

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

# B I L L

TO

Place a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## **1 Amendment of the Water Industry Act 1991**

- (1) The Water Industry Act 1991 is amended as follows.
- (2) After Chapter 1 (appointment of undertakers) insert—

### **“CHAPTER 1ZA**

#### **DUTY ON WATER COMPANIES: UNTREATED SEWAGE**

5

#### **17ZA Duty on water companies: untreated sewage (England)**

- (1) A water company in England must take all reasonable steps to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into inland waters.
- (2) The Secretary of State, the Authority and the Environment Agency must exercise their respective functions under this and any other Act to seek to secure compliance with that duty. 10
- (3) In this Chapter, “water company” means any company holding an appointment under Chapter I of this Part (appointment of undertakers).

#### **17ZB Requirements in connection with section 17ZA duty**

Reasonable steps to be taken by water companies in accordance with the duty under section 17ZA include, but are not limited to— 15

- (a) maintaining and publishing a register of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and any other sewer catchment assets from which discharges of untreated sewage may be made into inland waters; 20
- (b) publishing biannual reports on the operational status of those assets;

- (c) installing capacity to monitor continuously all discharges of untreated sewage into inland waters from those assets and publishing the data so obtained;
- (d) monitoring and publishing annual reports on the quality and duration of discharges made from CSOs and any other sewer catchment assets from which discharges of untreated sewage may be made into inland waters; 5
- (e) as part of drainage and wastewater management plans, setting out steps to ensure that—
  - (i) biological or nature-based treatments are installed where practicable and made operational at wastewater treatment works discharging into inland waters that do not otherwise provide for the tertiary treatment of effluent; and 10
  - (ii) reliance upon CSOs is reduced; and 15
- (f) meeting any requirements which may be specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.

**17ZC Report on measures to assist water companies in fulfilling section 17ZA duty**

The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report on measures taken by the Secretary of State, the Authority and the Environment Agency to assist water companies in fulfilling the duty in section 17ZA— 20

- (a) within one year of this section coming into force; and
- (b) in every calendar year after the year in which that first report is published. 25

**17ZD Reports on performance against section 17ZA duty**

- (1) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report on the performance of water companies against the duty in section 17ZA—
  - (a) within one year of this section coming into force; and 30
  - (b) in every calendar year after the year in which that first report is published.
- (2) Reports under this section must include assessments of the quantities of untreated sewage discharged into inland waters from each company’s sewerage assets.” 35

**2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Sewage (Inland Waters) Act 2021.



# Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill [HL]

---

---

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

## **B I L L**

TO

Place a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters.

*The Duke of Wellington*

---

Ordered to be Printed, 7th June 2021.

---

© Parliamentary copyright House of Lords 2021

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright)*

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS