

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2687

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish pilot programs to assist low-income households in maintaining access to sanitation services and drinking water, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish pilot programs to assist low-income households in maintaining access to sanitation services and drinking water, 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 “Low-Income Water
5 Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOW-INCOME DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE PILOT**
 2 **PROGRAM.**

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

6 **“SEC. 1459E. LOW-INCOME DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE**
 7 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 10 tity’ means a municipality or public entity that owns
 11 or operates a community water system.

12 “(2) HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘household’
 13 means any individual or group of individuals who
 14 are living together as 1 economic unit.

15 “(3) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term
 16 ‘low-income household’ means a household—

17 “(A) in which one or more individuals are
 18 receiving—

19 “(i) assistance under a State program
 20 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
 21 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

22 “(ii) supplemental security income
 23 payments under title XVI of the Social Se-
 24 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

25 “(iii) supplemental nutrition assist-
 26 ance program benefits under the Food and

1 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
2 seq.); or

3 “(iv) payments under—

4 “(I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or
5 1542 of title 38, United States Code;
6 or

7 “(II) section 306 of the Veterans’
8 and Survivors’ Pension Improvement
9 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;
10 Public Law 95–588); or

11 “(B) that has an income that, as deter-
12 mined by the State in which the household is lo-
13 cated, does not exceed the greater of—

14 “(i) an amount equal to 150 percent
15 of the poverty level; and

16 “(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of
17 the State median income for that State.

18 “(4) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term ‘poverty
19 level’ means, with respect to a household in a State,
20 the income poverty guidelines for the nonfarm popu-
21 lation of the United States, as prescribed by the Of-
22 fice of Management and Budget, as applicable to the
23 State.

24 “(5) SMALL COMMUNITY-SERVING ELIGIBLE
25 ENTITY.—The term ‘small community-serving eligi-

1 ble entity’ means an eligible entity that provides
2 drinking water services to a city, county, or munici-
3 pality with a population of fewer than 10,000 resi-
4 dents, at least 20 percent of whom are at or below
5 the Federal poverty level.

6 “(6) STATE MEDIAN INCOME.—The term ‘State
7 median income’ has the meaning given the term in
8 section 2603 of Public Law 97–35 (42 U.S.C.
9 8622).

10 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
12 tablish a pilot program to award grants to not fewer
13 than 32 eligible entities in accordance with para-
14 graph (2) to develop and implement programs to as-
15 sist low-income households in maintaining access to
16 affordable drinking water.

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
19 shall award grants under the pilot program de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) to—

21 “(i) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
22 that provide drinking water services to a
23 population of 1,000,000 or more residents;

24 “(ii) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
25 that provide drinking water services to a

1 population of 100,000 or more, but fewer
2 than 1,000,000, residents;

3 “(iii) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
4 that provide drinking water services to a
5 population of 10,000 or more, but fewer
6 than 100,000, residents;

7 “(iv) subject, as applicable, to sub-
8 paragraph (B), not fewer than 8 eligible
9 entities that provide drinking water serv-
10 ices to a population of fewer than 10,000
11 residents; and

12 “(v) not more than 2 eligible entities
13 in each State.

14 “(B) SMALL COMMUNITY-SERVING ELIGI-
15 BLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
16 grant under the pilot program under this sub-
17 section, a small community-serving eligible enti-
18 ty shall enter into a memorandum of under-
19 standing with the State in which the small com-
20 munity-serving eligible entity is located, under
21 which the State shall—

22 “(i) submit to the Administrator an
23 application under paragraph (6) on behalf
24 of the small community-serving eligible en-
25 tity; and

1 “(ii) on receipt of a grant under the
2 pilot program, administer the low-income
3 household assistance program developed by
4 the small community-serving eligible entity.

5 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

6 “(A) USE.—A grant awarded under the
7 pilot program—

8 “(i) shall not be used to replace funds
9 for any existing similar program; but

10 “(ii) may be used to supplement or
11 enhance an existing program.

