

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2664

To reauthorize the Water Desalination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2011

Mrs. NAPOLITANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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

A BILL

To reauthorize the Water Desalination Act of 1996, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reauthorization of
5 Water Desalination Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. WATER DESALINATION ACTIVITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-
8 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall operate,
9 manage and maintain facilities to carry out research, de-

1 velopment, and demonstration activities to develop tech-
2 nologies and methods that promote brackish groundwater
3 desalination as a viable method to increase water supply
4 in a cost-effective manner.

5 (b) OBJECTIVES; ACTIVITIES.—

6 (1) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary shall conduct
7 demonstration projects—

8 (A) to develop new water and energy tech-
9 nologies with widespread applicability; and

10 (B) to create new supplies of usable water
11 for municipal, agricultural, industrial, or envi-
12 ronmental purposes.

13 (2) ACTIVITIES.—In operating, managing, and
14 maintaining the facilities under subsection (a), the
15 Secretary shall carry out—

16 (A) as a priority, the development of re-
17 newable energy technologies for integration with
18 desalination technologies—

19 (i) to reduce the capital and oper-
20 ational costs of desalination;

21 (ii) to minimize the environmental im-
22 pacts of desalination; and

23 (iii) to increase public acceptance of
24 desalination as a viable water supply proc-
25 ess;

1 (B) research regarding various desalination
2 processes, including improvements in reverse
3 and forward osmosis technologies;

4 (C) the development of innovative methods
5 and technologies to reduce the volume and cost
6 of desalination concentrated wastes (including
7 the disposal of desalination concentrated
8 wastes) in an environmentally sound manner;

9 (D) an outreach program to create part-
10 nerships with States, academic institutions, pri-
11 vate entities, local public agencies, and other
12 appropriate organizations to conduct research,
13 development, and demonstration activities, in-
14 cluding the establishment of rental and other
15 charges to provide revenue to help offset the
16 costs of operating and maintaining the facility;
17 and

18 (E) an outreach program to educate the
19 public on—

20 (i) desalination and renewable energy
21 technologies; and

22 (ii) the benefits of using water in an
23 efficient manner.

24 (c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary may
25 enter into contracts or other agreements with, or make

1 grants to, appropriate entities to manage, operate, or oth-
2 erwise carry out this section, including an agreement with
3 a local or regional academic institution or a consortium
4 of institutions to manage research activities.

5 (d) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 8 of the Water De-
6 salination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law
7 104–298) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by
9 striking “2011” and inserting “2016”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$25,000,000
11 for fiscal years 1997 through 2011” and inserting
12 “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through
13 2016”.

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