

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3238

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to reauthorize certain grant programs providing assistance to colonias, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2021

Ms. ESCOBAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to reauthorize certain grant programs providing assistance to colonias, 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 “Colonia Infrastructure
5 Improvement Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.**

2 Section 1456 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
3 U.S.C. 300j-16) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
6 paragraph (3); and

7 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
8 following new paragraph:

9 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
10 tity’ means each of the following:

11 “(A) A border State.

12 “(B) A local government with jurisdiction
13 over an eligible community.”;

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “border
15 State” and inserting “covered entity”;

16 (3) by striking subsection (d);

17 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
18 section (d); and

19 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

20 (A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-
21 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

22 (B) by striking “1997 through 1999” and
23 inserting “2022 through 2026”.

24 **SEC. 3. WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.**

25 Section 307 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amend-
26 ments of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 1281 note) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
3 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
5 following:

6 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
7 tity’ means each of the following:

8 “(A) A border State.

9 “(B) A local government with jurisdiction
10 over an eligible community.”;

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “border
12 State” and inserting “covered entity”;

13 (3) by striking subsection (d);

14 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
15 section (d); and

16 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

17 (A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-
18 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

19 (B) by striking “1997 through 1999” and
20 inserting “2022 through 2026”.

21 **SEC. 4. COLONIAS STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANT PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation shall establish a program under which the Secretary
2 may award grants to assist projects that—

3 (1) facilitate the state of good repair of surface
4 infrastructure; and

5 (2) are carried out in, or for the benefit of, a
6 colonia.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award
8 a grant under this section to the following:

9 (1) A State.

10 (2) A metropolitan planning organization.

11 (3) A unit of local government.

12 (4) A Federal land management agency.

13 (5) A Tribal Government.

14 (c) COLONIA DEFINED.—In this section, the term
15 “colonia” means a low-income community with economic
16 hardship that—

17 (1) is commonly referred to as a colonia; and

18 (2) is located along the United States-Mexico
19 border (generally in an unincorporated area).

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.

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