



# Water Legislative Tracker

Last Updated: September 17, 2020

## Overview

The following legislative tracker provides the status of legislation introduced in the 116th Congress pertaining to water issues. Each of the bill numbers is hyperlinked to the bill text, FiscalNote (FN) Outlook information and other related details.

The FN Outlook on the right side of each bill provides the legislation's pre-Floor (left) and Floor (right) likelihood of passing. The percentages shown are the status of the bill in the Chamber where it is currently under consideration (this is shown under 'Status'). The pre-Floor score is defined as the bill's likelihood of passing after it has been introduced but while it is being considered in that chamber's committees - before it has moved to the Floor for a vote.

## Priority Bills (14)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 1429	Introduced In House 2019 02 28	In House	High	5.4% 87.4%
<p><b>Title</b> Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act</p> <p><b>Primary Sponsors</b> Maxine Waters</p>		<p><b>Bill Summary:</b> This bill would make supplemental appropriations for FY 2019 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and for other purposes. The Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act will provide emergency supplemental appropriations of \$7.5 billion over the next six years. These funds will be used for job creation and to address the nation's drinking water infrastructure. The funds provided from this bill will be appropriated to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and will assist public water systems finance infrastructure projects. The funding provided by this bill is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The emergency funding is exempt from discretionary spending limits and is only available if the President subsequently designates the amounts as an emergency and submits the designation to Congress. The bill also exempts the funding from sequestration. (Sequestration is a process of automatic, usually across-the-board spending reductions under which budgetary resources are permanently cancelled to enforce specific budget policy goals.)</p> <p><b>Introduction Date:</b> 2019-02-28</p>		

Bill Number  
HR 1497

Last Action  
Reported Amended By The Committee On  
Transportation And Infrastructure H Rept 116  
484 2020 09 04

Status  
In House

Priority  
High

FN Outlook  
36.2% 88.0%

**Title**  
Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019

**Primary Sponsors**  
Peter DeFazio

**Bill Summary:** The bill would renew the Federal commitment to addressing local water quality challenges by providing an infusion of Federal assistance for the construction, repair, and replacement of the Nation's network of wastewater and stormwater conveyance and treatment facilities. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 will address America's crumbling wastewater infrastructure and local water quality challenges. This bill authorizes \$23.5 billion to improve wastewater infrastructure. This bill also will provide funds for agencies to meet Clean Water Act standards by constructing stormwater systems. The funding provided in the bill will be used in direct infrastructure investment over the next five years. Funds will be given to projects that address America's crumbling wastewater infrastructure and improve local water quality challenges. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act also increase the amount of federal assistance made available to states and communities through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-03-05

Bill Number  
HR 1747

Last Action  
Reported Amended By The Committee On  
Natural Resources H Rept 116 314 2019 11 26

Status  
In House

Priority  
High

FN Outlook  
19.5% 88.7%

**Title**  
National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Rob Wittman

**Bill Summary:** This bill codifies National Fish Habitat Partnerships, an initiative that aims to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-03-13

Bill Number

HR 2313

Last Action

Introduced In House 2019 04 12

Status

In House

Priority

High

FN Outlook

5.4%

90.9%

**Title**

Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Jared Huffman

**Bill Summary:** The bill clarifies that homeowners do not need to pay income tax when they receive rebates from water utilities for water conservation and water runoff management improvements that they have made. It clarifies that these rebates, which are growing in number and size across the nation, are not taxable income, but rather an effort to defray upfront consumer costs for a public benefit. It also would encourage residents to reduce water usage by installing "gray water" capture systems or purchasing new water-efficient appliances and plumbing fixtures can provide significant water yield benefits, protecting public health, the environment, and local economies. These rebates provide a net benefit to the public and utilities. This would ensure that the IRS treats water conservation rebates in the same manner as the Agency treats energy conservation rebates, including insulation, Energy Star-certified windows and doors, and energy efficient appliances, which are not taxable.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-04-12

Bill Number

HR 2470

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment 2019 05 03

Status

In House

Priority

High

FN Outlook

45.6%

84.0%

**Title**

Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Salud Carbajal

**Bill Summary:** This bill establishes an EPA grant program for communities to improve the resiliency and adaptability of their water-related infrastructure. Competitive grants will spur projects which conserve water or increase efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, rebuild or relocate threatened infrastructure, protect source waters and ecosystems, and implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse and recycling.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-02

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 2473	Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife Discharged 2020 03 11	In House	High	5.4% 89.3%

**Title**

Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Josh Harder

**Bill Summary:** This is the companion bill to H.R. 116, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. The bill provides a broad approach to addressing water issues facing the Central Valley by increasing storage opportunities, spurring innovation, and making investments in our aging infrastructure. The bill also leverages federal resources to identify prime locations for groundwater storage and recharge in California and across the Western United States. This bill requires the Bureau of Reclamation to expedite feasibility studies for four specific storage projects in the Central Valley, including: Sites Reservoir, Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, Los Vaqueros and San Luis Reservoirs and provides \$100 million in storage funding. The bill also invests in water reuse and recycling by increasing funding for WaterSMART programs from \$50 million to \$500 million and extending the program's authorization. It also establishes a water infrastructure and drought resolutions fund to provide \$300 million for water surface and groundwater storage, reclamation and reuse, and WaterSMART program projects. The bill would create a innovating financing program which would provide low-interest federal loans to fund local water infrastructure projects, and would reauthorize the Rural Water Supply Act.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-02

