

FROM THE OFFICE OF:

Senator Edmund S. Muskie  
221 Old Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY  
JANUARY 6, 1965

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) today introduced his water pollution abatement bill, to be known as the Water Quality Act of 1965.

Senator Muskie said the bill is a bi-partisan measure directed towards improving the quality of our water resources and making more effective our programs for the control and abatement of water pollution.

Key sections of the bill, which is being co-sponsored by 25 other Senators, provide for \$20 million a year for three years in grants for research, and for increased construction grants for municipalities.

Senator Muskie said the idea is to encourage prevention of pollution, as well as to attack the problem and to find more efficient ways of doing so.

Senator Muskie, who is chairman of the Special Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution of the Public Works Committee, said, the 1965 bill "is consistent with and supports the objectives outlined by President Johnson in his State of the Union message, in which he called for an expanded conservation program as part of our effort to achieve the Great Society."

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## Water Quality Act (2)

Senator Muskie introduced a similar bill in 1963. That bill passed the Senate on a 69 to 11 vote, but failed to come to a vote in the House in the closing days of the session in 1964.

The 1965 Muskie bill provides, among other measures, for an increase in grants to individual sewage treatment projects from \$600,000 to \$1 million, and an increase for multi-municipal combinations in grants from \$2.4 million to \$4 million.

There also is a provision for an increase of 10 per cent in construction grants for treatment plants where comprehensive metropolitan planning has been carried out, and where the treatment plants are part of such comprehensive plans.

The Muskie bill would authorize grants of \$20 million a year for three years for research and development to demonstrate a new or improved method of controlling discharge of sewage from combined sewers.

The bill would provide for procedures for the establishment of standards of quality applicable to Interstate waters.

The bill would establish an additional position of Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to help the Secretary to administer the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The Muskie bill also would also authorize the HEW Secretary to initiate abatement proceedings where he finds that substantial economic injury results from the inability to market shellfish or shellfish products in interstate commerce because of pollution of interstate or navigable waters.

Water Pollution Quality Act (3)

Senator Muskie told the Senate that the bill would give incentive to older cities to attack the costly problem of separating storm and sanitary sewage.

He said establishment of water quality standards would "enable us to . . . use our waters and prevent the misuse and abuse of this vital resource."

He said quality standards also would help avoid the necessity of enforcement action.

He said the bill would give effective protection to the shell fisherman for the first time. He called the economic losses to Maine shell fishermen catastrophic.

Senator Muskie said the bill would give large cities more equitable help in building treatment plants. Large cities now must shoulder more than 90 per cent of the costs of such projects, he said.

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