

HR 7279

Water Infrastructure Improvement Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Dec 12, 2018

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 115-436.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 115-436. (Jan 14, 2019)

Law: 115-436 (Enacted Jan 14, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/7279>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]

Party: Republican • State: OH • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Dec 12, 2018
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Dec 12, 2018
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Dec 12, 2018
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Dec 12, 2018
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Dec 12, 2018
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Dec 19, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 13, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 692	Related bill	Oct 13, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.
115 HR 2355	Related bill	May 5, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.
115 HR 1971	Related bill	Apr 7, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Water Infrastructure Improvement Act

(Sec. 3) 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, such as requirements relating to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer collection systems, and total maximum daily loads. A plan that is incorporated into a permit may include the implementation of green infrastructure and projects to reclaim, recycle, or reuse water. Green infrastructure includes measures that mimic natural processes to store, reuse, or reduce stormwater.

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.

A municipality under an administrative order or settlement agreement may request a modification of the order or settlement based on the municipality's integrated plan.

The EPA must report on each integrated plan developed and implemented through a permit, order, or judicial consent decree since June 5, 2012, including a description of the control measures, levels of control, estimated costs, and compliance schedules for the requirements implemented through such a plan.

(Sec. 4) 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 (2) information to the EPA to ensure that agency policies are implemented by all EPA offices.

(Sec. 5) The EPA must promote the use of green infrastructure.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 14, 2019:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 14, 2019:** Became Public Law No: 115-436.
- **Jan 2, 2019:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 22, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.(consideration: CR S8036)
- **Dec 22, 2018:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S8036)
- **Dec 22, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Mr. Gibbs moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10288-10291)
- **Dec 19, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 7279.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** At the conclusion of debate, the chair put the question on the motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Massie objected to the Yea - Nay vote on the grounds that a quorum was not present. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed. The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H10317)
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by recorded vote (2/3 required): 351 - 10 (Roll no. 441).(text: CR H10288-10289)
- **Dec 19, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by recorded vote (2/3 required): 351 - 10 (Roll no. 441). (text: CR H10288-10289)
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 13, 2018:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Dec 12, 2018:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 12, 2018:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.