

TITLE LXXXV OF DIVISION H OF THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7776, THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022
SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Sec. 8501. Regional water programs. This section establishes two new regional water programs and reauthorizes an existing regional water program within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, it establishes new regional water programs to support restoration efforts at San Francisco Bay, California and Puget Sound, Washington. This section reauthorizes the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program within EPA.

San Francisco Bay, California – This new authority builds off existing efforts to restore the Bay through EPA’s National Estuary Program by establishing a new program office at EPA’s Region 9 headquarters with dedicated staffing. This section outlines a priority project list specific to improving the health of the Bay. The program includes a 75 percent cap for federal funding for eligible projects.

Puget Sound, Washington – This authority creates a “Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force” (Task Force) to coordinate the wide-ranging objectives and priorities for the region and state, as well as establishes a program office in Washington state with a director and dedicated staffing. The director is responsible for forming the Task Force. The new Task Force would be responsible for coordinating and recovery activities in the Puget Sound, resolving interagency conflicts and feedback on the plans for recovery, and ensuring that the necessary science is available to, and implemented by, all protection involved parties. The Task Force would be co-chaired by representatives from EPA’s Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program – This section reauthorizes the Lake Pontchartrain Basin program in Louisiana and Mississippi. This provision ensures that the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Basin is routinely reviewed and revised every 5 years.

Sec. 8502. Nonpoint source management programs. This section reauthorizes nonpoint source management activities under section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This section authorizes \$200 million annually for the section 319 program through 2027.

The section 319 program is a non-regulatory program through which EPA administers annual grants to help states develop and implement their own programs for managing nonpoint sources of water pollution. The section 319 program was initially authorized at \$70 million annually in fiscal year 1988, and its authorization level steadily increased to \$130 million in fiscal year 1991 – the last year of authorization for this program.

Sec. 8503. Wastewater assistance to colonias. This section reauthorizes a grant program that provides wastewater assistance to Colonias and is administered by EPA. Colonias are economically disadvantaged communities that are located along the United States-Mexico border. Specifically, this section authorizes \$100 million in grant funding through 2027 for the wastewater grant program. This section also allows for local governments with jurisdiction over colonias to apply for grant funding.