

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3015

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a low-income sewer and drinking water assistance pilot program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2018

Ms. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a low-income sewer and drinking water assistance pilot 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 “Water Affordability  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW-INCOME SEWER AND DRINKING WATER AS-**  
7 **SISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
9 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 124. LOW-INCOME SEWER AND DRINKING WATER AS-**  
 2 **SISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 5 tity’ means a municipality, or a public entity that  
 6 owns or operates a public water system (as defined  
 7 in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
 8 U.S.C. 300f)), that is affected by a consent decree  
 9 relating to compliance with this Act.

10 “(2) ENVIRONMENTALLY AT-RISK HOUSE-  
 11 HOLD.—The term ‘environmentally at-risk house-  
 12 hold’ means—

13 “(A) a household located within 5 miles of  
 14 an environmentally hazardous site, including  
 15 waste disposal, manufacturing, and energy pro-  
 16 duction facilities; and

17 “(B) as indicated by the EJScreen tool of  
 18 the Environmental Protection Agency, a house-  
 19 hold located in an area with—

20 “(i) a high minority population; and

21 “(ii) a high environmental indicator.

22 “(3) HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘household’  
 23 means any individual or group of individuals who  
 24 are living together as 1 economic unit.

25 “(4) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term  
 26 ‘low-income household’ means a household—

1           “(A) in which one or more individuals are  
2 receiving—

3           “(i) assistance under a State program  
4 funded under part A of title IV of the So-  
5 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

6           “(ii) supplemental security income  
7 payments under title XVI of the Social Se-  
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

9           “(iii) supplemental nutrition assist-  
10 ance program benefits under the Food and  
11 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et  
12 seq.); or

13           “(iv) payments under—

14           “(I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or  
15 1542 of title 38, United States Code;

16 or

17           “(II) section 306 of the Veterans’  
18 and Survivors’ Pension Improvement  
19 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;  
20 Public Law 95–588); or

21           “(B) that has an income that, as deter-  
22 mined by the State in which the household is lo-  
23 cated, does not exceed the greater of—

24           “(i) an amount equal to 150 percent  
25 of the poverty level for that State; and

1                   “(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of  
2                   the median income for that State.

3                   “(5) SANITATION SERVICES.—The term ‘sanita-  
4                   tion services’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
5                   tion 113(g).

6                   “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

7                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-  
8                   tablish a pilot program to provide grants to not less  
9                   than 10 eligible entities to assist low-income house-  
10                  holds and environmentally at-risk households in  
11                  maintaining access to sanitation services and drink-  
12                  ing water.

13                  “(2) LOWER INCOME LIMIT.—For purposes of  
14                  the pilot program under this section, an eligible enti-  
15                  ty may adopt an income limit that is lower than the  
16                  limit described in subsection (a)(4)(B), except that  
17                  the eligible entity may not exclude a household from  
18                  eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of  
19                  household income if that income is less than 110  
20                  percent of the poverty level for the State.

21                  “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22                  of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall sub-  
23                  mit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot pro-  
24                  gram under this section.”.

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