

**Calendar No. 340**113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION**S. 864****[Report No. 113-142]**

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2013

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RISCH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

APRIL 1, 2014

Reported by Mrs. BOXER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]**A BILL**

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Grassroots Rural and  
3 Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments  
7 of 1996 (Public Law 104–182) authorized technical  
8 assistance for small and rural communities to assist  
9 those communities in complying with regulations  
10 promulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water  
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

12 (2) technical assistance and compliance train-  
13 ing—

14 (A) ensures that Federal regulations do  
15 not overwhelm the resources of small and rural  
16 communities; and

17 (B) provides small and rural communities  
18 lacking technical resources with the necessary  
19 skills to improve and protect water resources;

20 (3) across the United States, more than 90 per-  
21 cent of the community water systems serve a popu-  
22 lation of less than 10,000 individuals;

23 (4) small and rural communities have the great-  
24 est difficulty providing safe, affordable public drink-  
25 ing water and wastewater services due to limited

1 economies of scale and lack of technical expertise;  
2 and

3 ~~(5)~~ in addition to being the main source of com-  
4 pliance assistance; small and rural water technical  
5 assistance has been the main source of emergency  
6 response assistance in small and rural communities.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 ~~(1)~~ to most effectively assist small and rural  
10 communities, the Environmental Protection Agency  
11 should prioritize the types of technical assistance  
12 that are most beneficial to those communities, based  
13 on input from those communities; and

14 ~~(2)~~ local support is the key to making Federal  
15 assistance initiatives work in small and rural com-  
16 munities to the maximum benefit.

17 **SEC. 4. FUNDING PRIORITIES.**

18 Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)) is amended—

20 ~~(1)~~ by designating the first through seventh  
21 sentences as paragraphs ~~(1)~~ through ~~(7)~~; respec-  
22 tively;

23 ~~(2)~~ in paragraph ~~(5)~~ (as so designated), by  
24 striking “1997 through 2003” and inserting “2014  
25 through 2019”; and

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

2           “(8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—

3                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
4           may use amounts made available to carry out  
5           this section to provide technical assistance to  
6           nonprofit organizations that provide to small  
7           public water systems onsite technical assistance,  
8           circuit-rider technical assistance programs, on-  
9           site and regional training, assistance with im-  
10          plementing source water protection plans, and  
11          assistance with implementation monitoring  
12          plans, rules, regulations, and water security en-  
13          hancements.

14                 “(B) PREFERENCE.—To ensure that tech-  
15          nical assistance funding is used in a manner  
16          that is most beneficial to the small and rural  
17          communities of a State, the Administrator shall  
18          give preference under this paragraph to non-  
19          profit organizations that, as determined by the  
20          Administrator, are the most qualified and expe-  
21          rienced and that the small community water  
22          systems in that State find to be the most bene-  
23          ficial and effective.”.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Grassroots Rural and*  
3 *Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 *Congress finds that—*

6 *(1) the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of*  
7 *1996 (Public Law 104–182) authorized technical as-*  
8 *sistance for small and rural communities to assist*  
9 *those communities in complying with regulations pro-*  
10 *mulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act*  
11 *(42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);*

12 *(2) technical assistance and compliance train-*  
13 *ing—*

14 *(A) ensures that Federal regulations do not*  
15 *overwhelm the resources of small and rural com-*  
16 *munities; and*

17 *(B) provides small and rural communities*  
18 *lacking technical resources with the necessary*  
19 *skills to improve and protect water resources;*

20 *(3) across the United States, more than 90 per-*  
21 *cent of the community water systems serve a popu-*  
22 *lation of less than 10,000 individuals;*

23 *(4) small and rural communities have the great-*  
24 *est difficulty providing safe, affordable public drink-*  
25 *ing water and wastewater services due to limited*  
26 *economies of scale and lack of technical expertise; and*

1           (5) *in addition to being the main source of com-*  
2           *pliance assistance, small and rural water technical*  
3           *assistance has been the main source of emergency re-*  
4           *sponse assistance in small and rural communities.*

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6           *It is the sense of Congress that—*

7           (1) *to most effectively assist small and rural*  
8           *communities, the Environmental Protection Agency*  
9           *should prioritize the types of technical assistance that*  
10          *are most beneficial to those communities, based on*  
11          *input from those communities; and*

12          (2) *local support is the key to making Federal*  
13          *assistance initiatives work in small and rural com-*  
14          *munities to the maximum benefit.*

15 **SEC. 4. FUNDING PRIORITIES.**

16          *Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42*  
17          *U.S.C. 300j-1(e)) is amended—*

18          (1) *by designating the first through seventh sen-*  
19          *tences as paragraphs (1) through (7), respectively;*

20          (2) *in paragraph (5) (as so designated), by strik-*  
21          *ing “1997 through 2003” and inserting “2014*  
22          *through 2019”; and*

23          (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

24          “(8) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**—

1           “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator*  
2           *may use amounts made available to carry out*  
3           *this section to provide grants or cooperative*  
4           *agreements to nonprofit organizations that pro-*  
5           *vide to small public water systems onsite tech-*  
6           *nical assistance, circuit-rider technical assist-*  
7           *ance programs, multistate, regional technical as-*  
8           *istance programs, onsite and regional training,*  
9           *assistance with implementing source water pro-*  
10           *tection plans, and assistance with implementing*  
11           *monitoring plans, rules, regulations, and water*  
12           *security enhancements.*

13           “(B) *PREFERENCE.*—*To ensure that tech-*  
14           *nical assistance funding is used in a manner*  
15           *that is most beneficial to the small and rural*  
16           *communities of a State, the Administrator shall*  
17           *give preference under this paragraph to non-*  
18           *profit organizations that, as determined by the*  
19           *Administrator, are the most qualified and expe-*  
20           *rienced in providing training and technical as-*  
21           *istance to small public water systems and that*  
22           *the small community water systems in that State*  
23           *find to be the most beneficial and effective.*

24           “(C) *LIMITATION.*—*No grant or cooperative*  
25           *agreement provided or otherwise made available*

1            *under this section may be used for litigation*  
2            *pursuant to section 1449.”.*



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