subscribe Share/Save

Bill PDF	Printer Friendly [Help]	Congressional Record References	Bill Summary & Status
--------------------------	---	---	---

H.R.54 -- Great Lakes Water Protection Act (Introduced in House - IH)

HR 54 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 54

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 6, 2009**

Mr. KIRK (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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Great Lakes Water Protection Act'.

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

Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (22 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

`(s) Prohibition on Sewage Dumping Into the Great Lakes-

`(1) IN GENERAL- A publicly owned treatment works is prohibited from intentionally diverting waste streams to bypass any portion of a treatment facility at the treatment works if the diversion results in a discharge into the Great Lakes unless--

 `(A)(i) the bypass is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

 `(ii) there is not a feasible alternative to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime; and

 `(iii) the treatment works provides notice of the bypass in accordance with the requirements of this subsection; or

 `(B) the bypass does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, and the bypass is for essential maintenance to ensure efficient operation of the treatment facility.

`(2) LIMITATION- The requirement of paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not satisfied if adequate

back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent the bypass and the bypass occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance.

`(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS- A publicly owned treatment works shall provide to the Administrator (or to the State in the case of a State that has a permit program approved under this section)--

`(A) prior notice of an anticipated bypass; and

`(B) notice of an unanticipated bypass within 24 hours following the time the treatment works first becomes aware of the bypass.

`(4) FOLLOW-UP NOTICE REQUIREMENTS- In the case of an unanticipated bypass for which a publicly owned treatment works provides notice under paragraph (3)(B), the treatment works shall provide to the Administrator (or to the State in the case of a State that has a permit program approved under this section), not later than 5 days following the date on which the treatment works first becomes aware of the bypass, a follow-up notice containing a description of--

`(A) the cause of the bypass;

`(B) the reason for the bypass;

`(C) the period of bypass, including the exact dates and times;

`(D) if the bypass has not been corrected, the anticipated time the bypass is expected to continue;

`(E) the volume of the discharge resulting from the bypass;

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

`(G) steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the bypass.

`(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF NOTICES- A publicly owned treatment works providing a notice under this subsection, and the Administrator (or the State in the case of a State that has a permit program approved under this section) receiving such a notice, shall each post the notice, within 48 hours of providing or receiving the notice (as the case may be), in a searchable database accessible on the Internet.

`(6) SEWAGE BLENDING- Bypasses prohibited by this section include bypasses resulting in discharges from a publicly owned treatment works that consist of effluent routed around treatment units and thereafter blended together with effluent from treatment units prior to discharge.

`(7) DEFINITIONS- In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

`(A) BYPASS- The term 'bypass' means an intentional diversion of waste streams to bypass any portion of a treatment facility which results in a discharge into the Great Lakes.

`(B) GREAT LAKES- The term 'Great Lakes' has the meaning given such term by section 118(a)(3).

`(C) TREATMENT FACILITY- The term 'treatment facility' includes all wastewater treatment units used by a publicly owned treatment works to meet secondary treatment standards or higher, as required to attain water quality standards, under any operating conditions.

`(D) TREATMENT WORKS- The term 'treatment works' has the meaning given that term in section 212.

`(8) IMPLEMENTATION- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall establish procedures to ensure that permits issued under this section (or under a State permit program approved under this section) to a publicly owned treatment works include requirements to implement this subsection.

`(9) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OCCURRING AFTER JANUARY 1, 2029- Notwithstanding any provision of section 309, in the case of a violation of this subsection occurring on or after January 1, 2029, or any violation of a permit limitation or condition implementing this subsection occurring after such date, the maximum civil penalty which shall be assessed for the violation shall be \$100,000 per day for each day the violation occurs.

`(10) APPLICABILITY- This subsection shall apply to a bypass occurring after the last day of the one-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection.'

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREAT LAKES CLEANUP FUND.

(a) In General- Title V of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 519 as section 520 and inserting after section 518 the following:

SEC. 519. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREAT LAKES CLEANUP FUND.

