

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6154

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in drinking water,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Mr. MCNERNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in
drinking water, 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 “Reducing Lead in
5 Drinking Water Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.**

7 (a) DEFINITION OF LEAD SERVICE LINE.—Section
8 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
10 graph:

1 “(17) LEAD SERVICE LINE.—The term ‘lead
2 service line’ means a service line that is not lead free
3 (within the meaning of section 1417).”.

4 (b) REPLACING LEAD SERVICE LINES.—Section
5 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–
6 6) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) REPLACING LEAD SERVICE LINES.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
10 ble entity’ means—

11 “(i) an owner or operator of a public
12 water system;

13 “(ii) a qualified nonprofit organiza-
14 tion, as determined by the Administrator;
15 or

16 “(iii) a municipality or a State, inter-
17 state, or intermunicipal agency.

18 “(B) LEAD PIPE REPLACEMENT PRO-
19 GRAM.—The term ‘lead pipe replacement pro-
20 gram’ means a project or activity the primary
21 purpose of which is to eliminate lead in water
22 for human consumption by—

23 “(i) replacing lead service lines;

24 “(ii) testing, planning, or carrying out
25 other relevant activities, as determined by

1 the Administrator, to identify the location
2 and condition of lead service lines; or

3 “(iii) providing assistance to low-in-
4 come homeowners to replace privately
5 owned lead service lines.

6 “(C) LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNER.—The
7 term ‘low-income homeowner’ has such meaning
8 as may be given the term by the Governor of
9 the applicable State.

10 “(2) GRANT PROGRAM.—

11 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than
12 180 days after the date of enactment of this
13 subsection, the Administrator shall establish a
14 grant program to provide assistance to eligible
15 entities for lead pipe replacement programs.

16 “(B) EVALUATION.—In determining
17 whether to provide assistance to an eligible enti-
18 ty under this subsection, the Administrator
19 shall evaluate whether the eligible entity has—

20 “(i) a current inventory of lead service
21 lines in the applicable public water system;

22 “(ii) a plan to notify customers of
23 such public water system of the replace-
24 ment of any publicly owned portion of a
25 lead service line;

1 “(iii) a plan to replace the privately
2 owned portion of a lead service line at the
3 cost of replacement;

4 “(iv) a plan for a program of assist-
5 ance to low-income homeowners to replace
6 the privately owned portion of lead service
7 lines; or

8 “(v) a plan of recommended measures
9 to avoid exposure of the public to short-
10 term increases in lead levels following a
11 lead service line replacement.

12 “(C) PRIORITY APPLICATION.—In pro-
13 viding assistance under this subsection, the Ad-
14 ministrator shall give priority to an eligible en-
15 tity that—

16 “(i) will carry out a lead pipe replace-
17 ment program at a public water system
18 that has exceeded the lead action level es-
19 tablished by the Administrator at any time
20 during the 3-year period preceding the
21 date of submission of the application of the
22 eligible entity;

23 “(ii) will address lead levels in water
24 for human consumption at a school,
25 daycare, or other facility that primarily

1 serves children or subpopulations at great-
2 er risk as identified under section 1458(a);

3 “(iii) will include in the lead pipe re-
4 placement program a program to provide
5 assistance to low-income homeowners; or

6 “(iv) addresses such priority criteria
7 as the Administrator may establish, con-
8 sistent with the goal of reducing lead in
9 water for human consumption.

10 “(D) COST SHARING.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
12 (ii), the non-Federal share of the total cost
13 of a program funded by a grant provided
14 under this subsection shall be not less than
15 20 percent.

16 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator
17 may reduce or eliminate the non-Federal
18 share required under clause (i) for reasons
19 of affordability, as the Administrator de-
20 termines to be appropriate.

21 “(E) LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNER ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
24 (ii), an eligible entity may use a grant pro-
25 vided under this subsection to provide as-

1 sistance to low-income homeowners to re-
2 place privately owned lead service lines.

3 “(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount of as-
4 sistance provided to an individual low-in-
5 come homeowner under this subparagraph
6 shall not exceed \$10,000.

7 “(3) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
9 Administrator shall, in cooperation with States and
10 qualified nonprofit organizations, develop guidance
11 for owners and operators of public water systems to
12 assist such owners and operators in the preparation
13 of an inventory of lead service lines in their public
14 water system.

15 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this subsection \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2017 through 2021.”.

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