

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3445

To require the provision of alternative drinking water to households whose private drinking water is contaminated with perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid substances from activities of the Department of Defense.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the provision of alternative drinking water to households whose private drinking water is contaminated with perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid substances from activities of the Department of Defense.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE DRINKING**
2 **WATER TO HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE PRIVATE**
3 **DRINKING WATER IS CONTAMINATED WITH**
4 **PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONIC ACID AND**
5 **PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID SUBSTANCES**
6 **FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTIVI-**
7 **TIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c),
9 on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
10 Secretary of Defense shall offer alternative drinking water
11 to a household if—

12 (1) the household is downgradient from a mili-
13 tary installation;

14 (2) the household receives water from one or
15 more private drinking water wells where contamina-
16 tion from detections of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid
17 and perfluorooctanoic acid substances resulting sole-
18 ly from activities of the Department of Defense, as
19 determined by the Secretary, carried out at such
20 military installation has, at one point in time, ex-
21 ceeded the maximum contaminant level for such sub-
22 stances established by the Environmental Protection
23 Agency; and

24 (3) as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
25 another household located in the same community
26 was eligible for alternative drinking water provided

1 by the Secretary by reason of contamination from
2 detections of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and
3 perfluorooctanoic acid substances resulting from ac-
4 tivities of the Department carried out at the same
5 military installation.

6 (b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

7 The Secretary of Defense shall carry out this section in
8 a manner that is consistent with the Comprehensive Envi-
9 ronmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
10 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the authorities of the
11 Secretary under environmental law, including by
12 prioritizing and coordinating the efforts of the Secretary
13 under subsection (a) with other efforts to address releases
14 of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid.

15 (c) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary is not required to
16 offer or provide alternative drinking water to a household
17 under subsection (a) if—

18 (1) the household is part of a community, as
19 determined by the Secretary, where all the house-
20 holds in the community that have been affected by
21 contamination from detections of
22 perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic
23 acid substances resulting from activities of the De-
24 partment have been connected to a municipal drink-
25 ing water distribution system; or

(2) the Secretary has otherwise taken action under the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) to reduce drinking water exposures, including by meeting the relevant Federal or State drinking water standards for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid substances.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “alternative drinking water” includes—

(A) provision of bottled water;

(B) connection to public water systems for members of the public using private wells; and

(C) provision of filtration systems for private residences.

(2) The term “Federal drinking water standard” means an enforceable Federal standard for drinking water, as described in section 121(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621(d)(2)(A)(i)).

(3) The terms “maximum contaminant level” and “public water system” have the meanings given those terms in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f).

1 (4) The term “private drinking water well”
2 means a drinking water well that is not a public
3 water system and is not connected to a public water
4 system.

5 (5) The term “State drinking water standard”
6 means an enforceable State standard, in effect in
7 that State, for drinking water, as described in sec-
8 tion 121(d)(2)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environ-
9 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
10 of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621(d)(2)(A)(ii)).

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