(a) Creation of Fund- There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the 'Great Lakes Cleanup Fund' (in this section referred to as the 'Fund').

(b) Transfers to Fund- Effective January 1, 2029, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund amounts equivalent to the penalties collected for violations of section 402(s).

(c) Administration of Fund- The Administrator shall administer the Fund.

(d) Use of Funds- The Administrator shall make the amounts in the Fund available to the Great Lakes States for programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes, including habitat protection and wetland restoration. The Administrator shall allocate such amounts among the Great Lakes States based on the proportional amount attributable to each Great Lakes State for penalties collected for violations of section 402(s).

(e) Priority- In selecting programs and activities to be funded using amounts made available under this section, a Great Lakes State shall give priority consideration to programs and activities that address violations of section 402(s) resulting in the collection of penalties.

(f) Definitions- In this section, the terms 'Great Lakes' and 'Great Lakes States' have the meanings given such terms in section 118(a)(3).'

(b) Conforming Amendment to State Revolving Fund Program- Section 607 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1387) is amended--

(1) by inserting '(a) In General- ' before 'There is'; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

(b) Treatment of Great Lakes Cleanup Fund- For purposes of this title, amounts made available from the Great Lakes Cleanup Fund under section 519 shall be treated as funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title and as funds made available under this title, except that such funds shall be made available to the Great Lakes States as provided in section 519.'

THIS SEARCH	THIS DOCUMENT	GO TO
Next Hit	Forward	New Bills Search
Prev Hit	Back	HomePage
Hit List	Best Sections	Help
	Contents Display	

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect](#) »

Find us on	Subscribe & Comment	Download & Play
   	RSS & E-Mail Blogs	Podcasts Webcasts iTunes U

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#) [Speech Enabled](#) 

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

Bill Text
111th Congress (2009-2010)
H.R.276.IH

THIS SEARCH

Next Hit
 Prev Hit
 Hit List

THIS DOCUMENT

Forward
 Back
 Best Sections
 Contents Display

GO TO

[New Bills Search](#)
[HomePage](#)
[Help](#)

Print Subscribe Share/Save

Bill PDF	XML [Help]	Printer Friendly [Help]	Congressional Record References	Bill Summary & Status
--------------------------	----------------------------	---	---	---

H.R.276 -- Drug Free Water Act of 2009 (Introduced in House - IH)

HR 276 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 276

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to convene a task force to develop recommendations on the proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to convene a task force to develop recommendations on the proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Drug Free Water Act of 2009'.

SEC. 2. TASK FORCE ON PROPER DISPOSAL OF UNUSED PHARMACEUTICALS.

(a) In General- In furtherance of the national goals and policies set forth in section 101 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this Act referred to as the `Administrator') shall convene a task force (in this Act referred to as the `task force') to develop--

(1) recommendations on the proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals by consumers, health care providers, and others, which recommendations shall--

(A) be calculated to prevent or reduce the detrimental effects on the environment and human health caused by introducing unused pharmaceuticals, directly or indirectly, into water systems; and

(B) provide for limiting the disposal of unused pharmaceuticals through treatment works in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(2) a strategy for the Federal Government to educate the public on such recommendations.

(b) Membership- The task force shall be composed of--

(1) the Administrator (or the Administrator's designee), who shall serve as the Chair of the task force;

(2) the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (or the Commissioner's designee); and

(3) such other members as the Administrator may appoint.

(c) Report- Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the task force shall submit a report to the Congress containing the recommendations and strategy required by subsection (a).

(d) Staff of Federal Agencies- Upon request of the task force, the head of any department or agency of the United States may detail any of the personnel of that department or agency to the task force to assist in carrying out its duties under this section.

(e) Termination- The task force shall terminate 180 days after submitting the report required by subsection (c).

