

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 755

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional assistance for public water systems damaged by Winter Storms Uri and Viola, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 2021

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional assistance for public water systems damaged by Winter Storms Uri and Viola, 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 “Emergency Water In-
5 frastructure Improvements Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 219(f)(167) of the Water Resources Develop-
4 ment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–580; 106 Stat. 4835;
5 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1263) is amended by striking
6 “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$47,000,000”.

7 **SEC. 3. SAFE DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
10 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
11 mental Protection Agency.

12 (2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term “eligible
13 State” means a State—

14 (A) for which the President has declared
15 not fewer than 5 major disasters under the
16 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
17 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);
18 and

19 (B) in which public water systems suffered
20 major damage, as determined by the Adminis-
21 trator, from Winter Storms Uri and Viola.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE SYSTEM.—The term “eligible sys-
23 tem” means a public water system that has been
24 subject to an emergency administrative order pursu-
25 ant to section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act
26 (42 U.S.C. 300i) during calendar year 2020.

1 (4) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term “public
2 water system” has the meaning given the term in
3 section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
4 U.S.C. 300f).

5 (b) STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ASSISTANCE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, an eligible system shall be—

8 (A) considered a disadvantaged community
9 for purposes of subsection (d) of section 1452
10 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
11 300j–12); and

12 (B) eligible to receive the additional sub-
13 subsidization described in paragraph (1) of that
14 subsection, including the forgiveness of prin-
15 cipal described in that paragraph.

16 (2) AUTHORIZATION.—An eligible State may
17 use funds made available under a capitalization
18 grant provided under subsection (c) to provide the
19 additional subsidization described in paragraph
20 (1)(B) to an eligible system within the eligible State
21 to address contaminants in drinking water, which
22 may include the repair and replacement of water dis-
23 tribution system components.

24 (c) DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS.—

1 (1) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to
2 the Administrator, out of any funds of the Treasury
3 not otherwise appropriated, \$150,000,000 to provide
4 additional capitalization grants to eligible States
5 pursuant to section 1452 of the Safe Drinking
6 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) for the purposes de-
7 scribed in subsection (b)(2), to remain available
8 until expended.

9 (2) INTENDED USE PLANS.—Not later than 30
10 days after the date on which an eligible State sub-
11 mits to the Administrator a revised intended use
12 plan under section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking
13 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)) that includes in-
14 formation with respect to projects described in sub-
15 section (b)(2) to be funded using amounts made
16 available in a capitalization grant pursuant to para-
17 graph (1), the Administrator shall make a capital-
18 ization grant to the eligible State in such amount as
19 is necessary to fund the projects described in the re-
20 vised intended use plan.

21 (3) REQUIREMENT.—Of the funds provided to
22 an eligible State in a capitalization grant made pur-
23 suant to paragraph (1), the eligible State may use
24 not more than 15 percent to provide assistance to an
25 eligible system for the purposes of purchasing and

1 installing new water meters and modernizing billing
2 systems.

3 (d) NONDUPLICATION OF WORK.—An activity car-
4 ried out using funds made available under this section
5 shall not duplicate or impede the work of any other Fed-
6 eral or State department or agency.

7 **SEC. 4. ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR**
8 **DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.**

9 Of the amounts made available under the heading
10 “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS”
11 under the heading “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINIS-
12 TRATION” under title II of division B of the CARES Act
13 (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 510), or for grants for
14 economic development assistance under the heading “ECO-
15 NOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS” under the
16 heading “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION”
17 under title I of division B of the Consolidated Appropria-
18 tions Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), that are unobli-
19 gated on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
20 of Commerce shall provide not less than \$25,000,000 to
21 eligible systems (as defined in section 3(a)) to address con-
22 taminants in drinking water.

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