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 2665	Committee Consideration And Mark Up Session Held 2019 07 17	In House	High	21.0% 90.4%

**Title**

Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act of 2019

**Primary Sponsors**

Jerry McNerney

**Bill Summary:** This bill would establish a smart energy and water efficiency management program at the Department of Energy to award grants to eligible entities to demonstrate advanced and innovative technology-based solutions that would increase and improve the energy efficiency of water, wastewater, and water reuse systems, among other things.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-10

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 4891	Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife Discharged 2020 03 11	In House	High	24.5% 90.2%

**Title**

Western Water Security Act of 2019

**Primary Sponsors**

Xochitl Torres Small

**Bill Summary:** This bill would give an additional \$120 million to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program; authorize an additional \$65 million to support desalination design and construction, setting aside \$15 million for rural desalination projects; and authorizes the Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-10-28

Bill Number  
HR 6617

Last Action  
Referred To The Subcommittee On Water  
Oceans And Wildlife 2020 04 29

Status  
In House

Priority  
High

FN Outlook  
6.5% 82.8%

**Title**  
Western Water Storage Infrastructure Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
TJ Cox

**Bill Summary:** This bill would provide additional funding for surface storage, groundwater storage, and the supporting conveyance facilities.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-04-24

Bill Number  
HR 7073

Last Action  
Referred To The Committee On Oversight And  
Reform And In Addition To The Committee On  
Financial Services 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 2020 06 01

Status  
In House

Priority  
High

FN Outlook  
7.8% 87.2%

**Title**  
Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Garamendi

**Bill Summary:** This bill would amend the Social Security Act to include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund, to direct the Secretary to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility, and for other purposes.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-06-01

Bill Number  
S 1604

Last Action  
Introduced In Senate 2019 05 22

Status  
In Senate

Priority  
High

FN Outlook  
26.0% 82.9%

**Title**  
Local Water Protection Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Amy Klobuchar

**Bill Summary:** The bill would reauthorize an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant program that provides funds for states to develop and implement programs for managing nonpoint source water pollution, or pollution from diffuse sources including runoff from farms, managed forests, and urban areas. The Act would reauthorize \$200 million annually for the voluntary grant fund to give local and state governments, the flexibility to make conservation improvements aimed at decreasing water pollutants through partnerships with their communities. The legislation authorizes the EPA's Section 319 Grant Program and doubles funds for Section 319 from \$70 million to \$200 million for FYs 2020-2014.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-22

Bill Number

S 1932

Last Action

Committee On Energy And Natural Resources  
Senate Subcommittee On Water And Power  
Hearings Held 2019 07 18

Status

In Senate

Priority

High

FN Outlook

3.5% 86.2%

**Title**

Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Cory Gardner

**Bill Summary:** This bill would support water infrastructure in the nation's Reclamation states, as well as extend federal funding an additional five years, including \$670 million in surface and groundwater storage projects; \$100 million for water recycling projects; and \$60 million for desalination projects. The bill would also establish a new loan program for water agencies designed to spur investment in new water supply projects. Key provisions include but are not limited to expanding and updating the Bureau of Reclamation funding authorizations in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) to fund portions of federal (50%) and non-federal (25%) surface and groundwater storage and conveyance facilities, as well as cost share (25%) additional water reuse and recycling and desalination projects; and creating a new loan program at 30-year Treasury rates for water supply projects under what would be established under the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (RIFIA). These loans would use criteria (49% maximum loan) modeled after the well-established Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The legislation would also authorize \$140 million for restoration and environmental compliance projects, including forest, meadow and watershed restoration projects with water benefits and projects to help restore threatened and endangered species affected by Reclamation water projects.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-06-20

Bill Number

S 2718

Last Action

Committee On Energy And Natural Resources  
Subcommittee On Water And Power Hearings  
Held 2020 07 22

Status

In Senate

Priority

High

FN Outlook

2.6% 85.4%

**Title**

Western Water Security Act of 2019

**Primary Sponsors**

Tom Udall

**Bill Summary:** This bill would give an additional \$120 million to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program; expand the authority of States and Indian tribes to declare a drought emergency and access vital drought emergency funds; reauthorizes the Cooperative Watershed Management Program; and creates a pilot water leasing program that provides the Bureau of Reclamation and local water districts with increased flexibility to move water where it can be of the most use.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-10-28

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
S 3591	S Amdt 1593 Senate Amendment Submitted 2020 06 08	In Senate	High	5.6% 85.0%

**Title**  
America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020

**Bill Summary:** This bill provides roughly \$17 billion in new federal authorizations to invest in our infrastructure for projects across the country.

