

HR 1971

Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Apr 6, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. (Apr 7, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1971>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-16]

Party: Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Apr 26, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 7, 2017
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 7, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 7279	Related bill	Jan 14, 2019: Became Public Law No: 115-436.
115 S 2800	Related bill	Jul 10, 2018: By Senator Barrasso from Committee on Environment and Public Works filed written report. Report No. 115-294.
115 S 692	Identical bill	Oct 13, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.
115 HR 2355	Related bill	May 5, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.

Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act

This bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to allow municipalities to develop a plan that integrates wastewater and stormwater management.

A permit for a municipal discharge under the national pollutant discharge elimination system that incorporates an integrated plan may integrate all requirements under the Act addressed in the plan. Those permits may include a schedule of compliance that allows actions for meeting water quality-based effluent limitations to be implemented over more than one permit term if the compliance schedules are authorized by state water quality standards. Those actions may include implementing green infrastructure as part of a water quality-based effluent limitation. (Green infrastructure includes measures that mimic natural processes to store, reuse, or reduce stormwater.)

The bill establishes an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide: (1) technical assistance to municipalities seeking to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, and (2) information to the EPA to ensure that agency policies are implemented by all EPA offices.

The EPA must ensure that specified EPA offices promote the integration of green infrastructure into permitting programs, planning efforts, research, technical assistance, and funding guidance.

The bill establishes requirements for revising the EPA's 1997 guidance about combined sewer overflows, including by setting forth criteria for determining the ability of households to pay utility bills. (Combined sewer systems collect rainwater, sewage, and industrial wastewater into one pipe. During storms, the combined wastewater sometimes exceeds the capacity of the treatment plant. When this occurs, combined sewer overflows discharge directly into water bodies.)

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 7, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.
- **Apr 7, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Apr 6, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 6, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.