Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9785

[Report No. 119–]

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility of constructing projects to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water in certain parts of the Missouri River basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

NOVEMBER --, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 20, 2026]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility of constructing projects to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water in certain parts of the Missouri River basin, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "South Dakota Water Feasibility Studies Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Definitions.
Sec. 103. Western Dakota Regional Water System Feasibility Study.

TITLE II—LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Definitions.
Sec. 203. Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study.

TITLE III—DAKOTA MAINSTEM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Definitions.
Sec. 303. Dakota mainstem water supply project feasibility study.

TITLE I—WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Western Dakota Regional Water System Feasibility Study Act".

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term "non-Federal project entity" means the Western Dakota Regional Water System, a nonprofit corporation.

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term "proposed rural water supply project" means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 103. WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be at least 25 percent of the total construction costs;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection

(a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a)—

(1) shall not exceed $10,000,000; and

(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study.

(d) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act".

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term "non-Federal project entity" means—

(A) the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, Inc.; and

(B) any nonprofit successor entity to the corporation described in subparagraph (A).

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term "proposed rural water supply project" means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 203. LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be at least 25 percent of the total construction costs;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a)—

(1) shall not exceed $10,000,000; and

(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study.

(d) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—DAKOTA MAINSTEM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Dakota Mainstem Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act".

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DAKOTA MAINSTEM REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM.—The term "Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System" means the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and operated substantially in accordance with the reclamation feasibility standards to serve as a non-Federal project entity for purposes of the cooperative agreement entered into under section 303(a)(1).

(2) RECLAMATION FEASIBILITY STANDARDS.—The term "reclamation feasibility standards" means the eligibility criteria and feasibility study requirements described in part 404 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 303. DAKOTA MAINSTEM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System, through a cooperative agreement, may undertake a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The study under paragraph (1) shall comply with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a)—

(1) shall not exceed $10,000,000; and

(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.