12 “(B) GRANTS UNDER MULTIPLE PRO-
13 GRAMS.—An eligible entity—

14 “(i) may apply for a grant under the
15 pilot program and under the low-income
16 wastewater assistance pilot program estab-
17 lished under section 124(b)(1) of the Fed-
18 eral Water Pollution Control Act; but

19 “(ii) may be awarded a grant under
20 only 1 of the programs described in clause
21 (i).

22 “(4) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded
23 under the pilot program shall be 5 years.

24 “(5) MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of enactment of this section, the
3 Administrator shall develop, in consultation
4 with all relevant stakeholders, the minimum re-
5 quirements for a program carried out by an eli-
6 gible entity (or a State, on behalf of a small
7 community-serving eligible entity) using a grant
8 under this subsection.

9 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The program require-
10 ments developed under subparagraph (A) may
11 include—

12 “(i) direct financial assistance;

13 “(ii) a lifeline rate;

14 “(iii) bill discounting;

15 “(iv) special hardship provisions;

16 “(v) a percentage-of-income payment
17 plan; or

18 “(vi) water efficiency assistance, in-
19 cluding direct installation of water efficient
20 fixtures and leak repair, which may be
21 completed through a contracted third
22 party.

23 “(C) ASSISTANCE EXEMPT FROM TAX-
24 ATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
25 law, assistance provided to a low-income house-

1 hold under a program carried out by an eligible
2 entity (or a State, on behalf of a small commu-
3 nity-serving eligible entity) using a grant under
4 this subsection shall be exempt from income tax
5 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 “(6) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
7 this subsection, an eligible entity (or a State, on be-
8 half of a small community-serving eligible entity)
9 shall submit to the Administrator an application
10 that demonstrates that—

11 “(A) the proposed program of the eligible
12 entity or small community-serving eligible enti-
13 ty, as applicable, meets the requirements devel-
14 oped under paragraph (5)(A);

15 “(B) the proposed program of the eligible
16 entity or small community-serving eligible enti-
17 ty, as applicable, will treat owners and renters
18 equitably;

19 “(C) the eligible entity or small commu-
20 nity-serving eligible entity, as applicable, has, to
21 fund the activities necessary to achieve or main-
22 tain compliance with this Act—

23 “(i) a long-term financial plan based
24 on a rate analysis;

25 “(ii) an asset management plan;

1 “(iii) a capital improvement plan with
2 a period of not less than 20 years;

3 “(iv) a fiscal management plan; or

4 “(v) another plan similar to the plans
5 described in clauses (i) through (iv);

6 “(D) a grant awarded under this sub-
7 section would support the efforts of the eligible
8 entity or the small community-serving entity, as
9 applicable, to generate the necessary funds to
10 achieve or maintain compliance with this title
11 while mitigating the cost to low-income house-
12 holds; and

13 “(E) the eligible entity or the small com-
14 munity-serving entity, as applicable, has the ca-
15 pacity to create and implement an effective
16 community outreach plan to inform eligible cus-
17 tomers of the program and assist with enroll-
18 ment.

19 “(7) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
20 subsection, the Administrator shall give priority to
21 eligible entities or small community-serving eligible
22 entities, as applicable—

23 “(A) that—

1 “(i) in addition to owning or oper-
2 ating community water systems, own or
3 operate one or more—

4 “(I) publicly owned treatment
5 works (as defined in section 212 of
6 the Federal Water Pollution Control
7 Act (33 U.S.C. 1292));

8 “(II) municipal wastewater treat-
9 ment systems; or

10 “(III) municipal separate
11 stormwater sewer systems; and

12 “(ii) are subject to consent decrees re-
13 lating to compliance with the Federal
14 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
15 1251 et seq.) for a facility described in
16 clause (i);

17 “(B) the residential customers of which
18 have experienced rate or fee increases for
19 wastewater, stormwater, or drinking water serv-
20 ices that is greater than or equal to 30 percent
21 during the 3-year period ending on the date of
22 enactment of this section; or

23 “(C) that—

24 “(i) develop an equivalent program, as
25 determined by the Administrator, that is

1 administered separately by the eligible en-
2 tity or small community-serving eligible en-
3 tity, as applicable; or

4 “(ii) provide matching funds equal to
5 or greater than the amount of the grant
6 from—

7 “(I) the applicable State or unit
8 of local government; or

9 “(II) a State-sponsored nonprofit
10 organization or private entity.

