

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 723

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## AN ACT

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wood-Pawcatuck Wa-  
5 tershed Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BEAVER, CHIPUXET, QUEEN, WOOD, AND**  
7 **PAWCATUCK RIVERS STUDY.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.—Section 5(a) of the  
9 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amend-  
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

11 “(\_\_\_\_) BEAVER, CHIPUXET, QUEEN, WOOD,  
12 AND PAWCATUCK RIVERS, RHODE ISLAND AND CON-  
13 NECTICUT.—The approximately 10-mile segment of  
14 the Beaver River from its headwaters in Exeter,  
15 Rhode Island, to its confluence with the Pawcatuck  
16 River; the approximately 5-mile segment of the  
17 Chipuxet River from Hundred Acre Pond to its out-  
18 let into Worden Pond; the approximately 10-mile  
19 segment of the upper Queen River from its head-  
20 waters to the Usquepaugh Dam in South Kingstown,  
21 Rhode Island, and including all its tributaries; the  
22 approximately 5-mile segment of the lower Queen  
23 (Usquepaugh) River from the Usquepaugh Dam to  
24 its confluence with the Pawcatuck River; the ap-  
25 proximately 11-mile segment of the upper Wood

1 River from its headwaters to Skunk Hill Road in  
2 Richmond and Hopkinton, Rhode Island, and includ-  
3 ing all its tributaries; the approximately 10-mile seg-  
4 ment of the lower Wood River from Skunk Hill  
5 Road to its confluence with the Pawcatuck River;  
6 the approximately 28-mile segment of the Pawcatuck  
7 River from Worden Pond to Nooseneck Hill Road  
8 (RI Rte 3) in Hopkinton and Westerly, Rhode Is-  
9 land; and the approximately 7-mile segment of the  
10 lower Pawcatuck River from Nooseneck Hill Road to  
11 Pawcatuck Rock, Stonington, Connecticut, and  
12 Westerly, Rhode Island.”.

13 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Wild  
14 and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended  
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 “(\_\_\_\_) BEAVER, CHIPUXET, QUEEN, WOOD,  
17 AND PAWCATUCK RIVERS, RHODE ISLAND AND CON-  
18 NECTICUT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on  
19 which funds are made available to carry out this  
20 paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

21 “(A) complete the study of the Beaver,  
22 Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers,  
23 Rhode Island and Connecticut, described in  
24 subsection (a)(\_\_\_\_);

1           “(B) submit a report describing the results  
2 of that study to the appropriate committees of  
3 Congress;

4           “(C) include in the report under subpara-  
5 graph (B) the effect of the designation under  
6 this Act on—

7                   “(i) existing commercial and rec-  
8 reational activities, such as hunting, fish-  
9 ing, trapping, recreational shooting, motor  
10 boat use, or bridge construction;

11                   “(ii) the authorization, construction,  
12 operation, maintenance, or improvement of  
13 energy production and transmission infra-  
14 structure; and

15                   “(iii) the authority of State and local  
16 governments to manage those activities en-  
17 compassed in clauses (i) and (ii); and

18           “(D) identify—

19                   “(i) all authorities that will authorize  
20 or require the Secretary to influence local  
21 land use decisions (such as zoning) or  
22 place restrictions on non-Federal land if  
23 the area studied is designated under this  
24 paragraph;

1                   “(ii) all authorities that the Secretary  
2                   may use to condemn property if the area  
3                   studied is designated under this para-  
4                   graph; and

5                   “(iii) all private property located in  
6                   the area studied under this provision.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 11, 2013.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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