

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 624

To provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2009

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

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 “Senator Paul Simon
5 Water for the World Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Senator Paul Simon Water for the
2 Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121)—

3 (A) makes access to safe water and sanita-
4 tion for developing countries a specific policy
5 objective of United States foreign assistance
6 programs;

7 (B) requires the Secretary of State to—

8 (i) develop a strategy to elevate the
9 role of water and sanitation policy; and

10 (ii) improve the effectiveness of
11 United States assistance programs under-
12 taken in support of that strategy;

13 (C) codifies Target 10 of the United Na-
14 tions Millennium Development Goals; and

15 (D) seeks to reduce by half between 1990
16 (the baseline year) and 2015—

17 (i) the proportion of people who are
18 unable to reach or afford safe drinking
19 water; and

20 (ii) the proportion of people without
21 access to basic sanitation.

22 (2) On December 20, 2006, the United Nations
23 General Assembly, in GA Resolution 61/192, de-
24 clared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation,
25 in recognition of the impact of sanitation on public

1 health, poverty reduction, economic and social devel-
2 opment, and the environment.

3 (3) On August 1, 2008, Congress passed H.
4 Con. Res. 318, which—

5 (A) supports the goals and ideals of the
6 International Year of Sanitation; and

7 (B) recognizes the importance of sanitation
8 on public health, poverty reduction, economic
9 and social development, and the environment.

10 (4) While progress is being made on safe water
11 and sanitation efforts—

12 (A) more than 884,000,000 people
13 throughout the world lack access to safe drink-
14 ing water; and

15 (B) 2 of every 5 people in the world do not
16 have access to basic sanitation services.

17 (5) The health consequences of unsafe drinking
18 water and poor sanitation are significant, accounting
19 for—

20 (A) nearly 10 percent of the global burden
21 of disease; and

22 (B) more than 2,000,000 deaths each year.

23 (6) The effects of climate change are expected
24 to produce severe consequences for water availability
25 and resource management in the future, with

1 2,800,000,000 people in more than 48 countries ex-
2 pected to face severe and chronic water shortages by
3 2025.

4 (7) According to the November 2008 report en-
5 titled, “Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World”,
6 the National Intelligence Council expects rapid ur-
7 banization and future population growth to exacer-
8 bate already limited access to water, particularly in
9 agriculture-based economies.

10 (8) A 2009 report published in the Proceedings
11 of the National Academy of Sciences projects that
12 the effects of climate change will produce long-term
13 droughts and raise sea levels for the next 1,000
14 years, regardless of future efforts to combat climate
15 change.

16 (9) According to the 2005 Millennium Eco-
17 system Assessment, commissioned by the United Na-
18 tions, more than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the world population relies on
19 freshwater that is either polluted or excessively with-
20 drawn.

21 (10) The impact of water scarcity on conflict
22 and instability is evident in many parts of the world,
23 including the Darfur region of Sudan, where demand
24 for water resources has contributed to armed conflict

1 between nomadic ethnic groups and local farming
2 communities.

3 (11) In order to further the United States con-
4 tribution to safe water and sanitation efforts, it is
5 necessary to—

6 (A) expand foreign assistance capacity to
7 address the challenges described in this section;
8 and

9 (B) represent issues related to water and
10 sanitation at the highest levels of United States
11 foreign assistance and diplomatic deliberations,
12 including those related to issues of global
13 health, food security, the environment, global
14 warming, and maternal and child mortality.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
17 should lead a global effort to bring sustainable access to
18 clean water and sanitation to poor people throughout the
19 world.

20 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

21 The purpose of this Act is—

22 (1) to provide first-time access to safe water
23 and sanitation, on a sustainable basis, for
24 100,000,000 people in high priority countries (as
25 designated under section 6(f) of the Senator Paul

1 Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C.
2 2152h note) by 2015; and

3 (2) to enhance the capacity of the United
4 States Government to fully implement the Senator
5 Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public
6 Law 109–121).

7 **SEC. 5. DEVELOPING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CA-**
8 **PACITY.**

9 Section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
10 (22 U.S.C. 2152h) is amended by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(e) OFFICE OF WATER.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out the pur-
14 poses of subsection (a), the Administrator of the
15 United States Agency for International Development
16 shall establish the Office of Water within the Bureau
17 for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade.

18 “(2) LEADERSHIP.—The Office of Water shall
19 be headed by a Director for Safe Water and Sanita-
20 tion, who shall report directly to the Assistant Ad-
21 ministrator of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Ag-
22 riculture, and Trade.

