

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1653

To amend certain provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2017

Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend certain provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 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 “Drinking Water Af-
5 fordability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.**

7 (a) NATIONAL DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.—
8 Section 1412(b)(9) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
9 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(9)) is amended by striking the last sen-
10 tence and inserting “Any revision of a national primary

1 drinking water regulation shall be promulgated in accord-
2 ance with this section, including paragraphs (3) through
3 (6) of this subsection.”

4 (b) ENFORCEMENT OF DRINKING WATER REGULA-
5 TIONS.—Section 1414(h)(1)(C) of the Safe Drinking
6 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(h)(1)(C)) is amended by
7 inserting “or management” after “the transfer of owner-
8 ship”.

9 (c) STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS.—

10 (1) ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMU-
11 NITIES.—Section 1452(d)(2) of the Safe Drinking
12 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(2)) is amended by
13 striking “30” and inserting “35”.

14 (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 1452(f)(1)
15 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–
16 12(f)(1)) is amended—

17 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
18 and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-
19 tively;

20 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
21 the following new subparagraph:

22 “(C) each loan will be fully amortized not
23 later than 30 years after the completion of the
24 project, except that in the case of a disadvan-
25 taged community (as defined in subsection

1 (d)(3)) a State may provide an extended term
2 for a loan, if the extended term—

3 “(i) terminates not later than the date
4 that is 40 years after the date of project
5 completion; and

6 “(ii) does not exceed the expected de-
7 sign life of the project;”; and

8 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1
9 year after completion of the project for which
10 the loan was made” and all that follows
11 through “design life of the project;” and insert-
12 ing “18 months after completion of the project
13 for which the loan was made;”.

14 (3) OTHER AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Section
15 1452(k)(1)(C) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
16 U.S.C. 300j–12(k)(1)(C)) is amended by striking
17 “for fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and all that fol-
18 lows through the period at the end and inserting
19 “for fiscal years 2018 through 2024 to delineate, as-
20 sess, update assessments, and undertake implemen-
21 tation activities with respect to source water protec-
22 tion areas in accordance with the requirements of a
23 program approved under section 1453, excluding any
24 activity required to be conducted under the Federal

1 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et
2 seq.).”.

3 (d) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING
4 REQUIREMENTS.—Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 1459C. EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING**
8 **REQUIREMENTS.**

9 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall exempt a public water system that re-
11 ceives financial assistance pursuant to section 1452 from
12 a Federal cross-cutting requirement if the Administrator
13 determines that the State in which the public water system
14 is located has in effect a requirement which is not less
15 stringent than the Federal cross-cutting requirement.”.

16 (e) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING RE-
17 QUIREMENT.—Section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 300f) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following new paragraph:

20 “(17) FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING REQUIRE-
21 MENT.—The term ‘Federal cross-cutting require-
22 ment’ means a requirement of a Federal law or reg-
23 ulation, compliance with which is a condition on re-
24 ceipt of a loan or grant under this title, that, if ap-
25 plied to projects and activities receiving such finan-

1 cial assistance, would be redundant with a require-
2 ment of an applicable State or local law.”.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORTS.**

4 (a) STATE LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AND AP-
5 PLICATION PROCESS.—

6 (1) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Envi-
7 ronmental Protection Agency shall conduct a review
8 on best practices for—

9 (A) streamlining the application process
10 for public water systems to receive loans or loan
11 guarantees from a State drinking water treat-
12 ment revolving loan fund; and

13 (B) efficient administration of State drink-
14 ing water treatment revolving loan funds.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
17 the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit
18 to Congress, and make available to States, a report
19 on the review conducted under paragraph (1), in-
20 cluding any recommendations.

21 (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
23 of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress
24 a report containing—

1 (1) the results of a study of cost-effective and
2 economically feasible rehabilitation or replacement of
3 drinking water infrastructure to meet the goals of
4 the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

5 (2) an assessment of barriers that preclude
6 communities from using materials and technologies
7 studied pursuant to paragraph (1).

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