11 “(8) LOWER INCOME LIMIT.—For purposes of
12 this section, an eligible entity (or a State, on behalf
13 of a small community-serving eligible entity) may
14 adopt an income limit that is lower than the limit
15 described in subsection (a)(3)(B), except that the el-
16 igible entity or State, respectively, may not exclude
17 a household from eligibility in a fiscal year based
18 solely on household income if that income is less
19 than 110 percent of the poverty level.

20 “(9) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any
22 other applicable Federal or agency-specific
23 grant reporting requirements, as a condition of
24 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-
25 gible entity (or a State, on behalf of a small

1 community-serving eligible entity) shall submit
2 to the Administrator an annual report that
3 summarizes, in a manner determined by the
4 Administrator, the low-income household assist-
5 ance program developed by the eligible entity or
6 small community-serving eligible entity, as ap-
7 plicable, using the grant, including—

8 “(i) key features, including rate struc-
9 tures, rebates, discounts, and related ini-
10 tiatives that assist households, including—

11 “(I) budget billing;

12 “(II) bill timing; and

13 “(III) pretermination protections;

14 “(ii) sources of funding;

15 “(iii) eligibility criteria;

16 “(iv) participation rates by eligible
17 households;

18 “(v) the monetary benefit per partici-
19 pant;

20 “(vi) program costs;

21 “(vii) the demonstrable impacts of the
22 program on arrearage and service dis-
23 connection for residential customers, based
24 on data from before and after the imple-

1 mentation of the pilot program, to the
2 maximum extent practicable;

3 “(viii) the outreach and stakeholder
4 process used by the eligible entity or small
5 community-serving eligible entity, as appli-
6 cable, to design the program, including—

7 “(I) the selection process for any
8 stakeholder committee members; and

9 “(II) the number and location of
10 community outreach events;

11 “(ix) the methods used to enroll cus-
12 tomers, including the outreach plan and
13 the status of implementation of that out-
14 reach plan; and

15 “(x) other relevant information re-
16 quired by the Administrator.

17 “(B) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator
18 shall publish each report submitted under sub-
19 paragraph (A).

20 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
21 shall provide technical assistance to each eligible entity,
22 and each State, on behalf of a small community-serving
23 eligible entity, that receives a grant under this section to
24 ensure—

1 **“SEC. 124. LOW-INCOME WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means—

6 “(A) a municipality or public entity that
7 owns or operates—

8 “(i) a publicly owned treatment
9 works;

10 “(ii) a municipal wastewater treat-
11 ment system; or

12 “(iii) a municipal separate stormwater
13 sewer system; and

14 “(B) 2 or more municipalities or public en-
15 tities described in subparagraph (A) that have
16 entered into a partnership agreement or a coop-
17 erative agreement.

18 “(2) HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘household’
19 means any individual or group of individuals who
20 are living together as 1 economic unit.

21 “(3) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term
22 ‘low-income household’ means a household—

23 “(A) in which 1 or more individuals are re-
24 ceiving—

1 “(i) assistance under a State program
2 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
3 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

4 “(ii) supplemental security income
5 payments under title XVI of the Social Se-
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

7 “(iii) supplemental nutrition assist-
8 ance program benefits under the Food and
9 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
10 seq.); or

11 “(iv) payments under—

12 “(I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or
13 1542 of title 38, United States Code;
14 or

15 “(II) section 306 of the Veterans’
16 and Survivors’ Pension Improvement
17 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;
18 Public Law 95–588); or

19 “(B) that has an income that, as deter-
20 mined by the State in which the household is lo-
21 cated, does not exceed the greater of—

22 “(i) an amount equal to 150 percent
23 of the poverty level; and

24 “(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of
25 the State median income for that State.

1 “(4) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term ‘poverty
2 level’ means, with respect to a household in a State,
3 the income poverty guidelines for the nonfarm popu-
4 lation of the United States, as prescribed by the Of-
5 fice of Management and Budget, as applicable to the
6 State.

