

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1709

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

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

AN ACT

To provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 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 “Gulf Coast Emergency
5 Water Infrastructure Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STATE.**

2 In this Act, the term “State” means—

- 3 (1) the State of Alabama;
- 4 (2) the State of Louisiana; and
- 5 (3) the State of Mississippi.

6 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LOANS.**

7 (a) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT.**—In this

8 section, the term “eligible project” means a project—

9 (1) to repair, replace, or rebuild a publicly-

10 owned treatment works (as defined in section 212 of

11 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.

12 1292)), including a privately-owned utility that prin-

13 cipally treats municipal wastewater or domestic sew-

14 age, in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina or a

15 related condition; or

16 (2) that is a water quality project directly re-

17 lated to relief efforts in response to Hurricane

18 Katrina or a related condition, as determined by the

19 State in which the project is located.

20 (b) **ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2),

22 for the 2-year period beginning on the date of enact-

23 ment of this Act, a State may provide additional

24 subsidization to an eligible project that receives

25 funds through a revolving loan under section 603 of

1 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
2 1383), including—

3 (A) forgiveness of the principal of the re-
4 volving loan; or

5 (B) a zero-percent interest rate on the re-
6 volving loan.

7 (2) LIMITATION.—The amount of any addi-
8 tional subsidization provided under paragraph (1)
9 shall not exceed 30 percent of the amount of the
10 capitalization grant received by the State under sec-
11 tion 602 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
12 (33 U.S.C. 1382) for the fiscal year during which
13 the subsidization is provided.

14 (c) EXTENDED TERMS.—For the 2-year period be-
15 ginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may
16 extend the term of a revolving loan under section 603 of
17 that Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) for an eligible project described
18 in subsection (b), if the extended term—

19 (1) terminates not later than the date that is
20 30 years after the date of completion of the project
21 that is the subject of the loan; and

22 (2) does not exceed the expected design life of
23 the project.

24 (d) PRIORITY LISTS.—For the 2-year period begin-
25 ning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may

1 provide assistance to an eligible project that is not in-
2 cluded on the priority list of the State under section 216
3 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
4 1296).

5 **SEC. 4. PRIORITY LIST.**

6 For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enact-
7 ment of this Act, a State may provide assistance to a pub-
8 lic water system that is not included on the priority list
9 of the State under section 1452(b)(3)(B) of the Safe
10 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(3)(B)), if the
11 project—

12 (1) involves damage caused by Hurricane
13 Katrina or a related condition; and

14 (2) is in accordance with section 1452(b)(3)(A)
15 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(3)(A)).

16 **SEC. 5. TESTING OF PRIVATELY-OWNED DRINKING WATER**
17 **WELLS.**

18 On receipt of a request from a homeowner, the Ad-
19 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may
20 conduct a test of a drinking water well owned or operated

- 1 by the homeowner that is, or may be, contaminated as a
- 2 result of Hurricane Katrina or a related condition.

Passed the Senate September 27, 2005.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.