

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3012

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 innovative water technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2018

Ms. BALDWIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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 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 public utility, including publicly
10 owned treatment works and clean water sys-
11 tems;

12 (B) a unit of local government, including a
13 municipality or a joint powers authority;

14 (C) a private entity, including a farmer or
15 manufacturer;

16 (D) an institution of higher education;

17 (E) a research institution or foundation;

18 (F) a State;

19 (G) a regional organization; or

20 (H) a nonprofit organization.

21 (b) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Adminis-
22 trator shall carry out a grant program for the purposes
23 described in subsection (c) to accelerate the development
24 of innovative water technologies that address pressing
25 water challenges.

1 (c) GRANTS.—In carrying out the program under
2 subsection (b), the Administrator shall make to eligible en-
3 tities grants that—

4 (1) finance projects to develop, deploy, test, and
5 improve emerging water technologies;

6 (2) fund entities that provide technical assist-
7 ance to deploy innovative water technologies more
8 broadly, especially—

9 (A) to increase adoption of innovative
10 water technologies in—

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

13 (ii) areas served by private wells; or

14 (iii) water supply systems in arid
15 areas that are experiencing, or have re-
16 cently experienced, prolonged drought con-
17 ditions; and

18 (B) in a manner that reduces ratepayer or
19 community costs over time, including the cost
20 of future capital investments; or

21 (3) support technologies that, as determined by
22 the Administrator—

23 (A) improve water quality of a water
24 source;

1 (B) improve the safety and security of a
2 drinking water delivery system;

3 (C) minimize contamination of drinking
4 water and drinking water sources, including
5 contamination by lead, bacteria, chlorides, and
6 nitrates;

7 (D) improve the quality and timeliness and
8 decrease the cost of drinking water quality
9 tests, especially technologies that can be de-
10 ployed within water systems and at individual
11 faucets to provide accurate real-time tests of
12 water quality, especially with respect to lead,
13 bacteria, and nitrate content;

14 (E) increase water supplies in arid areas
15 that are experiencing, or have recently experi-
16 enced, prolonged drought conditions;

17 (F) treat edge-of-field runoff to improve
18 water quality;

19 (G) treat agricultural, municipal, and in-
20 dustrial wastewater;

21 (H) recycle or reuse water;

22 (I) manage urban stormwater runoff;

23 (J) reduce sewer or stormwater overflows;

24 (K) conserve water;

1 (L) improve water quality by reducing sa-
2 linity;

3 (M) mitigate air quality impacts associated
4 with declining water resources;

5 (N) address treatment byproduct and brine
6 disposal alternatives; or

7 (O) address urgent water quality and
8 human health needs.

9 (d) PRIORITY FUNDING.—In making grants under
10 this section, the Administrator shall give priority to
11 projects that have the potential—

12 (1) to provide substantial cost savings across a
13 sector;

14 (2) to significantly improve human health or
15 the environment; or

16 (3) to provide additional water supplies with
17 minimal environmental impact.

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

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

23 (g) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
24 submit to Congress and make publicly available on the
25 website of the Administrator a report that describes any

1 advancements during the previous year in development of
 2 innovative water technologies made as a result of funding
 3 provided under this section.

4 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 6 \$50,000,000 for each fiscal year.

7 (i) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not
 8 otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury
 9 shall transfer to the Administrator to provide grants to
 10 eligible entities under this section \$10,000,000, to remain
 11 available until expended.

12 **SEC. 3. INNOVATION IN DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLV-**
 13 **ING LOAN FUNDS.**

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

16 (1) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) by striking the heading and inserting
 18 “ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—”;

19 (B) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) by striking “Notwithstanding” and
 21 inserting the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

23 and

24 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
 25 lowing:

“(B) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY.—

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a State that makes a loan under subsection (a)(2) to carry out an eligible activity through the use of an innovative water technology (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), the State may provide additional subsidization, including forgiveness of principal that is not more than 50 percent of the cost of the portion of the project associated with the innovative technology.”;

(C) 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, not more than 20 percent of the loan subsidies that may be made by a State under paragraph (1) may be used to pro-

1 vide additional subsidization under subpara-
2 graph (B) of that paragraph.”; and

3 (D) in paragraph (3), in the first sentence,
4 by inserting “, or portion of a service area,”
5 after “service area”; and

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

7 “(s) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
8 may provide technical assistance to facilitate and encour-
9 age the provision of financial assistance for the deploy-
10 ment of innovative water technologies.

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 innovative water
18 technologies;

19 “(2) the barriers impacting greater use of inno-
20 vative water technologies; and

21 “(3) the cost-saving potential to cities and fu-
22 ture infrastructure investments from emerging tech-
23 nologies.”.

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—

6 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;

7 (2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the
 8 end and inserting “; or”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(v) to encourage the use of innova-
 11 tive water technologies related to any of
 12 the issues identified in clauses (i) through
 13 (iv) or, as determined by the State, any
 14 other eligible project and activity eligible
 15 for assistance under subsection (c)”.

16 (b) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.—Section
 17 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
 18 U.S.C. 1383) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
 21 may provide technical assistance to facilitate and encour-
 22 age the provision of financial assistance for innovative
 23 water technologies.

24 “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 25 of enactment of the Water Technology Acceleration Act,
 26 and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the

1 Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that de-
2 scribes—

3 “(1) the amount of financial assistance pro-
4 vided by State water pollution control revolving
5 funds to deploy innovative water technologies;

6 “(2) the barriers impacting greater use of inno-
7 vative water technologies; and

8 “(3) the cost-saving potential to cities and fu-
9 ture infrastructure investments from emerging tech-
10 nologies.”.

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