

S 1586

Great Lakes Water Protection Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jun 16, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Jun 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1586>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]

Party: Republican • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2132	Related bill	Oct 6, 2015: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 251.
114 S 1645	Related bill	Jun 23, 2015: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 126.
114 HR 2809	Identical bill	Jun 18, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Great Lakes Water Protection Act

This bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to prohibit a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) from discharging untreated or partially treated sewage into the Great Lakes or a tributary of the Great Lakes when the discharge is the result of the POTW intentionally diverting waste streams to bypass any portion of a treatment facility. A bypass is allowed if: (1) it is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage, there is no feasible alternative, and the treatment works provides notice; or (2) it does not cause effluent (waste) limitations to be exceeded and is for essential maintenance to ensure efficient operation of the treatment facility.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must work with relevant states to create requirements for providing immediate notice to the public about discharges.

The EPA must establish procedures to ensure that permits issued to POTWs under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System include requirements to comply with this bill.

This bill establishes a maximum civil penalty of \$100,000 per day for violations of the bill occurring on or after January 1, 2035. The penalties must be deposited into the Great Lakes Cleanup Fund, which is established by this bill. The Fund must be used for improving wastewater discharges.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 16, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 16, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.