

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3317

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 3, 2025

Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, 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 “Water Resources Tech-
5 nical Assistance Review Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON CLEAN WATER TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
7 **ANCE.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency.

4 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term
5 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-
6 eral of the United States.

7 (3) COVERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
8 term “covered technical assistance” means a tech-
9 nical assistance authority, initiative, or program of
10 the Administrator that is related to clean water in-
11 frastructure.

12 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later
13 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
14 Comptroller General shall initiate a comprehensive review
15 of all covered technical assistance.

16 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General shall
17 include in the review required under subsection (b) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) A description of all covered technical assist-
20 ance available to States, Indian Tribes, local govern-
21 ments, and nongovernmental organizations, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) the regions and populations that are
24 served through the provision of covered tech-
25 nical assistance; and

1 (B) a summary of the activities and ac-
2 tions carried out through covered technical as-
3 sistance during the 5-year period ending on the
4 date of enactment of this Act.

5 (2) A comprehensive review of how the Admin-
6 istrator, through the Water Technical Assistance ini-
7 tiative (commonly known as the “WaterTA initia-
8 tive” and referred to in this paragraph as the “ini-
9 tiative”), identifies, selects, and partners with tech-
10 nical assistance providers to support communities,
11 including—

12 (A) a description of the criteria, evaluation
13 process, and contracting mechanisms used for
14 selecting those providers;

15 (B) a description of the extent of coordina-
16 tion with State, Tribal, and regional partners in
17 the selection and deployment of those providers;

18 (C) a description of how those providers
19 are matched to meet the needs of local commu-
20 nities, including any pre-engagement scoping
21 activities or community consultations;

22 (D) a description of how those providers
23 identify communities in need of technical assist-
24 ance, including economically distressed commu-

1 nities, and conduct outreach to those commu-
2 nities;

3 (E) a description of the scope and types of
4 assistance delivered through the initiative; and

5 (F) a list of communities that received
6 technical assistance support through the initia-
7 tive, including the type and cost of assistance
8 received by each such community and a sum-
9 mary of the outcomes associated with the provi-
10 sion of the technical assistance.

11 (3) An analysis of any duplication of covered
12 technical assistance available through multiple pro-
13 grams of the Administrator.

14 (4) An evaluation of how the provision of cov-
15 ered technical assistance builds capacity in commu-
16 nities to access other water infrastructure programs
17 carried out by the Administrator.

18 (5) An assessment of the needs of economically
19 distressed communities eligible to receive assistance
20 under a clean water infrastructure program carried
21 out by the Administrator that is not addressed
22 through covered technical assistance.

23 (6) An evaluation of how the Administrator car-
24 ries out covered technical assistance in coordination
25 with the heads of other Federal agencies that pro-

1 vide technical assistance related to water infrastruc-
2 ture.

3 (7) An evaluation of how covered technical as-
4 sistance supports communities in understanding,
5 identifying, and implementing alternative and cost-
6 effective technologies and features of treatment
7 works that achieve long-term savings and improved
8 outcomes in addressing water quality challenges.

9 (d) REPORT.—On the completion of the review re-
10 quired under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall
11 submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Environ-
12 ment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee
13 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
14 Representatives a report containing—

15 (1) the findings of the review; and

16 (2) any recommendations to improve covered
17 technical assistance.

18 (e) PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days
19 after the date on which the Comptroller General submits
20 the report required under subsection (d), and annually
21 thereafter for each of the following 5 years, the Adminis-
22 trator shall submit to the Committee on Environment and
23 Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Trans-
24 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
25 tives a plan describing any actions the Administrator has

- 1 taken to comply with the recommendations contained in
- 2 the report.