23 “(3) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

1 “(A) implement this section and the Sen-
2 ator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of
3 2005 (Public Law 109–121);

4 “(B) develop and implement country-spe-
5 cific water strategies and expertise, in collabo-
6 ration with appropriate United States Agency
7 for International Development Mission Direc-
8 tors, to meet the goal of providing 100,000,000
9 additional people with sustainable access to safe
10 water and sanitation by 2015; and

11 “(C) place primary emphasis on providing
12 safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water,
13 sanitation, and hygiene in a manner that—

14 “(i) is consistent with sound water re-
15 source management principles; and

16 “(ii) utilizes such approaches as direct
17 service provision, capacity building, institu-
18 tional strengthening, regulatory reform,
19 and partnership collaboration.

20 “(4) CAPACITY.—The Director may utilize
21 interagency details or partnerships with universities,
22 civil society, and the private sector, as needed, to
23 strengthen implementation capacity.

24 “(f) SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL
25 WATER.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To increase the capac-
2 ity of the Department of State to address inter-
3 national issues regarding safe water, sanitation, in-
4 tegrated river basin management, and other inter-
5 national water programs, the Secretary of State
6 shall establish a Special Coordinator for Inter-
7 national Water (referred to in this subsection as the
8 ‘Special Coordinator’), who shall report to the Under
9 Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs.

10 “(2) DUTIES.—The Special Coordinator shall—

11 “(A) oversee and coordinate the diplomatic
12 policy of the United States Government with re-
13 spect to global freshwater issues, including
14 interagency coordination related to—

15 “(i) sustainable access to safe drink-
16 ing water, sanitation, and hygiene;

17 “(ii) integrated river basin and water-
18 shed management;

19 “(iii) transboundary conflict;

20 “(iv) agricultural and urban produc-
21 tivity of water resources;

22 “(v) disaster recovery, response, and
23 rebuilding,

24 “(vi) pollution mitigation; and

1 “(vii) adaptation to hydrologic change
2 due to climate variability; and

3 “(B) ensure that international freshwater
4 issues are represented—

5 “(i) within the United States Govern-
6 ment; and

7 “(ii) in key diplomatic, development,
8 and scientific efforts with other nations
9 and multilateral organizations.

10 “(3) STAFF.—The Special Coordinator is au-
11 thorized to hire a limited number of staff to carry
12 out the duties described in paragraph (2).”.

13 **SEC. 6. SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE STRAT-**
14 **EGY.**

15 Section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the
16 Poor Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 2152h note) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
18 following: “In developing the program activities
19 needed to implement the strategy, the Secretary
20 shall consider the results of the assessment de-
21 scribed in subsection (e)(9).”; and

22 (2) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(7) an assessment of all United States Govern-
5 ment foreign assistance allocated to the drinking
6 water and sanitation sector during the 3 previous
7 fiscal years, across all United States Government
8 agencies and programs, including an assessment of
9 the extent to which the United States Government’s
10 efforts are reaching the goal of providing first-time
11 access to safe water and sanitation on a sustainable
12 basis for 100,000,000 people in high priority coun-
13 tries;

14 “(8) recommendations on what the United
15 States Government would need to do to achieve the
16 goals referred to in paragraph (7), in support of the
17 United Nation’s Millennium Development Goal on
18 access to safe drinking water; and

19 “(9) an assessment of best practices for mobi-
20 lizing and leveraging the financial and technical ca-
21 pacity of business, governments, nongovernmental
22 organizations, and civil society in forming public-pri-
23 vate partnerships that measurably increase access to
24 safe drinking water and sanitation.”.

1 **SEC. 7. DEVELOPING LOCAL CAPACITY.**

2 The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of
3 2005 (Public Law 109–121) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating sections 9, 10, and 11 as
5 sections 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting after section 8 the following:

7 **“SEC. 9. WATER AND SANITATION INSTITUTIONAL CAPAC-**
8 **ITY-BUILDING PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and
11 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
12 International Development (referred to in this sec-
13 tion as the ‘Secretary’ and the ‘Administrator’, re-
14 spectively), in consultation with host country institu-
15 tions, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
16 tion, the Department of Agriculture, and other agen-
17 cies, as appropriate, shall establish, in every high
18 priority country, a program to build the capacity of
19 host country institutions and officials responsible for
20 water and sanitation in countries that receive assist-
21 ance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance
22 Act of 1961, including training at appropriate levels,
23 to—

24 “(A) provide affordable, equitable, and sus-
25 tainable access to safe drinking water and sani-
26 tation;

1 “(B) educate the populations of such coun-
2 tries about the dangers of unsafe drinking
3 water and lack of proper sanitation; and

4 “(C) encourage behavior change to reduce
5 individuals’ risk of disease from unsafe drinking
6 water and lack of proper sanitation and hy-
7 giene.

