

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3668

To require recipients of assistance for certain water infrastructure projects to provide job training, apprenticeships, and other employment opportunities for low-income persons and very low-income persons, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 require recipients of assistance for certain water infrastructure projects to provide job training, apprenticeships, and other employment opportunities for low-income persons and very low-income persons, 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 “Ensuring Water In-
5 vestments Benefit Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) Federal water infrastructure investments
4 provide State and local governments and other re-
5 cipients of Federal financial assistance with substan-
6 tial support for activities that produce significant
7 employment and other economic opportunities;

8 (2) low-income persons and very low-income
9 persons, who live in the areas in most need of such
10 investments, often have restricted access to employ-
11 ment and other economic opportunities;

12 (3) the employment and other economic oppor-
13 tunities generated by projects and activities that re-
14 ceive Federal water infrastructure investments offer
15 an effective means of empowering low-income per-
16 sons and very low-income persons, particularly those
17 who live in the areas where these funds are being
18 used to improve water infrastructure; and

19 (4) Federal efforts to invest in water infrastruc-
20 ture should also help create employment and other
21 economic opportunities for low-income persons and
22 very low-income persons in areas where these
23 projects are taking place.

1 **SEC. 3. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT WATER INFRA-**
2 **STRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Envi-
4 ronmental Protection Agency shall require a covered enti-
5 ty, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with ex-
6 isting Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, to
7 provide job training, apprenticeships, and other employ-
8 ment opportunities on a covered project for low-income
9 persons and very low-income persons in the area in which
10 the covered project is located, and to business concerns
11 that provide employment opportunities to low-income per-
12 sons and very low-income persons.

13 (b) PRIORITY.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
14 Administrator shall require a covered entity to provide job
15 training, apprenticeships, and other employment opportu-
16 nities in the following order of priority:

17 (1) To low-income persons and very low-income
18 persons residing within the service area of the cov-
19 ered project or the neighborhood in which the cov-
20 ered project is located.

21 (2) To low-income persons and very low-income
22 persons residing within the metropolitan area (or
23 nonmetropolitan county) in which the covered assist-
24 ance is expended.

25 (3) To residents of an area described in para-
26 graph (1) or (2) who are provided any assistance

1 under a means-tested program administered by a
2 Federal agency, including housing, supplemental nu-
3 trition, and temporary needy family assistance.

4 (4) To participants in YouthBuild programs
5 under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and
6 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3226) or the Job Corps
7 program under subtitle C of title I of such Act (29
8 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.).

9 (c) STATE PLANS AND REPORTS.—With respect to
10 a covered entity that is a State, the Administrator shall
11 require the State to—

12 (1) submit to the Administrator for approval a
13 plan for carrying out the requirements of this sec-
14 tion; and

15 (2) annually submit to the Administrator a re-
16 port containing data on job training, apprenticeship,
17 employment, and contract opportunities created in
18 the State pursuant to this section, including, for
19 each covered project carried out by the State or for
20 which covered assistance is provided by the State—

21 (A) how many jobs and other opportunities
22 were created to comply with this section;

23 (B) the total of amount of covered assist-
24 ance used on the covered project; and

1 (C) the amount of covered assistance used
2 to hire low-income persons and very low-income
3 persons to comply with this section.

4 (d) REGULATIONS.—

5 (1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
7 shall issue regulations to implement this section.

8 (2) APPLICATION DATE.—The regulations
9 issued under paragraph (1) shall apply to covered
10 assistance made available beginning in the first full
11 fiscal year following the date of enactment of this
12 Act.

13 (3) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—The Administrator
14 shall include in the regulations issued under para-
15 graph (1) a process by which affected persons or en-
16 tities may file a complaint alleging a violation of this
17 section.

18 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the
19 Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Labor,
20 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Sec-
21 retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
22 Development, the Secretary of Transportation, the Admin-
23 istrator of the Small Business Administration, and such
24 other Federal agencies as the Administrator determines
25 are necessary.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
3 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency.

5 (2) APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “apprentice-
6 ship” means an apprenticeship registered under the
7 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the
8 “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chap-
9 ter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

10 (3) BUSINESS CONCERN THAT PROVIDES ECO-
11 NOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.—The term “business con-
12 cern that provides economic opportunities” has the
13 meaning given such term in section 3 of the Housing
14 and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C.
15 1701u).

16 (4) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The term “covered
17 assistance” means financial assistance provided
18 under or pursuant to section 1452 of the Safe
19 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12), title VI of
20 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
21 1381 et seq.), or the Water Infrastructure Finance
22 and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et
23 seq.).

24 (5) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
25 tity” means—

1 (A) an entity that receives covered assist-
2 ance; and

3 (B) a contractor or subcontractor of such
4 entity with respect to a covered project.

5 (6) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
6 project” means a project for which an entity receives
7 covered assistance.

8 (7) LOW-INCOME PERSON; VERY LOW-INCOME
9 PERSON.—The terms “low-income person” and
10 “very low-income person” have the same meanings
11 given the terms “low-income families” and “very
12 low-income families”, respectively, in section 3(b) of
13 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
14 1437a(b)).

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