

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5856

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a decentralized wastewater grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a decentralized wastewater grant program, 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 “Decentralized Waste-
5 water Grant Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Federal Water Pol-
8 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.) is amended
9 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 222. GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, OR RE-**
2 **PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD DE-**
3 **CENTRALIZED WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
4 **SYSTEMS.**

5 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘eligible
6 individual’ means a member of a household, the members
7 of which have a combined income (for the most recent 12-
8 month period for which information is available) equal to
9 not more than 50 percent of the median nonmetropolitan
10 household income for the State in which the household is
11 located, according to the most recent decennial census.

12 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall es-
13 tablish a program to provide a grant to a qualified non-
14 profit organization, as determined by the Administrator,
15 to provide a subgrant to an eligible individual—

16 “(1) for the construction, repair, or replacement
17 of an individual household decentralized wastewater
18 treatment system;

19 “(2) if the eligible individual resides in a house-
20 hold that could be cost-effectively connected to an
21 available publicly owned treatment works, for the
22 connection of the household of the eligible individual
23 to the publicly owned treatment works; or

24 “(3) for the installation of a larger decentral-
25 ized wastewater system designed to provide treat-

1 ment for 2 or more households in which eligible indi-
2 viduals reside, if—

3 “(A) site conditions at the households are
4 unsuitable for the installation of an individually
5 owned decentralized wastewater system;

6 “(B) multiple examples of unsuitable site
7 conditions exist in close geographic proximity to
8 each other; and

9 “(C) a larger decentralized wastewater sys-
10 tem could be cost-effectively installed.

11 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding subgrants under this
12 section, a qualified nonprofit organization that receives a
13 grant under this section shall give priority to—

14 “(1) an eligible individual who does not have
15 access to a functioning sanitary sewage disposal sys-
16 tem; and

17 “(2) a group of eligible individuals that do not
18 have access to a functioning sanitary sewage dis-
19 posal system.

20 “(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
21 under this section, a qualified nonprofit organization shall
22 submit to the Administrator an application at such time,
23 in such manner, and containing such information as the
24 Administrator may require.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
3 such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

4 (b) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN
5 FUNDS.—Section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution
6 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (10), by adding “and” at
9 the end;

10 (B) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking “;
11 and” at the end and inserting a period; and

12 (C) by striking paragraph (12); and

13 (2) by striking subsection (j).

14 (c) NO REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 4107 of
15 the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public
16 Law 115–270; 132 Stat. 3877) is amended by striking
17 subsection (b).

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