

S 1523

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

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jun 8, 2015

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-162.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-162. (May 20, 2016)

Law: 114-162 (Enacted May 20, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1523>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** RI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Jun 8, 2015
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Aug 5, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Aug 5, 2015
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Bills of Interest - Exchange of Letters	Jun 24, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 944	Related bill	Jun 2, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
114 HR 573	Related bill	Jan 28, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the House on April 26, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

(Sec. 1) This bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to revise the National Estuary Program by requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to make competitive awards to address urgent and challenging issues that threaten the economic and ecological well-being of coastal areas, including:

- extensive seagrass habitat losses,
- recurring harmful algae blooms,
- unusual marine mammal mortalities,
- invasive exotic species,
- jellyfish proliferation limiting community access to water during peak tourism seasons,
- flooding that may be related to sea level rise or wetland degradation or loss, and
- low dissolved oxygen conditions in estuarine waters and related nutrient management.

(Sec. 2) The bill authorizes appropriations for FY2017-FY2021 for: (1) EPA administrative expenses relating to a grant or award, and (2) making grants and awards. The bill allocates funding for conservation and management plans for estuaries and for competitive awards.

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **May 20, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-162.
- **May 18, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **May 13, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **May 12, 2016:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate bill by Unanimous Consent.(text as Senate agreed to House amendment: CR S2794)
- **May 12, 2016:** Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate bill by Unanimous Consent. (text as Senate agreed to House amendment: CR S2794)
- **Apr 27, 2016:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Mr. Gibbs moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1957-1959)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 1523.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H1958)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H1958)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Oct 29, 2015:** By Senator Inhofe from Committee on Environment and Public Works filed written report. Report No. 114-161.
- **Sep 8, 2015:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 8, 2015:** Held at the desk.
- **Aug 6, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S6349-6350)
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S6349-6350)
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S6349-6350)
- **Jun 8, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 8, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.