

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022: House and Senate Action

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Recent Congresses have biennially considered omnibus legislation authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civil works activities, typically called [Water Resources Development Acts \(WRDAs\)](#). Eligibility for USACE [annual](#) and [supplemental appropriations](#) generally requires activities to first be authorized. WRDAs add to or amend existing USACE authorizations and provide policy direction. In crafting WRDA2022 bills, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee considered proposals from Members and documents transmitted by the Administration (e.g., USACE [Chief of Engineers reports](#), nonfederal proposals in [Section 7001 reports](#)).

Table 1 summarizes House and Senate action related to WRDA legislation in the 117th Congress. The Senate currently is considering three versions of WRDA2022. **Table 2** identifies selected WRDA 2022 provisions for authorizing projects and studies, sharing project costs, and managing existing infrastructure in two bills, House-passed H.R. 7776 (House WRDA 2022) and S.Amdt. 5499 to H.R. 7900 (Senate WRDA 2022). (See **Table 1** for links to bill texts.)

Table 1. Water Resource Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022) Legislation

Description	S. 4136, WRDA 2022	H.R. 7776, WRDA 2022	H.R. 7900, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023
Action on three versions of Senate WRDA 2022 legislation, which share most but not all bill text ^a	Reported by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on 5/4/2022	Amendment to H.R. 7776 engrossed on 7/28/22 that replaced House text with Senate text	Congressional Record of 10/11/2022 printed S.Amdt. 5499 to H.R. 7900, which includes Division J, Water Resources Development Act of 2022
House WRDA 2022 action		Passed House on 6/8/2022	

Source: CRS using congress.gov and *Congressional Record*.

- a. Because S.Amdt. 5499 to H.R. 7900 is the most recent Senate version, **Table 2** refers to this version as Senate WRDA 2022.

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Table 2. Selected Provisions from WRDA 2022 Legislation
(dollar amounts represent authorizations of appropriations; B = billion, M = million)

Provision Type	House WRDA 2022	Senate WRDA 2022	Notes
Study, Project, and Program Authorizations			
Authorize new project construction	§401 would authorize 18 new projects at \$37.1B (\$23.2B federal, \$13.9B nonfederal)	§5401 would authorize 22 new projects at \$44.5B (\$26.5B federal, \$18.0B nonfederal)	Bills would authorize many of the same construction projects, such as the Coastal Texas project at \$30.9B (\$19.2B federal, \$11.6B nonfederal)
Authorize modifications to authorized projects that are unconstructed or under construction	§401 would authorize modifications to 4 projects at a total cost of \$2.8B (\$2.1B federal, \$0.7B nonfederal)	§5401 would authorize modifications to 8 projects at a total cost of \$10.7B (\$7.5B federal, \$3.2B nonfederal)	—
Authorize environmental infrastructure (EI) assistance for design and construction of publicly owned and operated water infrastructure in specified municipalities, counties, and states	§§309, 328, 332, 337, 345, and 346 would amend, add new, and reauthorize EI authorities for \$5.5B	§§5301-5304, 5323, 5334, and 5341 would amend and add new EI authorities for \$1.4B	Congress in previous WRDA bills from 1992 to 2020 authorized \$6.2B in EI assistance
Authorize feasibility and project modification studies	§201 would authorize 81 studies	§5201 would authorize 36 studies	—
Expand feasibility study scope at nonfederal sponsor request	§104 would allow for coastal storm feasibility studies to incorporate flooding of tidally influenced surface waters hydrologically connected to coastal waters	§5101 would allow for study scopes to expand in two ways: (1) expand coastal storm and inland flood feasibility studies to incorporate other flood risk (e.g., due to erosion, tides, rainfall, subsidence), and (2) expand feasibility studies to include water supply, water supply conservation, and drought risk reduction	—
Increase continuing authorities program's federal project cost limit for streambank and shoreline (erosion) projects	—	§5102 would increase project limit from \$5M to \$10M	—
Deauthorize construction projects	§301 would replace WRDA 2020's deauthorization list for pre-WRDA 2007 inactive projects and would repeal WRDA 2020's automatic deauthorization provision	—	—

Provision Type	House WRDA 2022	Senate WRDA 2022	Notes
Sharing Costs of USACE Projects			
Amend USACE authority to accept federal funds toward nonfederal cost share	—	§5126 would allow USACE to accept federal funds if funds are for a purpose “similar or complementary” to the USACE study or project purpose	Currently USACE only accepts federal funds based on a determination by the originating federal agency that the use is authorized
Reduce percentage of inland waterway or intracoastal waterway construction project costs that are derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF)	—	§5103 would reduce the IWTF share of construction costs from either 50% or 35% to 25%, thereby increasing General Fund contribution to 75%	—
Extend periodic sand nourishment for coastal storm damage reduction	—	§5204 would authorize USACE to extend for 15 years periodic renourishment for projects that have reached their maximum authorized renourishment period. It also would authorize USACE to study 50-year extensions of periodic renourishments	Federal periodic nourishment at 50% cost is currently authorized generally for 50 years, and may be extended for an additional 6 years. Studies for extension of renourishment currently are typically limited to 15-year extensions
Share costs of periodic sand renourishment for ecosystem restoration	—	§5102(a)(4) would establish policy to provide 50 years of federal cost sharing for periodic renourishment for ecosystem restoration	Ecosystem restoration periodic nourishment after initial construction is currently 100% a nonfederal responsibility
Existing Infrastructure			
Study additional measures to sustain operations, mitigate droughts and floods, increase water supply and restore aquatic ecosystems at USACE South Pacific Division reservoirs	§226	§5214	—

Assess USACE dams for which USACE has “financial or operational” responsibility	§116 would direct USACE to assess dams to identify (1) priorities for rehabilitation, hydropower retrofits, and environmental enhancements and (2) recommendations for dam removal among dams not meeting their authorized purposes	—	—
Assess and repair levees for which USACE has “financial or operational” responsibility	§114 would direct USACE to assess levees and levee modifications to restore floodplain connectivity	§5129 would amend a nonfederal levee repair authority to allow for improvements and to increase USACE per-project assistance limit from \$10M to \$25M	—

Source: CRS, using H.R. 7776 as passed by the House (House WRDA 2022) and Division J of S.Amdt. 5499 to H.R. 7900 (Senate WRDA 2022).

Notes: WRDA 2007 = P.L. 110-114. Amounts may not sum due to rounding.

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