

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4540

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a program to provide grants to suppliers of water for the purpose of making infrastructure improvements to public water systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2023

Mr. CUELLAR (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a program to provide grants to suppliers of water for the purpose of making infrastructure improvements to public water systems, 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 “Water Infrastructure
5 Enhancement Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT.**

2 Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
3 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 1459H. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.—The
8 term ‘area of persistent poverty’ means—

9 “(A) any county (or equivalent jurisdic-
10 tion) in which, during the 30-year period ending
11 on the date of enactment of this section, 20
12 percent or more of the population continually
13 lived in poverty, as measured by—

14 “(i) the 1990 decennial census;

15 “(ii) the 2000 decennial census; and

16 “(iii) the most recent annual small
17 area income and poverty estimate of the
18 Bureau of the Census;

19 “(B) any census tract with a poverty rate
20 of not less than 20 percent, as measured by the
21 5-year data series available from the American
22 Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census
23 for the period of 2014 through 2018; and

24 “(C) any territory or possession of the
25 United States.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
2 activity’ means one of the following activities with
3 respect to a public water system:

4 “(A) Installing or upgrading water treat-
5 ment facilities.

6 “(B) Constructing or rehabilitating storage
7 tanks.

8 “(C) Installing or replacing water trans-
9 mission and distribution pipes.

10 “(D) Installing or upgrading pump sta-
11 tions.

12 “(E) Installing emergency generators.

13 “(F) Upgrading supervisory control and
14 data acquisition systems.

15 “(G) Installing advanced metering infra-
16 structure.

17 “(H) Installing or upgrading wells.

18 “(I) Facilitating compliance with any pri-
19 mary or secondary drinking water regulation
20 promulgated under this Act.

21 “(J) Any other activity determined appro-
22 priate by the Administrator.

23 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
24 means an area with a population of 20,000 or fewer
25 inhabitants.

1 “(b) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT
2 GRANT PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
4 tablish a program to provide grants to suppliers of
5 water to carry out eligible activities for the purpose
6 of making infrastructure improvements to public
7 water systems in accordance with this section.

8 “(2) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—Of the total
9 amounts made available to carry out the grant pro-
10 gram established under paragraph (1)—

11 “(A) not less than 50 percent shall be for
12 eligible activities carried out in rural areas; and

13 “(B) not less than 15 percent shall be
14 awarded to eligible activities carried out in his-
15 torically disadvantaged communities or areas of
16 persistent poverty.

17 “(3) COST-SHARING.—The Federal share of the
18 cost of an eligible activity carried out using a grant
19 under this section shall be not more than 90 per-
20 cent.

21 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this section \$800,000,000 for each of the fiscal
24 years 2024 through 2029.”.

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