

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9008

To amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to establish, maintain, or improve activities related to the detection and monitoring of infectious diseases through wastewater for public health emergency preparedness and response purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2024

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to establish, maintain, or improve activities related to the detection and monitoring of infectious diseases through wastewater for public health emergency preparedness and response purposes, 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 “Surveilling Effluent
3 Water for Epidemic Response Act” or the “SEWER Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title XXVIII of the
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–31 et seq.)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 2827. NATIONAL WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE SYS-**
9 **TEM.**

10 “(a) NATIONAL WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE SYS-
11 TEM.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in coordi-
13 nation with Federal departments and agencies and rel-
14 evant State and local departments and agencies, shall ex-
15 pand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the Na-
16 tional Wastewater Surveillance System to detect and mon-
17 itor pathogens in wastewater, such as SARS–CoV–2, in-
18 fluenza, mpox, dengue, West Nile virus, and respiratory
19 syncytial virus.

20 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
21 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
22 priated \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
23 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

24 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
25 amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed as

- 1 requiring a wastewater utility or service provider to com-
- 2 ply with a request for wastewater surveillance.

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