THIS SEARCH	THIS DOCUMENT	GO TO
Next Hit	Forward	New Bills Search
Prev Hit	Back	HomePage
Hit List	Best Sections	Help
	Contents Display	

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect](#) >

Find us on



Subscribe & Comment

[RSS & E-Mail](#) [Blogs](#)

Download & Play

[Podcasts](#) [Webcasts](#) [iTunes U](#)

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#)

[Speech](#)

Enabled

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

Bill Summary & Status
111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
H.R.860
All Information

Item 38 of 353

[PREVIOUS](#) | [NEXT](#)
[PREVIOUS:ALL](#) | [NEXT:ALL](#)
[NEW SEARCH](#) | [HOME](#) | [HELP](#)

[Back to Bill Summary and Status](#)

Print Subscribe Share/Save

H.R.860

Title: Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009

Sponsor: [Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z.](#) [GU] (introduced 2/4/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (19)

Latest Major Action: 9/23/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

House Reports: [111-196](#)

Jump to: [Summary](#), [Major Actions](#), [All Actions](#), [Titles](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#)

SUMMARY AS OF:

9/22/2009--Passed House amended. (There are 2 [other summaries](#))

Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009 - **Title I: Amendments to the Coral Reef Conservation Act** - (Sec. 101) Amends the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 to extend the award of remaining coral reef conservation program grant funds to appropriate projects, including monitoring and assessment, research, **pollution** reduction, education, and technical support.

(Sec. 102) Authorizes actions to: (1) minimize injury to a coral reef or loss of an ecosystem function from vessel impacts, derelict fishing gear, vessel anchors and anchor chains, and from unforeseen or disaster-related circumstances as a result of human activities; and (2) stabilize, repair, or restore the reef, including vessel removal and emergency stabilization of the vessel or reef.

Deems specified terms (such as "sanctuary resources" and "national marine sanctuary") to include any coral reef that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or (subject to state consent) any state, regardless of whether the reef is in a national marine sanctuary.

Makes the destruction, loss, or injury of a coral reef not unlawful in certain circumstances, including if it was: (1) caused by fishing gear used in a way that is not prohibited by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; (2) caused by activity authorized by federal or state law; (3) subject to exception, the necessary result of marine scientific research (including such research approved by federal, state, or local permits); (4) caused by a federal agency in certain circumstances; or (5) unavoidable.

(Sec. 103) Modifies the Act's purposes, the goals and objectives of the national coral reef action strategy, and the Act's authorized activities. Directs the Secretary of Commerce to provide for the long-term stewardship of environmental data.

(Sec. 104) Requires a report every five years to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives regarding all strategy implementation activities.

(Sec. 105) Allows the Coral Reef Conservation Fund to be used to address emergency response actions.

Authorizes the Administrator to: (1) make community-based planning grants for increased protection of high priority coral reefs; (2) maintain an inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving coral reefs; (3) identify all coral reefs with a high incidence of vessel impacts; and (4) identify measures to reduce such impacts.

Directs the Secretary to submit an international coral reef ecosystem strategy to specified congressional committees.

Authorizes the Secretary to establish an international coral reef ecosystem partnership program to provide support, including funding and technical assistance, for activities that implement the strategy. Requires that priority be given to regional initiatives and projects that states are participating in with other nations.

Authorizes issuance of research permits and the assessment of related fees.

Requires coral reef conservation programs and projects to be applied in accordance with international law.

(Sec. 107) Authorizes appropriations for FY2010-FY2014 to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to carry out the Act.

Title II: United States Coral Reef Task Force - (Sec. 201) Establishes the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to coordinate federal actions regarding such ecosystems.

Title III: Department of the Interior Coral Reef Authorities - (Sec. 301) Amends the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to include in the definition of "wildlife" and "wildlife resources" coral reef ecosystems located in the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, or any Marine National Monument designated under the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act. Requires, regarding authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978, that references to "wildlife" and "fish and wildlife" be construed to include such ecosystems located in those systems or any such monument.

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, subject to appropriations, to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation.

