

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6622

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a grant program for improving operational sustainability by small public water systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2020

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a grant program for improving operational sustainability by small public water systems, 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 “Assuring Quality  
5 Water Infrastructure Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANCE FOR**  
2 **SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.**

3 Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 1459E. OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANCE**  
7 **FOR SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
10 tity’ means—

11 “(A) a unit of local government;

12 “(B) a public corporation established by a  
13 unit of local government to provide water serv-  
14 ice; or

15 “(C) a nonprofit corporation, public trust,  
16 or cooperative association that owns or operates  
17 a public water system.

18 “(2) OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.—The  
19 term ‘operational sustainability’ means concepts,  
20 tools, and techniques that are intended to improve  
21 the operation of a small system through the identi-  
22 fication and prevention of potable water loss due to  
23 leaks, breaks, and other metering or infrastructure  
24 failures.

25 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means  
26 the grant program established under subsection (b).

1           “(4) SMALL SYSTEM.—The term ‘small system’  
2 means a public water system that—

3           “(A) serves fewer than 10,000 people; and

4           “(B) is owned or operated by—

5           “(i) a unit of local government;

6           “(ii) a public corporation;

7           “(iii) a nonprofit corporation;

8           “(iv) a public trust; or

9           “(v) a cooperative association.

10          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall es-  
11 tablish a program to award grants to eligible entities for  
12 the purpose of improving operational sustainability for one  
13 or more small systems.

14          “(c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
15 under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
16 Administrator an application at such time, in such man-  
17 ner, and containing such information as the Administrator  
18 may require, including—

19           “(1) a proposal of the project to be carried out  
20 using grant funds under the program;

21           “(2) documentation prepared by the eligible en-  
22 tity describing the deficiencies in operational sus-  
23 tainability of one or more small systems that are to  
24 be addressed through the proposed project;

1           “(3) a description of how the proposed project  
2 will improve operational sustainability for one or  
3 more small systems;

4           “(4) a description of how the improvements de-  
5 scribed in paragraph (3) will be maintained beyond  
6 the life of the proposed project, including a plan to  
7 maintain and update any asset data collected as a  
8 result of the proposed project;

9           “(5) a copy of a written agreement between the  
10 eligible entity and the State within which the eligible  
11 entity is located in which the eligible entity agrees  
12 to provide a copy of any data collected under the  
13 proposed project to the State agency administering  
14 the State drinking water treatment revolving loan  
15 fund of the State established under section 1452, or  
16 a designee; and

17           “(6) any additional information the Adminis-  
18 trator may require.

19           “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
20 a grant under the program shall use the grant funds to  
21 carry out projects that improve operational sustainability  
22 for one or more small systems through—

23           “(1) the development of a detailed asset inven-  
24 tory, which may include drinking water sources,  
25 storage, valves, treatment systems, distribution lines,

1 hydrants, pumps, controls, and other essential infra-  
2 structure;

3 “(2) the development of an infrastructure asset  
4 map, including a map that uses technology such  
5 as—

6 “(A) geographic information system soft-  
7 ware; and

8 “(B) global positioning system software;

9 “(3) the deployment of leak detection tech-  
10 nology;

11 “(4) the deployment of metering technology;

12 “(5) training in asset management concepts,  
13 tools, and techniques of appropriate staff employed  
14 by—

15 “(A) the eligible entity; or

16 “(B) the small systems for which the grant  
17 was received; and

18 “(6) the development or deployment of other  
19 concepts, tools, or techniques that the Administrator  
20 may determine to be appropriate under the program.

21 “(e) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of a project  
22 carried out using a grant under the program shall not ex-  
23 ceed 75 percent of the total cost of the project.

1       “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

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