



H.R. 2452 – RAW SEWAGE OVERFLOW COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2452 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Timothy Bishop (D-NY) on March 23, 2007. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 19, 2008.

H.R. 2452 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2452 directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require all owners or operators of publicly owned sewage treatment plants to notify the public within 24 hours of hazardous sewage overflow. Sewage treatment plant operators are also to notify public health authorities and public water facilities immediately. Additionally, the bill directs the EPA to make grants available to States so that they may implement updated sewage overflow monitoring systems.

According to the legislation requires each hazardous sewage overflow to be included in a treatment plants monthly discharge monitoring report sent to the EPA or relevant State entity, as well as the number of overflows in a year and actions taken in response to these overflows.

BACKGROUND

The Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy issued by the EPA in 1994 required owners and operators of combined sewer systems to implement technology-based controls to both reduce the occurrence of overflows of raw sewage and to require more and more timely notification of such overflows to the public, as well as to relevant State and Federal agencies.

According to the [testimony of the EPA Assistant Administrator for Water](#) before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment the EPA estimates that between 23,000 and 75,000 sanitary sewer overflow events occur per year in the United States (excluding basement backups) and that sanitary sewage overflows discharge approximately total three to ten billion gallons of raw sewage per year.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “implementing this legislation would cost about \$1 million in 2009 and less than \$500,000 in subsequent years.”

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2452.](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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