MAJOR ACTIONS:

2/4/2009 Introduced in House
 7/10/2009 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. [111-196](#).
 9/22/2009 Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
 9/23/2009 Referred to Senate committee: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ALL ACTIONS:

2/4/2009:
 Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR [E212](#))
2/4/2009:
 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
2/6/2009:
 Referred to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife.
2/25/2009:
 Subcommittee Hearings Held.
4/22/2009:
 Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Discharged.
4/22/2009:
 Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
4/22/2009:
 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
7/10/2009 1:06pm:
 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. [111-196](#).
7/10/2009 1:07pm:
 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 103.
9/22/2009 2:17pm:
 Ms. Bordallo moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
9/22/2009 2:17pm:
 Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR [H9744-9750](#))
9/22/2009 2:17pm:
 DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on [H.R. 860](#).
9/22/2009 2:25pm:
 On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR [H9744-9748](#))
9/22/2009 2:25pm:
 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
9/23/2009:
 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

TITLE(S): (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

- SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:
 Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009
- SHORT TITLE(S) AS REPORTED TO HOUSE:
 Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009
Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2009
- SHORT TITLE(S) AS PASSED HOUSE:
 Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009

- OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

COSPONSORS(19), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: [by date](#))

[Rep Abercrombie, Neil](#) [HI-1] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Baca, Joe](#) [CA-43] - 4/21/2009
[Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-23] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Castor, Kathy](#) [FL-11] - 2/9/2009
[Rep Christensen, Donna M.](#) [VI] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Faleomavaega, Eni F.H.](#) [AS] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Farr, Sam](#) [CA-17] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Grijalva, Raul M.](#) [AZ-7] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Hastings, Alcee L.](#) [FL-23] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Hinchey, Maurice D.](#) [NY-22] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Hirono, Mazie K.](#) [HI-2] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Honda, Michael M.](#) [CA-15] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Kirk, Mark Steven](#) [IL-10] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Klein, Ron](#) [FL-22] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [CA-9] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Pierluisi, Pedro R.](#) [PR] - 2/9/2009
[Rep Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana](#) [FL-18] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Sablan, Gregorio](#) [MP] - 2/4/2009
[Rep Wasserman Schultz, Debbie](#) [FL-20] - 2/4/2009

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee:	Activity:
House Natural Resources	Referral, Markup, Reporting
Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife	Referral, Hearings, Discharged
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Referral, In Committee

RELATED BILL DETAILS:

NONE

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect »](#)

Find us on

Subscribe & Comment

[RSS & E-Mail](#) [Blogs](#)

Download & Play

[Podcasts](#) [Webcasts](#) [iTunes U](#)

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#)
 Enabled

[Speech](#)

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

Bill Summary & Status
111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
H.R.2093
All Information

Item 62 of 353

[PREVIOUS](#) | [NEXT](#)
[PREVIOUS:ALL](#) | [NEXT:ALL](#)
[NEW SEARCH](#) | [HOME](#) | [HELP](#)

[Back to Bill Summary and Status](#)

[Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#)

H.R.2093

Title: Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009

Sponsor: [Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr.](#) [NJ-6] (introduced 4/23/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (27)

Related Bills: [S.878](#)

Latest Major Action: 8/7/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

House Reports: [111-214](#)

Jump to: [Summary](#), [Major Actions](#), [All Actions](#), [Titles](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#)

SUMMARY AS OF:

7/29/2009--Passed House amended. (There is 1 [other summary](#))

Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009 - (Sec. 2) Amends the Federal Water **Pollution** Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to specify, in performance criteria for monitoring and assessing coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of interest (waters), available protocols for monitoring that are most likely to detect pathogenic contamination.

Authorizes states or local governments, in carrying out coastal recreation water quality monitoring and notification programs, to develop and implement a coastal recreation waters **pollution** source identification and tracking program for such waters that are used by the public and that are not meeting applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

Authorizes appropriations for grants to states and local governments for developing and implementing monitoring and notification programs for FY2010-FY2014.

(Sec. 3) Authorizes appropriations to carry out the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 through FY2014.

(Sec. 4) Requires a state recipient of a monitoring and notification program grant to report to the EPA Administrator on actions taken to notify state environmental agencies with authority to prevent or treat sources of pathogenic contamination in coastal recreation waters when water quality standards are exceeded.

