

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish an Office of Water Supply, Water Conservation, and Drought Resiliency within the Directorate of Civil Works in the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish an Office of Water Supply, Water Conservation, and Drought Resiliency within the Directorate of Civil Works in the Corps of Engineers, 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 “Securing America’s
5 Water Supply Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF WATER SUPPLY, WATER CONSERVATION,**
7 **AND DROUGHT RESILIENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army

1 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall estab-
2 lish within the Directorate of Civil Works an office to be
3 known as the “Office of Water Supply, Water Conserva-
4 tion, and Drought Resiliency”.

5 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection
6 (a), the Secretary shall—

7 (1) designate a Water Supply, Water Conserva-
8 tion, and Drought Resiliency Program Manager,
9 who shall head the office established under that sub-
10 section and report directly to the Deputy Com-
11 manding General for Civil Works and Emergency
12 Operations;

13 (2) staff the office with personnel who may re-
14 side in any district or division of the Corps of Engi-
15 neers; and

16 (3) provide the office with sufficient administra-
17 tive, technical, and budgetary support to direct, per-
18 form, and coordinate the tasks described in sub-
19 section (c).

20 (c) TASKS.—The office established under subsection
21 (a) shall carry out the following tasks related to the water
22 supply mission of the Corps of Engineers:

23 (1) Identify and evaluate opportunities using
24 authorities of the Corps of Engineers to promote

1 water supply, water conservation, and drought resil-
2 iency at water resource development projects.

3 (2) Provide to the Corps of Engineers, States,
4 and non-Federal interests information on existing
5 policies and guidance documents of the Corps of En-
6 gineers related to, and make recommendations on
7 new policies and guidance documents to improve,
8 water supply, water conservation, and drought resil-
9 iency, including—

10 (A) the implementation of subtitle B of
11 title I of the Water Resources Development Act
12 of 2024 (138 Stat. 3046);

13 (B) the method for the accounting of stor-
14 age use under water supply storage agreements
15 at Corps of Engineers reservoirs;

16 (C) the reallocation of storage space at
17 Corps of Engineers reservoirs to water supply;

18 (D) the interpretation and implementation
19 of section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958
20 (43 U.S.C. 390b); and

21 (E) the interpretation and implementation
22 of section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944
23 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of
24 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C.
25 708).

1 (3) Assist and provide guidance to States and
2 non-Federal interests on accessing programs, serv-
3 ices, and other technical and financial assistance
4 made available by the Corps of Engineers for water
5 supply, water conservation, and drought resiliency
6 efforts related to water resources development
7 projects.

8 (4) Coordinate the review and completion of
9 water supply reallocation studies and reports to clear
10 backlogs and ensure new studies and reports are
11 completed in a timely manner.

12 (5) Act as a liaison between the Corps of Engi-
13 neers and non-Federal interests for studies, projects,
14 and agreements for water supply, water conserva-
15 tion, and drought resiliency efforts related to water
16 resources development projects, including efforts—

17 (A) to reallocate storage space in projects
18 to store water for municipal and industrial
19 water supply purposes pursuant to section 301
20 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C.
21 390b);

22 (B) to enter into surplus water contracts
23 pursuant to section 6 of the Act of December
24 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Con-

1 trol Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665;
2 33 U.S.C. 708); and

3 (C) modify the operation of projects under
4 other authorities to produce water supply bene-
5 fits incidental to and consistent with authorized
6 purposes, including by—

7 (i) adjusting the timing of releases for
8 other authorized purposes to create oppor-
9 tunities for water supply conservation, use,
10 and storage;

11 (ii) capturing stormwater;

12 (iii) releasing water from storage to
13 replenish aquifer storage and recovery;

14 (iv) releasing water from storage to
15 augment storage at another Federal or
16 non-Federal storage facility; and

17 (v) other conservation measures that
18 enhance the use of a Corps of Engineers
19 project for water supply.

20 (6) Conduct outreach and workshops for poten-
21 tial non-Federal interests to provide information on
22 the authorities described in paragraph (1).

23 (7) Evaluate budget requests to ensure suffi-
24 cient resources are requested and allocated by the

1 Directorate of Civil Works to fulfill the tasks de-
2 scribed in this subsection.

3 (8) Cooperate with State, regional, and local
4 government and planning authorities to identify
5 strategies to augment water supplies, enhance
6 drought resiliency, promote contingency planning,
7 and assist in the planning and development of alter-
8 native water sources.

9 (9) Other tasks in furtherance of the water sup-
10 ply mission, as determined by the Secretary.

11 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
13 submit to the Committee on Environment and Public
14 Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transpor-
15 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
16 a report that describes—

17 (1) the progress of the Secretary in establishing
18 the Office of Water Supply, Water Conservation,
19 and Drought Resiliency, including a description of
20 the status of implementing subsection (b)(3);

21 (2) the number of staff assigned to the office;
22 and

23 (3) for each water supply study or project being
24 conducted or implemented by the Corps of Engineers
25 as of the date on which the report is submitted—

- 1 (A) the status of the study or project;
- 2 (B) the date on which the study or project
- 3 commenced;
- 4 (C) the estimated date of completion of the
- 5 study or project; and
- 6 (D) any significant impediments or obsta-
- 7 cles that may reasonably affect the timeline to
- 8 complete the study or project.