7 “(5) SMALL COMMUNITY-SERVING ELIGIBLE
8 ENTITY.—The term ‘small community-serving eligi-
9 ble entity’ means an eligible entity that provides
10 wastewater or municipal stormwater services to a
11 city, county, or municipality with a population of
12 fewer than 10,000 residents, at least 20 percent of
13 whom are at or below the Federal poverty level.

14 “(6) STATE MEDIAN INCOME.—The term ‘State
15 median income’ has the meaning given the term in
16 section 2603 of Public Law 97–35 (42 U.S.C.
17 8622).

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
20 tablish a pilot program to award grants to not fewer
21 than 32 eligible entities in accordance with para-
22 graph (2) to develop and implement programs to as-
23 sist low-income households in maintaining access to
24 affordable wastewater or municipal stormwater serv-
25 ices.

1 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
3 shall award grants under the pilot program de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) to—

5 “(i) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
6 that provide wastewater services,
7 stormwater services, or both to a popu-
8 lation of 1,000,000 or more residents;

9 “(ii) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
10 that provide wastewater services,
11 stormwater services, or both to a popu-
12 lation of 100,000 or more, but fewer than
13 1,000,000, residents;

14 “(iii) not fewer than 8 eligible entities
15 that provide wastewater services,
16 stormwater services, or both to a popu-
17 lation of 10,000 or more, but fewer than
18 100,000, residents;

19 “(iv) subject, as applicable, to sub-
20 paragraph (B), not fewer than 8 eligible
21 entities that provide wastewater services,
22 stormwater services, or both to a popu-
23 lation of fewer than 10,000 residents; and

24 “(v) not more than 2 eligible entities
25 in each State.

1 “(B) SMALL COMMUNITY-SERVING ELIGI-
2 BLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
3 grant under the pilot program under this sub-
4 section, a small community-serving eligible enti-
5 ty shall enter into a memorandum of under-
6 standing with the State in which the small com-
7 munity-serving eligible entity is located, under
8 which the State shall—

9 “(i) submit to the Administrator an
10 application under paragraph (6) on behalf
11 of the small community-serving eligible en-
12 tity; and

13 “(ii) on receipt of a grant under the
14 pilot program, administer the low-income
15 household assistance program developed by
16 the small community-serving eligible entity.

17 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

18 “(A) USE.—A grant awarded under the
19 pilot program—

20 “(i) shall not be used to replace funds
21 for any existing similar program; but

22 “(ii) may be used to supplement or
23 enhance an existing program.

24 “(B) GRANTS UNDER MULTIPLE PRO-
25 GRAMS.—An eligible entity—

1 “(i) may apply for a grant under the
2 pilot program and under the low-income
3 drinking water assistance pilot program es-
4 tablished under section 1459E(b)(1) of the
5 Safe Drinking Water Act; but

6 “(ii) may be awarded a grant under
7 only 1 of the programs described in clause
8 (i).

9 “(4) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded
10 under the pilot program shall be 5 years.

11 “(5) MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
13 after the date of enactment of this section, the
14 Administrator shall develop, in consultation
15 with all relevant stakeholders, the minimum re-
16 quirements for a program to be carried out by
17 an eligible entity (or a State, on behalf of a
18 small community-serving eligible entity) using a
19 grant under this subsection.

20 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The program require-
21 ments developed under subparagraph (A) may
22 include—

23 “(i) direct financial assistance;

24 “(ii) a lifeline rate;

25 “(iii) bill discounting;

1 “(iv) special hardship provisions;

2 “(v) a percentage-of-income payment
3 plan; or

4 “(vi) water efficiency assistance, in-
5 cluding direct installation of water efficient
6 fixtures and leak repair, which may be
7 completed through a contracted third
8 party.

