

# Union Calendar No. 324

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2957

[Report No. 106-594]

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

MAY 2, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 27, 1999]

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Lake Pontchartrain*  
3 *Basin Restoration Act of 2000”.*

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.**

5 (a) *FINDING.—Congress finds that the Lake*  
6 *Ponchartrain Basin is an estuary of national significance.*

7 (b) *ADDITION TO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.—*  
8 *Section 320(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-*  
9 *trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting*  
10 *“Lake Ponchartrain Basin, Louisiana and Mississippi;”*  
11 *before “and Peconic Bay, New York.”.*

12 **SEC. 3. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN.**

13 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Federal Water Pollu-*  
14 *tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by*  
15 *adding at the end the following:*

16 **“SEC. 121. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN.**

17 *“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATION PROGRAM.—*  
18 *The Administrator shall establish within the Environ-*  
19 *mental Protection Agency the Lake Pontchartrain Basin*  
20 *Restoration Program.*

21 *“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall be*  
22 *to restore the ecological health of the Basin by developing*  
23 *and funding restoration projects and related scientific and*  
24 *public education projects.*

25 *“(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the Ad-*  
26 *ministrator shall—*

1           “(1) *provide administrative and technical assist-*  
2           *ance to a management conference convened for the*  
3           *Basin under section 320;*

4           “(2) *assist and support the activities of the man-*  
5           *agement conference, including the implementation of*  
6           *recommendations of the management conference;*

7           “(3) *support environmental monitoring of the*  
8           *Basin and research to provide necessary technical and*  
9           *scientific information;*

10          “(4) *develop a comprehensive research plan to*  
11          *address the technical needs of the program;*

12          “(5) *coordinate the grant, research, and plan-*  
13          *ning programs authorized under this section; and*

14          “(6) *collect and make available to the public*  
15          *publications, and other forms of information the man-*  
16          *agement conference determines to be appropriate, re-*  
17          *lating to the environmental quality of the Basin.*

18          “(d) *GRANTS.—The Administrator may make*  
19          *grants—*

20                 “(1) *for restoration projects and studies rec-*  
21                 *ommended by a management conference convened for*  
22                 *the Basin under section 320;*

23                 “(2) *for public education projects recommended*  
24                 *by the management conference; and*

1           “(3) for the inflow and infiltration project spon-  
2           sored by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board  
3           and Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

4           “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-  
5           nitions apply:

6           “(1) BASIN.—The term ‘Basin’ means the Lake  
7           Pontchartrain Basin, a 5,000 square mile watershed  
8           encompassing 16 parishes in the State of Louisiana  
9           and 4 counties in the State of Mississippi.

10          “(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the  
11          Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program es-  
12          tablished under subsection (a).

13          “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14          “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
15          appropriated—

16                 “(A) \$100,000,000 for the inflow and infil-  
17                 tration project sponsored by the New Orleans  
18                 Sewerage and Water Board and Jefferson Par-  
19                 ish, Louisiana; and

20                 “(B) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
21                 2001 through 2005 to carry out this section.

22          Such sums shall remain available until expended.

23          “(2) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROJECTS.—Not more  
24          than 15 percent of the amount appropriated pursuant  
25          to paragraph (1)(B) in a fiscal year may be expended

1        *on grants for public education projects under sub-*  
2        *section (d)(2).”.*

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