8 “(2) COORDINATION.—The programs estab-
9 lished under subsection (a) shall be coordinated in
10 each country by the lead country water manager
11 designated in subsection (b)(2).

12 “(3) EXPANSION.—The Secretary and the Ad-
13 ministrator may establish the program described in
14 this section in additional countries if the receipt of
15 such capacity building would be beneficial for pro-
16 moting access to safe drinking water and sanitation,
17 with due consideration given to good governance.

18 “(4) CAPACITY.—The Secretary and the Ad-
19 ministrator—

20 “(A) shall designate staff with appropriate
21 expertise to carry out the strategy developed
22 under section 4; and

23 “(B) may utilize, as needed, interagency
24 details or partnerships with universities, civil

1 society, and the private sector to strengthen im-
2 plementation capacity.

3 “(b) DESIGNATION.—The United States Agency for
4 International Development Mission Director for each
5 country receiving a ‘high priority’ designation under sec-
6 tion 6(f) and for each region containing a country receiv-
7 ing such designation shall—

8 “(1) designate safe drinking water and sanita-
9 tion as a strategic objective;

10 “(2) appoint an employee of the United States
11 Agency for International Development as in-country
12 water and sanitation manager to coordinate the in-
13 country implementation of this Act and section 135
14 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
15 2152h) with host country officials at various levels
16 of government responsible for water and sanitation,
17 the Department of State, and other relevant United
18 States Government agencies; and

19 “(3) coordinate with the Development Credit
20 Authority and the Global Development Alliance to
21 further the purposes of this Act.”.

22 **SEC. 8. OTHER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**

23 Section 135(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22
24 U.S.C. 2152h(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
4 the end; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) foster global cooperation on research and
7 technology development, including regional partner-
8 ships among water experts to address safe drinking
9 water, sanitation, water resource management, and
10 other water-related issues;

11 “(6) establish regional and cross-border cooper-
12 ative activities between scientists and specialists that
13 work to share technologies and best practices, miti-
14 gate shared water challenges, foster international co-
15 operation, and defuse cross-border tensions;

16 “(7) provide grants through the United States
17 Agency for International Development to foster the
18 development, dissemination, and increased and con-
19 sistent use of low cost and sustainable technologies,
20 such as household water treatment, hand washing
21 stations, and latrines, for providing safe drinking
22 water, sanitation, and hygiene that are suitable for
23 use in high priority countries, particularly in places
24 with limited resources and infrastructure;

1 “(8) in collaboration with the Centers for Dis-
2 ease Control and Prevention, Department of Agri-
3 culture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
5 and other agencies, as appropriate, conduct forma-
6 tive and operational research and monitor and evalu-
7 ate the effectiveness of programs that provide safe
8 drinking water and sanitation; and

9 “(9) integrate efforts to promote safe drinking
10 water, sanitation and hygiene with existing foreign
11 assistance programs, as appropriate, including ac-
12 tivities focused on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis,
13 maternal and child health, food security, and nutri-
14 tional support.”.

15 **SEC. 9. UPDATED REPORT REGARDING WATER FOR PEACE**
16 **AND SECURITY.**

17 Section 11(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for
18 the Poor Act of 2005, as redesignated by section 7, is
19 amended by adding at the end the following: “The report
20 submitted under this subsection shall include an assess-
21 ment of current and likely future political tensions over
22 water sources and multidisciplinary assessment of the ex-
23 pected impacts of global climate change on water supplies
24 in 10, 25, and 50 years.”.

1 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated for fiscal year 2009 and for each subsequent fiscal
4 year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act
5 and the amendments made by this Act, pursuant to the
6 criteria set forth in the Senator Paul Simon Water for
7 the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121).

8 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (1) GENERAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
10 ACTIVITIES.—Up to 20 percent of the amounts ap-
11 propriated to implement this Act may be used to
12 support general water resource management activi-
13 ties that improve countries' overall water sources.

14 (2) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Any amounts appro-
15 priated to implement this Act that are not used to
16 carry out the activities described in paragraph (1)
17 shall be allocated for activities related to safe drink-
18 ing water, sanitation, and hygiene.

○