(Sec. 5) Requires state or local government grant recipients to identify: (1) the use of a rapid testing method to detect levels of pathogens or pathogen indicators that are harmful to human health; (2) measures for communicating the results of a water sample concerning pollutants within 24 hours of receipt to specified officials and all state agencies with authority to require the prevention or treatment of the sources of **pollution** in coastal recreation waters; (3) measures for an annual report to the Administrator on the occurrence, nature, location, pollutants involved, and extent of any exceeding of applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators; (4) the availability of a geographic information system database that a state or local government program shall use to inform the public about coastal recreation waters, that is publicly accessible and searchable, that is updated within 24 hours of the availability of revised information, that is organized by beach, and that identifies applicable water quality standards, monitoring protocols, sampling plans and results, and the number and causes of beach closures and advisory days; and (5) measures to ensure that closures or advisories are made within two hours after the receipt of the results of a water quality sample that exceeds applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

Defines "rapid testing method" as a method of testing the water quality of coastal recreation waters for which results are available as soon as practicable and not more than six hours after its commencement in the laboratory. Requires the Administrator to: (1) include a revised list of rapid testing methods in the publication of new or revised water quality criteria; (2) publish with such criteria a list of pathogens and pathogen indicators studied; (3) complete an evaluation and validation of a rapid testing method for the water quality criteria and standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators by October 15, 2012; (4) publish guidance for the use, at coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches that are used by the public, of the rapid testing methods

that will enhance the protection of public health and safety through rapid public notification of any exceeding of applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators; (5) identify and review every five years potential rapid testing methods for existing water quality criteria for pathogens and pathogen indicators for coastal recreation waters and complete, as expeditiously as practicable, an evaluation and validation of any such method that will make results available in less time and improve the accuracy and reproducibility of results; and (6) publish the results of such review. Declares a national goal of developing a rapid testing method that can produce accurate and reproducible results in not more than two hours by 2017.

(Sec. 8) Requires: (1) a written assessment by the Administrator of state and local compliance with coastal recreation water quality monitoring and notification statutory and regulatory requirements and grant conditions; (2) corrective actions by governments not in compliance; and (3) a review by the Comptroller General of such compliance review and corrective actions.

(Sec. 11) Requires the Administrator to: (1) update the national list of beaches within 12 months after this Act's enactment and biennially thereafter (currently, periodically); (2) study and report to Congress on the long-term impact of climate change on pathogenic contamination of coastal recreation waters; and (3) conduct and report on a study to review the available scientific information pertaining to the impacts of excess nutrients on coastal recreation waters.

MAJOR ACTIONS:

4/23/2009 Introduced in House
 7/20/2009 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation. H. Rept. [111-214](#).
 7/29/2009 Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
 8/7/2009 Referred to Senate committee: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ALL ACTIONS:

4/23/2009:
 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4/24/2009:
 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

6/4/2009:
 Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Discharged.

6/4/2009:
 Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

6/4/2009:
 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

7/20/2009 8:35pm:
 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation. H. Rept. [111-214](#).

7/20/2009 8:35pm:
 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 116.

7/28/2009 5:16pm:
 Ms. Johnson, E. B. moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

7/28/2009 5:16pm:
 Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR [H8928-8932](#))

7/28/2009 5:16pm:
 DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on [H.R. 2093](#).

7/28/2009 5:27pm:
 At the conclusion of debate, the chair put the question on the motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Boozman objected to the vote on the grounds that a quorum was not present. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed. The point of no quorum was withdrawn.

7/29/2009 5:48pm:
 Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR [H9038](#))

7/29/2009 5:48pm:
 On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR 7/28/2009 [H8928-8929](#))

7/29/2009 5:48pm:
 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

7/30/2009:
 Received in the Senate.

8/7/2009:
 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

TITLE(S): *(italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill)*

- SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:
 Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009
- SHORT TITLE(S) AS PASSED HOUSE:
 Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009
- OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
 To amend the Federal Water **Pollution** Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes.