9 “(C) ASSISTANCE EXEMPT FROM TAX-
10 ATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
11 law, assistance provided to a low-income house-
12 hold under a program carried out by an eligible
13 entity (or a State, on behalf of a small commu-
14 nity-serving eligible entity) using a grant under
15 this subsection shall be exempt from income tax
16 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

17 “(6) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
18 this subsection, an eligible entity (or a State, on be-
19 half of a small community-serving eligible entity)
20 shall submit to the Administrator an application
21 that demonstrates that—

22 “(A) the proposed program of the eligible
23 entity or small community-serving eligible enti-
24 ty, as applicable, meets the requirements devel-
25 oped under paragraph (5)(A);

1 “(B) the proposed program of the eligible
2 entity or small community-serving eligible enti-
3 ty, as applicable, will treat owners and renters
4 equitably;

5 “(C) the eligible entity or small commu-
6 nity-serving eligible entity, as applicable, has, to
7 fund the activities necessary to achieve or main-
8 tain compliance with this Act—

9 “(i) a long-term financial plan based
10 on a rate analysis;

11 “(ii) an asset management plan;

12 “(iii) a capital improvement plan with
13 a period of not less than 20 years;

14 “(iv) a fiscal management plan; or

15 “(v) another plan similar to the plans
16 described in clauses (i) through (iv);

17 “(D) a grant awarded under this sub-
18 section would support the efforts of the eligible
19 entity or the small community-serving entity, as
20 applicable, to generate the necessary funds to
21 achieve or maintain compliance with this title
22 while mitigating the cost to low-income house-
23 holds; and

24 “(E) the eligible entity or the small com-
25 munity-serving entity, as applicable, has the ca-

1 capacity to create and implement an effective
2 community outreach plan to inform eligible cus-
3 tomers of the program and assist with enroll-
4 ment.

5 “(7) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
6 subsection, the Administrator shall give priority to
7 eligible entities or small community-serving eligible
8 entities, as applicable—

9 “(A) that are affected by consent decrees
10 relating to compliance with this Act;

11 “(B) the residential customers of the eligi-
12 ble entity or small community-serving eligible
13 entity, as applicable, have experienced a rate or
14 fee increase for wastewater, stormwater, or
15 drinking water services that is greater than or
16 equal to 30 percent during the 3-year period
17 ending on the date of enactment of this section;

18 “(C) that—

19 “(i) develop an equivalent program, as
20 determined by the Administrator, that is
21 administered separately by the eligible en-
22 tity or small community-serving eligible en-
23 tity, as applicable; or

1 “(ii) provide matching funds equal to
2 or greater than the amount of the grant
3 from—

4 “(I) the applicable State or unit
5 of local government; or

6 “(II) a State-sponsored nonprofit
7 organization or private entity; or

8 “(D) that are described in subsection
9 (a)(1)(B).

10 “(8) LOWER INCOME LIMIT.—For purposes of
11 this section, an eligible entity (or a State, on behalf
12 of a small community-serving eligible entity) may
13 adopt an income limit that is lower than the limit
14 described in subsection (a)(3)(B), except that the el-
15 igible entity or State, respectively, may not exclude
16 a household from eligibility in a fiscal year based
17 solely on household income if that income is less
18 than 110 percent of the poverty level.

19 “(9) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any
21 other applicable Federal or agency-specific
22 grant reporting requirements, as a condition of
23 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-
24 gible entity (or a State, on behalf of a small
25 community-serving eligible entity) shall submit

1 to the Administrator an annual report that
2 summarizes, in a manner determined by the
3 Administrator, the low-income household assist-
4 ance program developed by the eligible entity or
5 small community-serving eligible entity, as ap-
6 plicable, using the grant amount, including—

7 “(i) key features, including rate struc-
8 tures, rebates, discounts, and related ini-
9 tiatives that assist households, including—

10 “(I) budget billing;

11 “(II) bill timing; and

12 “(III) pretermination protections;

13 “(ii) sources of funding;

14 “(iii) eligibility criteria;

15 “(iv) participation rates by eligible
16 households;

17 “(v) the monetary benefit per partici-
18 pant;

19 “(vi) program costs;

20 “(vii) the demonstrable impacts of the
21 program on arrearage and service dis-
22 connection for residential customers, based
23 on data from before and after the imple-
24 mentation of the pilot program, to the
25 maximum extent practicable;

1 “(viii) the outreach and stakeholder
2 process used by the eligible entity or small
3 community-serving eligible entity, as appli-
4 cable, to design the program, including—

5 “(I) the selection process for any
6 stakeholder committee members; and

7 “(II) the number and location of
8 community outreach events;

9 “(ix) the methods used to enroll cus-
10 tomers, including the outreach plan and
11 the status of implementation of that out-
12 reach plan; and

13 “(x) other relevant information re-
14 quired by the Administrator.

