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## Press Release - Six Major Muskie Bills Become Law in 1970

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# MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY  
January 12, 1971

## SIX MAJOR MUSKIE BILLS BECOME LAW IN 1970

In the second session of the 91st Congress, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) directed the enactment of six major bills which he had introduced. They were the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970, the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act, the Securities Investors Protection Corporation Act, the Intergovernmental Personnel Act and the Resource Recovery Act.

In addition, a modified version of the Urban Growth and New Community Development Act introduced by Senator Muskie and Senator John Sparkman was incorporated in the 1970 housing bill.

Senator Muskie's resolution to create a Joint Committee on the Environment was passed in differing forms by both the Senate and the House.

Following are summaries of the new laws authored by Senator Muskie:

Uniform Relocation Act of 1970 provides greater federal assistance to assure that families and businesses forced to move because of federal construction projects such as highways, urban renewal, hospitals, are more fairly compensated. Assistance is in the form of both cash payments and counseling. In addition, the Act requires the government to build relocation housing where it otherwise would not be available.

Securities Investors Protection Corporation Act of 1970 establishes a private corporation to administer a fund that will insure securities investors from losses caused by brokerage firm failures. The measure will benefit 30 million people who participate directly in the securities market and perhaps another 100 million who participate indirectly through mutual or pension funds. SIPC will function in a manner generally parallel to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures savings accounts from losses resulting from bank failures.

The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970 gives the federal government the power to clean up oil pollution and recover the costs of clean-up from the polluter. The law also provides for federal control of sewage discharges from vessels. Title II of the law established an Office of Environmental Quality.

The Clean Air Act of 1970 is the toughest environmental law ever passed by Congress. It sets national air quality standards which will protect public health and which must be met by nation-wide deadlines. It provides the tools to enforce those standards, including a requirement that new automobiles be virtually emission-free by 1976. The law requires strict environmental standards for new industries and stringent emissions controls for hazardous pollutant; sets heavy penalties for polluters and authorizes citizen action to enforce the law. The law also created the first federal program of noise pollution abatement.

The Resource Recovery Act of 1970 changed the government's solid waste pollution program from a holding action to a major new effort at recovering, recycling and re-using solid wastes. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent seeking ways to reduce pollution and conserve essential resources.

Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 seeks to improve the effectiveness and performance of State and local governments. It authorizes federal funding of up to 75% of cost of programs to improve recruitment and in-service training of State and local government employees. The act also authorizes the Civil Service Commission to make grants to State and local governments for graduate level fellowships to professional and technical employees of these governments.

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