COSPONSORS(27), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: [by date](#))

- [Rep Ackerman, Gary L.](#) [NY-5] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Adler, John H.](#) [NJ-3] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Berman, Howard L.](#) [CA-28] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Bilbray, Brian P.](#) [CA-50] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Bishop, Timothy H.](#) [NY-1] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z.](#) [GU] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-23] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Christensen, Donna M.](#) [VI] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Dahlkemper, Kathleen A.](#) [PA-3] - 6/2/2009
- [Rep Farr, Sam](#) [CA-17] - 6/23/2009
- [Rep Grijalva, Raul M.](#) [AZ-7] - 5/4/2009
- [Rep Hall, John J.](#) [NY-19] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Harman, Jane](#) [CA-36] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Israel, Steve](#) [NY-2] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep King, Peter T.](#) [NY-3] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Kirk, Mark Steven](#) [IL-10] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Klein, Ron](#) [FL-22] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Lowey, Nita M.](#) [NY-18] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Maloney, Carolyn B.](#) [NY-14] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep McIntyre, Mike](#) [NC-7] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Miller, Brad](#) [NC-13] - 5/4/2009
- [Rep Miller, George](#) [CA-7] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Rothman, Steven R.](#) [NJ-9] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Serrano, Jose E.](#) [NY-16] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Sestak, Joe](#) [PA-7] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Waxman, Henry A.](#) [CA-30] - 4/23/2009
- [Rep Weiner, Anthony D.](#) [NY-9] - 4/23/2009

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee:	Activity:
House Transportation and Infrastructure	Referral, Markup, Reporting
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	Referral, Discharged
Senate Environment and Public Works	Referral, In Committee

RELATED BILL DETAILS: (additional related bills may be identified in Status)

Bill:	Relationship:
S.878	Related bill identified by CRS
S.878	Related bill as identified by the House Clerk's office
S.878	Related bill as identified by House committee

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect](#) »

Find us on



Subscribe & Comment

[RSS & E-Mail](#) [Blogs](#)

Download & Play

[Podcasts](#) [Webcasts](#) [iTunes U](#)

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#)
 Enabled

[Speech](#)

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

Bill Summary & Status
108th Congress (2003 - 2004)
S.2488
All Information

[NEW SEARCH](#) | [HOME](#) | [HELP](#)

[Back to Bill Summary and Status](#)

[Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#)

S.2488

Title: Marine Debris Research Prevention and Reduction Act

Sponsor: [Sen Inouye, Daniel K.](#) [HI] (introduced 6/2/2004) [Cosponsors](#) (5)

Latest Major Action: 11/24/2004 Held at the desk.

Senate Reports: [108-401](#)

Jump to: [Summary](#), [Major Actions](#), [All Actions](#), [Titles](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#)

SUMMARY AS OF:

11/21/2004--Passed Senate amended. (There are 2 [other summaries](#))

Marine Debris Research Prevention and Reduction Act - (Sec. 3) Establishes within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program to reduce and prevent the occurrence and adverse impacts of marine debris on the marine environment and navigation safety.

Requires the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere of the Department of Commerce (Under Secretary) to: (1) undertake marine debris mapping, impact assessment, prevention, and removal efforts, with a focus on marine debris posing a threat to living marine resources (particularly endangered or protected species) and navigation safety; (2) improve efforts and actively seek to prevent and reduce commercial fishing gear losses, as well as to reduce adverse impacts of such gear on living marine resources and navigation safety; and (3) undertake outreach and education of stakeholders in the fishing, gear manufacturers, and other marine-dependent industries on threats associated with marine debris and approaches to identify, prevent, and remove such debris.

Prescribes guidelines for the Under Secretary to provide financial assistance to related projects, in the form of grants, through the Program for the projects.

(Sec. 4) Directs the Commandant of the Coast Guard to undertake specified measures to reduce violations of MARPOL Annex V (Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973) and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships with respect to the discard of plastics and other garbage from vessels.

(Sec. 5) Establishes an Interagency Committee on Marine Debris (Committee) to: (1) coordinate a comprehensive program of marine debris research and activities among Federal agencies, in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, industry, universities, State governments, Indian tribes, and other nations; and (2) foster cost-effective mechanisms to identify, reduce, and prevent marine debris.

