

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2674

To authorize the President to provide major disaster assistance for lead contamination of drinking water from public water systems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2016

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to provide major disaster assistance for lead contamination of drinking water from public water systems.

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 “Lead in Drinking
5 Water Disaster Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following—

8 (1) According to the American Water Works
9 Association, approximately 6,100,000 homes are
10 served by lead service lines.

1 (2) According to the most recent Environmental
2 Protection Agency Drinking Water Infrastructure
3 Needs Survey and Assessment, \$384,000,000,000 is
4 needed for drinking water infrastructure by 2030.

5 (3) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
6 trol—

7 (A) there is no safe level of lead in chil-
8 dren;

9 (B) children tend to show signs of severe
10 lead toxicity at lower levels than adults;

11 (C) lead can damage a developing baby's
12 nervous system and even low-level lead expo-
13 sures in developing babies have been found to
14 affect behavior and intelligence;

15 (D) lead exposure can cause miscarriage,
16 stillbirths, and infertility (in both men and
17 women); and

18 (E) people with prolonged exposure to lead
19 may also be at risk for high blood pressure,
20 heart disease, kidney disease, and reduced fer-
21 tility.

22 (4) In Flint, Michigan, homes were found to
23 have lead levels as high as 4,000 parts per billion,
24 nearly 267 times the Environmental Protection

1 Agency’s action level for lead in drinking water of
2 15 parts per billion.

3 (5) Numerous cities around the United States,
4 including Sebring, Ohio, Durham, North Carolina,
5 Greenville, North Carolina, and Jackson, Mis-
6 sissippi, have experienced elevated levels of lead in
7 drinking water.

8 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO USE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the definition of
10 “major disaster” under section 102 of the Robert T. Staf-
11 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
12 U.S.C. 5122), the President may, upon request of a Gov-
13 ernor of a State, declare a major disaster relating to lead
14 contamination of drinking water from a public water sys-
15 tem (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking
16 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)) .

17 (b) REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding subchapter II
18 of title 5, United States Code, and not later than 60 days
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
20 Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator of
21 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall pro-
22 mulgate regulations to carry out the authority described
23 in subsection (a).

24 (c) COORDINATION.—In the case of a major disaster
25 declared under subsection (a), the Federal coordinating of-

1 ficer appointed under section 302 of the Robert T. Staf-
2 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
3 U.S.C. 5143) shall ensure that the coordination of admin-
4 istration of relief required under such section 302(b) in-
5 cludes, at a minimum, coordination with—

6 (1) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
7 ices;

8 (2) the Army Corps of Engineers;

9 (3) the Environmental Protection Agency; and

10 (4) any other relevant agency.

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