

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6727

To establish an innovative water technology grant program and to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to encourage the use of emerging and innovative water technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. GALLEGOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, 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

A BILL

To establish an innovative water technology grant program and to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to encourage the use of emerging and innovative water technology, 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 Technology Ac-
5 celeration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
5 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
6 mental Protection Agency.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means—

9 (A) a publicly owned treatment works (as
10 defined in section 212 of the Federal Water
11 Pollution Control Act);

12 (B) a public water system (as defined in
13 section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act);

14 (C) a unit of local government, including a
15 joint powers authority;

16 (D) an institution of higher education or
17 other research institution;

18 (E) a State;

19 (F) an entity representing a regional,
20 multi-State collaboration among entities de-
21 scribed in this paragraph; or

22 (G) any other appropriate entity, including
23 a nonprofit organization, a farmer, or a manu-
24 facturer, as determined by the Administrator.

25 (b) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Adminis-
26 trator shall carry out a grant program for the purposes

1 described in subsection (c) to accelerate the development
2 of emerging or innovative water technologies that address
3 pressing water challenges.

4 (c) GRANTS.—

5 (1) TECHNOLOGIES.—In carrying out the pro-
6 gram under subsection (b), the Administrator shall
7 make grants to eligible entities to support emerging
8 or innovative technologies that, as determined by the
9 Administrator—

10 (A) improve the water quality of a drink-
11 ing water source;

12 (B) improve the security of a drinking
13 water delivery system and the safety of the
14 drinking water;

15 (C) minimize contamination of drinking
16 water and drinking water sources, including
17 contamination by lead, bacteria, chlorides, and
18 nitrates;

19 (D) improve the quality and timeliness and
20 decrease the cost of drinking water quality
21 tests, especially technologies that can be de-
22 ployed within drinking water delivery systems
23 and at individual faucets to provide accurate
24 real-time tests of water quality, especially with
25 respect to lead, bacteria, and nitrate content;

1 (E) increase water supplies in arid areas
2 that are experiencing, or have recently experi-
3 enced, prolonged drought conditions;

4 (F) treat edge-of-field runoff to improve
5 water quality;

6 (G) treat agricultural, municipal, and in-
7 dustrial wastewater;

8 (H) recycle or reuse water;

9 (I) manage urban storm water runoff;

10 (J) reduce sewer or stormwater overflows;

11 (K) help publicly owned treatment works,
12 public water systems, or large-scale water users
13 conserve water;

14 (L) improve water quality or water supply
15 by reducing salinity;

16 (M) mitigate air quality impacts associated
17 with declining water resources;

18 (N) address the disposal of byproducts of
19 water treatment, including brine; or

20 (O) address urgent water quality, and re-
21 lated human health, needs.

22 (2) USES.—An eligible entity may use a grant
23 made under this section to—

1 (A) finance projects to develop, deploy,
2 test, or improve emerging or innovative water
3 technologies described in paragraph (1); or

4 (B) provide technical assistance to deploy
5 emerging or innovative water technologies de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1) more broadly, espe-
7 cially—

8 (i) to increase adoption of such
9 emerging or innovative water technologies
10 in—

11 (I) municipal drinking water and
12 wastewater treatment systems;

13 (II) areas served by private wells;
14 or

15 (III) water supply systems in
16 arid areas that are experiencing, or
17 have recently experienced, prolonged
18 drought conditions; and

19 (ii) in a manner that reduces rate-
20 payer or community costs over time, in-
21 cluding the cost of future capital invest-
22 ments.

23 (d) PRIORITY FUNDING.—In making grants under
24 this section, the Administrator shall give priority to eligi-
25 ble entities for activities that—

1 (1) have the potential—

2 (A) to significantly improve human health
3 or the environment;

4 (B) to provide additional water supplies
5 with minimal environmental impact; or

6 (C) to provide substantial cost savings
7 across a sector; or

8 (2) are located in States that have prioritized
9 the use of State water pollution control and drinking
10 water revolving fund resources pursuant to the
11 amendments made by sections 3 and 4 of this Act
12 to support the deployment of emerging or innovative
13 water technologies described in subsection (c)(1).

