

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
H.R. 5892, THE “WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2010”
INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE JAMES L. OBERSTAR AND
THE HONORABLE EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
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In General

- Reaffirms the continuing commitment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to the nation’s water resources infrastructure, and a regular authorization schedule for the Civil Works Program of the Army Corps of Engineers to address new and emerging water resources needs, and to fine-tune the Corps’ missions and responsibilities.
- Authorizes three projects with Chief of Engineer’s reports relating to hurricane and storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration.
- Includes technical changes to the Corps’ programmatic authorities, including: clarifying the intent of Congress related to the Corps’ crediting authority; increasing the transparency of independent reviews; and improving the effectiveness of mitigation that addresses impacts from Corps’ projects on the natural environment.
- Establishes a policy for increased expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure that annual revenues collected are utilized to meet the nation’s navigation maintenance dredging needs.
- Authorizes the Corps of Engineers to work with local communities in the assessment and evaluation of local flood control structures, including levees.

Navigation and Commerce

- Authorizes four small projects for navigation.
- Authorized additional Federal funding for the upgrade of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Flood Damage Reduction

- Authorizes 29 small flood damage reduction projects.

Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction and Shore Protection

- Authorizes the project Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi.
- Authorizes the project West Onslow Beach and New River Inlet (Topsail Beach), Pender County, North Carolina.
- Authorizes ten smaller projects for shoreline and streambank protection.

Environmental Restoration and Protection

- Authorizes the project for Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, Chesapeake Bay.
- Authorizes 31 smaller projects for aquatic ecosystem restoration and increases the per-project limit for small aquatic ecosystem restoration projects and small project modifications for improvement of the environment to \$10 million.
- Authorizes the Corps of Engineers to upgrade the initial electrical barrier and implement additional barriers in and around the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to enhance efforts in keeping the Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes.
- Directs the Secretary to study the potential for hydrologic separation of the Mississippi River basin system and the Great Lakes basin at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.
- Directs the Corps to develop a comprehensive plan for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, in coordination with other Federal agencies and consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- Directs the Corps to develop a comprehensive plan for carrying out ecosystem restoration projects within the coastal waters of the Northeastern United States.

Study Authority

- Authorizes the Secretary to undertake more than 160 studies for potential future water resource projects, including potential projects for navigation, flood damage reduction, hurricane and storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, and water supply.

Watershed Planning

- Increases the opportunities for the Corps to facilitate watershed planning and carry out watershed and river basin assessments.
- Authorizes the Corps of Engineers to undertake a comprehensive water supply and allocation study for the State of Georgia.