

S 937

Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Apr 30, 2009

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 355.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 355. (Apr 20, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/937>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 30, 2009
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 30, 2009
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2009
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 17, 2009
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 20, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Reported By	Apr 20, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 753	Related bill	Jan 29, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act - Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to require owners or operators of publicly owned treatment works to: (1) institute monitoring systems to provide timely alerts of sewer overflows; (2) notify the public within 24 hours after receiving knowledge of such an overflow in an area where human health is potentially affected; (3) notify public health authorities and other affected entities immediately after receiving knowledge of an overflow that may imminently and substantially endanger human health; (4) report each overflow on discharge monitoring reports to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the state; and (5) annually report to the Administrator or the state on the total number of overflows in a calendar year.

Makes specified exceptions to notification and reporting requirements, respectively, for backups into single-family residences and overflows that occur in the course of treatment works maintenance.

Requires annual summary reports by states to the Administrator.

Defines "sanitary sewer overflow" to mean an overflow, spill, release, or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system: (1) including wastewater backups into buildings that are caused by blockages or flow conditions in a sanitary sewer other than a building lateral; and (2) excluding municipal combined sewer overflows or other discharges from the combined portion of a municipal combined storm and sanitary sewer system and wastewater backups into buildings caused by a blockage or other malfunction of a building lateral that is privately owned.

Defines "sewer overflow" to mean a sanitary sewer overflow or a municipal combined sewer overflow.

Requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations, including to establish overflow assessment guidance and develop communications measures to provide notification under this Act. Provides procedures for review and approval of state notification programs after issuance of such regulations.

Makes the monitoring systems eligible for state water pollution control revolving fund assistance.

Provides that this Act does not limit a state's ability to implement or enforce a more stringent monitoring or notification standard than the applicable standard under the Clean Water Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 20, 2010:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported by Senator Boxer without amendment. With written report No. 111-172. Minority views filed.
- **Apr 20, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 355.
- **Jun 18, 2009:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Apr 30, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 30, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.