15 “(B) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator
16 shall publish each report submitted under sub-
17 paragraph (A).

18 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
19 shall provide technical assistance to each eligible entity,
20 and each State, on behalf of a small community-serving
21 eligible entity, that receives a grant under this section to
22 ensure—

23 “(1) full implementation of the pilot program;
24 and

1 “(2) maximum enrollment of low-income house-
2 holds, including through—

3 “(A) community outreach campaigns;

4 “(B) coordination with local health depart-
5 ments to determine the eligibility of households
6 for assistance; or

7 “(C) a combination of the campaigns and
8 coordination described in subparagraphs (A)
9 and (B).

10 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
11 on which grant funds are first disbursed to an eligible enti-
12 ty (or a State, on behalf of a small community-serving eli-
13 gible entity) under this section, and every year thereafter
14 for the duration of the terms of the grants, the Adminis-
15 trator shall submit to Congress a report on the results
16 of the pilot program established under this section.”.

17 **SEC. 4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONWIDE RURAL AND**
18 **URBAN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY WATER AS-**
19 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
23 mental Protection Agency.

24 (2) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term
25 “low-income household” means a household—

1 (A) in which one or more individuals are
2 receiving—

3 (i) assistance under a State program
4 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
5 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

6 (ii) supplemental security income pay-
7 ments under title XVI of the Social Secu-
8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

9 (iii) supplemental nutrition assistance
10 program benefits under the Food and Nu-
11 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
12 seq.); or

13 (iv) payments under—

14 (I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or
15 1542 of title 38, United States Code;

16 or

17 (II) section 306 of the Veterans'
18 and Survivors' Pension Improvement
19 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;
20 Public Law 95-588); or

21 (B) that has an income that, as deter-
22 mined by the State in which the household is lo-
23 cated, does not exceed the greater of—

24 (i) an amount equal to 150 percent of
25 the poverty level; and

1 (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of
2 the State median income for that State.

3 (3) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term “poverty
4 level” means, with respect to a household in a State,
5 the income poverty guidelines for the nonfarm popu-
6 lation of the United States, as prescribed by the Of-
7 fice of Management and Budget, as applicable to the
8 State.

9 (4) STATE MEDIAN INCOME.—The term “State
10 median income” has the meaning given the term in
11 section 2603 of Public Law 97–35 (42 U.S.C.
12 8622).

13 (b) STUDY; REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
16 shall conduct, and submit to Congress a report de-
17 scribing the results of, a study regarding the preva-
18 lence throughout the United States of low-income
19 households that do not have access to—

20 (A) affordable and functional centralized
21 or onsite wastewater services that protect the
22 health of individuals in the households;

23 (B) affordable municipal stormwater serv-
24 ices; or

1 (C) affordable public drinking water serv-
2 ices to meet household needs.

3 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The report under paragraph
4 (1) shall include—

5 (A) recommendations of the Administrator
6 regarding the best methods to increase access
7 to affordable and functional centralized and on-
8 site wastewater, stormwater, and drinking
9 water services;

10 (B) a description of the cost of each meth-
11 od described in subparagraph (A);

12 (C) with respect to the development of the
13 report, a consultation with all relevant stake-
14 holders; and

15 (D) a description of the results of the
16 study with respect to low-income renters who do
17 not receive bills for wastewater, stormwater,
18 and drinking water services but pay for the
19 services indirectly through rent payments.

20 (3) AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator may
21 enter into an agreement with another Federal agen-
22 cy to carry out the study under paragraph (1).

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