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Barrasso

**Introduction Date:** 2020-05-04

## Other Bills of Interest (10)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 1162	Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife Discharged 2020 03 11	In House	None	36.7% 84.1%

**Title**  
Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act

**Bill Summary:** The bill aims to assist water agencies with the expansion, planning, design, and building of water recycling plants and modernizing water infrastructure in California and other western states. Specifically, the bill would increase funding authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling competitive grant program to \$500 million from \$50 million. It would also make the program permanent as it currently expires in 2021, and funds water recycling and reuse projects for 17 western states.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Grace Napolitano

**Introduction Date:** 2019-02-13

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 1331	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Environment And Public Works 2019 04 09	In Senate	None	2.9% 52.1%

**Title**  
Local Water Protection Act

**Bill Summary:** Increases grant funding for state and local governments to decrease water pollutants, including addressing toxic agricultural runoff, septic to sewer conversions, legacy pollutants, impacts from dams, effects of channelization of waterbodies and other forms of pollution.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Angie Craig

**Introduction Date:** 2019-02-25

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Priority	FN Outlook
HR 7978	Referred To The Subcommittee On Economic Development Public Buildings And Emergency Management 2020 08 10	In House	None	7.7% 91.0%

**Title**  
To increase wildfire preparedness and response throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

**Bill Summary:** This bill is the House companion bill to S. 4431, the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Jimmy Panetta

**Introduction Date:** 2020-08-07

Bill Number  
HR 8217

Last Action  
Referred To The Subcommittee On Water  
Resources And Environment 2020 09 14

Status  
In House

Priority  
None

FN Outlook  
5.4% 88.5%

**Title**

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the final maturity date of certain loans, and for other purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Garamendi

**Bill Summary:** The bill would provide a new 55-year loan term for WIFIA financing and clarifies that WIFIA financing may be used for works that were constructed by the federal government but were contractually transferred to be operated and maintained by a local non-federal agency.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-09-11

Bill Number  
S 2466

Last Action  
Introduced In Senate 2019 09 11

Status  
In Senate

Priority  
None

FN Outlook  
3.0% 79.7%

**Title**

Water Justice Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Kamala Harris

**Bill Summary:** This bill takes a comprehensive approach to addressing water issues throughout the U.S. and pays particular attention to the water needs of historically at-risk communities and individuals. Provisions include investing \$220 billion in clean and safe drinking water initiatives, establishing a \$10 billion program to allow states to offset the cost of water bills in low-income communities and households that are environmentally at-risk, and invests \$20 billion in a diverse range of sustainable water supply, recycling, and conservation programs.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-09-11

Bill Number  
S 3590

Last Action  
Placed On Senate Legislative Calendar Under  
General Orders Calendar No 452 2020 05 11

Status  
In Senate

Priority  
None

FN Outlook  
4.4% 85.3%

**Title**

Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Barrasso

**Bill Summary:** This bill reauthorizes Safe Drinking Water Act programs that support drinking water infrastructure and provide resources and technical assistance to communities facing critical drinking water needs.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-05-04

Bill Number  
S 4188

Last Action  
Committee On Energy And Natural Resources  
Subcommittee On Water And Power Hearings  
Held 2020 07 22

Status  
In Senate

Priority  
None

FN Outlook  
4.9% 84.4%

**Title**

Water for Tomorrow Act of 2020

**Primary Sponsors**  
Kamala Harris

**Bill Summary:** This bill would provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability, and for other purposes.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-07-02



Bill Number

S 4189

Last Action

Committee On Energy And Natural Resources  
Subcommittee On Water And Power Hearings  
Held 2020 07 22

Status

In Senate

Priority

None

FN Outlook

2.4% 87.0%

**Title**

Water for Conservation and Farming Act

**Bill Summary:** This bill would provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability.

**Primary Sponsors**

Ron Wyden

**Introduction Date:** 2020-07-02

Bill Number

S 4206

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Environment And Public Works 2020 07 02

Status

In Senate

Priority

None

FN Outlook

4.0% 84.4%

**Title**

A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to authorize the interest rate to be used on a secured loan to be the interest rate for United States Treasury securities of a similar maturity on the date of first disbursement of the loan, and for other purposes.

**Bill Summary:** This bill amends the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to authorize the interest rate to be used on a secured loan to be the interest rate for United States Treasury securities of a similar maturity on the date of first disbursement of the loan, and for other purposes.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-07-02

**Primary Sponsors**

Jeff Merkley

Bill Number

S 4431

Last Action

Committee On Energy And Natural Resources  
Subcommittee On Public Lands Forests And  
Mining Hearings Held 2020 09 16

Status

In Senate

Priority

None

FN Outlook

2.8% 87.8%

**Title**

Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020

**Bill Summary:** This bill will provide new authority for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to work collaboratively with state partners in the West to implement wildfire management projects. The bill will also allow disaster mitigation and preparedness funding to be used to reduce the wildfire risk posed by utility lines and expedite permitting for the installation of wildfire detection equipment. The legislation will create a program to incentivize the collection of woody biomass and help expand processing facilities to make biomass more economically viable; and create a workforce development program to train a new generation of workers to help address wildfire and forest health, among other provisions.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-08-04

**Primary Sponsors**

Dianne Feinstein

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