14 (e) COST-SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost
15 of activities carried out using a grant under this section
16 shall be not more than 65 percent.

17 (f) LIMITATION.—The maximum amount of a grant
18 under this section shall be \$5,000,000.

19 (g) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
20 submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the
21 website of the Administrator, a report that describes any
22 advancements during the previous year in the development
23 of emerging or innovative water technologies made as a
24 result of funding provided under this section.

25 (h) FUNDING.—

1 (1) INITIAL FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the
 2 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary
 3 of the Treasury shall transfer to the Administrator
 4 to provide grants to eligible entities under this sec-
 5 tion \$10,000,000, to remain available until ex-
 6 pended.

7 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 8 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 9 this section \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year.

10 **SEC. 3. INNOVATION IN DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLV-**
 11 **ING LOAN FUNDS.**

12 Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
 13 U.S.C. 300j–12) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) by striking “Notwithstanding” and
 17 inserting the following:

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

19 and

20 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(B) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY.—

23 In the case of any additional subsidization pro-
 24 vided pursuant to subparagraph (A) to carry
 25 out a project to deploy an emerging or innova-

tive water technology described in section 2(c)(1) of the Water Technology Acceleration Act (including technologies to improve water treatment to ensure compliance with this title and technologies to identify and mitigate sources of drinking water contamination, including lead contamination), any provided forgiveness of principal may not exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the cost of the portion of the project associated with the emerging or innovative water technology.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “For each fiscal year” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY.—

For each fiscal year, of the loan subsidies made by a State pursuant to paragraph (1), not more than 20 percent may be used to provide additional subsidization described in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph.”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (3), in the first sentence,
2 by inserting “, or portion of a service area,”
3 after “service area”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(s) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
6 may provide technical assistance to facilitate and encour-
7 age the provision of financial assistance for the deploy-
8 ment of emerging or innovative water technologies de-
9 scribed in section 2(c)(1) of the Water Technology Accel-
10 eration Act.

11 “(t) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
12 of enactment of the Water Technology Acceleration Act,
13 and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the
14 Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that de-
15 scribes—

16 “(1) the amount of financial assistance pro-
17 vided by State loan funds to deploy emerging or in-
18 novative water technologies described in section
19 2(c)(1) of such Act;

20 “(2) the barriers preventing greater use of such
21 emerging or innovative water technologies; and

22 “(3) the cost-saving potential to cities and fu-
23 ture infrastructure investments from such emerging
24 or innovative water technologies.”.

1 **SEC. 4. INNOVATION IN STATE WATER POLLUTION CON-**
2 **TROL REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(i)(1)(B) of the Fed-
4 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
5 1383(i)(1)(B)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause
6 (i), by inserting “(including emerging or innovative water
7 technologies described in section 2(c)(1) of the Water
8 Technology Acceleration Act)” after “or technology”.

9 (b) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.—Section
10 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
11 U.S.C. 1383) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
14 may provide technical assistance to facilitate and encour-
15 age the provision of financial assistance for the deploy-
16 ment of emerging or innovative water technologies de-
17 scribed in section 2(c)(1) of the Water Technology Accel-
18 eration Act.

19 “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of enactment of the Water Technology Acceleration Act,
21 and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the
22 Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that de-
23 scribes—

24 “(1) the amount of financial assistance pro-
25 vided by State water pollution control revolving

1 funds to deploy emerging or innovative water tech-
2 nologies described in section 2(c)(1) of such Act;
3 “(2) the barriers preventing greater use of such
4 emerging or innovative water technologies; and
5 “(3) the cost-saving potential to cities and fu-
6 ture infrastructure investments from such emerging
7 or innovative water technologies.”.

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