Includes within such Committee membership the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of State.

Directs the Committee to report to Congress on the ecological and economic impact of marine debris, alternatives for reducing, mitigating, preventing, and controlling the harmful affects of marine debris, and the social and economic costs and benefits of such alternatives. Requires a biennial status update to Congress.

Directs the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of NOAA and in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to utilize the marine debris data to assist: (1) the Committee in ensuring coordination of research, monitoring, education, and regulatory actions; and (2) the Coast Guard in assessing the effectiveness of this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in ensuring compliance, under the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987, with MARPOL Annex V.

Amends the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 to conform with this Act by repealing the mandate for the existing Department of Commerce Marine Debris Coordinating Committee.

(Sec. 6) Directs the Committee to develop a strategy and pursue, in the International Maritime Organization and other appropriate international and regional forums, international action to reduce the incidence of marine debris.

(Sec. 7) Instructs the Under-Secretary, in coordination with the Committee, to maintain a

Federal information clearinghouse on marine debris that will be available to researchers and other interested parties to improve source identification, data sharing, and monitoring efforts through collaborative research and open sharing of data.

(Sec. 9) Authorizes appropriations for FY 2005 through 2009.

MAJOR ACTIONS:

6/2/2004 Introduced in Senate
 10/11/2004 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator McCain without amendment. With written report No. [108-401](#).
 11/21/2004 Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.
 11/24/2004 Held at the desk.

ALL ACTIONS:

6/2/2004:
 Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR [S6349-6350](#))
6/2/2004:
 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR [S6350-6352](#))
7/22/2004:
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
10/11/2004:
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator McCain without amendment. With written report No. [108-401](#).
10/11/2004:
 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 792.
11/21/2004:
 Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR 11/20/2004 [S11840](#))
11/21/2004:
[S.AMDT.4078](#) Amendment SA 4078 proposed by Senator Frist for Senator Inouye. (consideration: CR 11/20/2004 [S11840](#))
 To make minor and technical changes to the bill as introduced.
11/21/2004:
[S.AMDT.4078](#) Amendment SA 4078 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent.
11/21/2004:
 Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.
11/24/2004 2:02pm:
 Received in the House.
11/24/2004 3:40pm:
 Held at the desk.
11/24/2004:
 Message on Senate action sent to the House.

TITLE(S): (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

- SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:
 Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act
- SHORT TITLE(S) AS REPORTED TO SENATE:
 Marine Debris Research Prevention and Reduction Act
- SHORT TITLE(S) AS PASSED SENATE:
 Marine Debris Research Prevention and Reduction Act
- OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
 A bill to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, and for other purposes.
- OFFICIAL TITLE AS AMENDED BY SENATE:
 A bill to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, and for other purposes.

COSPONSORS(5), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: [by date](#))

[Sen Akaka, Daniel K.](#) [HI] - 9/15/2004
[Sen Breaux, John B.](#) [LA] - 7/16/2004
[Sen Cantwell, Maria](#) [WA] - 6/2/2004
[Sen Hollings, Ernest F.](#) [SC] - 6/2/2004

[Sen Stevens, Ted](#) [AK] - 6/2/2004

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee: Activity:

[Senate Commerce, Science,
and Transportation](#) Referral, Markup, Reporting

RELATED BILL DETAILS:

NONE

AMENDMENT(S):

1. [S.AMDT.4078](#) to [S.2488](#) To make minor and technical changes to the bill as introduced.

Sponsor: [Sen Inouye, Daniel K.](#) [HI] (introduced 11/20/2004) **Cosponsors** (None)

Latest Major Action: 11/21/2004 Senate amendment agreed to. Status: Amendment SA 4078 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent.

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect](#) »

Find us on



Subscribe & Comment

[RSS & E-Mail](#) [Blogs](#)

Download & Play

[Podcasts](#) [Webcasts](#) [iTunes U](#)

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#)
Enabled

[Speech](#)