

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 766

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

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Surveilling Effluent
5 Water for Epidemic Response Act” or the “SEWER Act”.

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

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

5 **“SEC. 2827. NATIONAL WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE SYS-**
6 **TEM.**

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

17 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
18 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
19 priated \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
20 through 2030, to remain available until expended.”.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
22 amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed as
23 requiring a wastewater utility or service provider to com-
24 ply with a request for wastewater surveillance.

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