

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2673

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative water technologies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2016

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

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative water technologies.

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 of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. INNOVATION IN CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING**
2 **FUNDS.**

3 (a) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.—Section
4 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
5 U.S.C. 1383) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”
8 at the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the
10 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(12) for the deployment of innovative water
13 technologies, including—

14 “(A) green technologies, including manu-
15 factured technology and natural systems, to ad-
16 dress nonpoint source pollution from agri-
17 culture;

18 “(B) resource recovery in water and waste-
19 water treatment systems, including—

20 “(i) energy conservation and produc-
21 tion;

22 “(ii) water reuse and recycling; and

23 “(iii) recovery of valuable materials,
24 such as nutrients from wastewater
25 streams; and

1 “(C) green infrastructure and other inno-
2 vative technologies, such as real-time system
3 monitoring and peak wet weather treatment
4 technology, to reduce sewer and storm water
5 overflows due to wet weather events in urban
6 areas.”; and

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

8 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
9 shall carry out technical assistance programs to facilitate
10 and encourage the provision of financial assistance for the
11 purposes described in subsection (c)(12).

12 “(k) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

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

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

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

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 607 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
24 U.S.C. 1387) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
 2 (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively,
 3 and indenting appropriately;

4 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
 5 (as so redesignated), by striking “There is” and in-
 6 serting the following:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are”; and

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

9 “(2) INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.—In
 10 addition to any other funds made available to carry
 11 out this title and notwithstanding any other provi-
 12 sion of this Act, there is authorized to be appro-
 13 priated to the Administrator to make additional al-
 14 lotments under this title to States to provide finan-
 15 cial assistance solely for purposes described in sec-
 16 tion 603(c)(12) \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year.”.

17 **SEC. 3. INNOVATION IN DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLV-**
 18 **ING FUNDS.**

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

21 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

22 (A) in the first sentence—

23 (i) by striking “only”; and

24 (ii) by striking “Except” and insert-
 25 ing the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except”;

2 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
3 “Financial” and inserting the following:

4 “(B) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Finan-
5 cial”;

6 (C) in the third sentence, by striking “The
7 funds” and inserting the following:

8 “(C) LOANS TO PUBLIC WATER SYS-
9 TEMS.—The funds”;

10 (D) in the fourth sentence, by striking
11 “The funds” and inserting the following:

12 “(D) INNOVATIVE WATER TECH-
13 NOLOGIES.—The funds may be used for the de-
14 ployment of innovative water technologies, in-
15 cluding technologies to improve water quality
16 and technologies to improve real-time water
17 quality information of water users.

18 “(E) LIMITATION.—The funds”; and

19 (E) in the fifth sentence, by striking “Of
20 the amount” and inserting the following:

21 “(F) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS SERVING
22 FEWER THAN 10,000 PERSONS.—Of the
23 amount”;

24 (2) in subsection (f)—

1 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) for the deployment of innovative water
7 technologies, including technologies to improve water
8 quality and technologies to improve real-time water
9 quality information of water users.”;

10 (3) by striking subsection (m) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
13 dition to any other funds made available to carry out this
14 section and notwithstanding any other provision of this
15 Act, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-
16 trator to make additional allotments under this section to
17 States to provide financial assistance solely for the deploy-
18 ment of innovative water technologies, including tech-
19 nologies to improve water quality and technologies to im-
20 prove real-time water quality information of water users,
21 \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year.”; and

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

23 “(s) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
24 shall carry out technical assistance programs to facilitate
25 and encourage the provision of financial assistance for the

1 deployment of innovative water technologies, including
 2 technologies to improve water quality and technologies to
 3 improve real-time water quality information of water
 4 users.

5 “(t) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
 6 submit to Congress a report that describes—

7 “(1) the amount of financial assistance pro-
 8 vided by State drinking water revolving funds to de-
 9 ploy innovative water technologies;

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

12 “(3) the cost-saving potential to cities and fu-
 13 ture infrastructure investments from emerging tech-
 14 nologies.”.

15 **SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY GRANT PRO-**
 16 **GRAM.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 19 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
 20 mental Protection Agency.

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

23 (A) a public utility, including publicly
 24 owned treatment works and clean water sys-
 25 tems;

- 1 (B) a municipality;
- 2 (C) a private entity, including a farmer or
- 3 manufacturer;
- 4 (D) an institution of higher education;
- 5 (E) a research institution or foundation;
- 6 (F) a State;
- 7 (G) a regional organization; or
- 8 (H) a nonprofit organization.

9 (b) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Adminis-
10 trator shall carry out a grant program for purposes de-
11 scribed in subsection (c) to accelerate the development of
12 innovative water technologies that address pressing water
13 challenges.

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

17 (1) finance projects that—

- 18 (A) are public-private partnerships; and
- 19 (B) deploy, test, and improve emerging
- 20 water technologies;

21 (2) fund entities that provide technical assist-
22 ance to deploy innovative water technologies more
23 broadly, especially—

- 24 (A) to increase adoption of innovative
- 25 water technologies in—

1 (i) municipal water and wastewater
2 treatment systems; or

3 (ii) areas served by private wells; and

4 (B) in a manner that reduces ratepayer or
5 community costs over time, including the cost
6 of future capital investments; or

7 (3) specifically target investments that, as de-
8 termined by the Administrator—

9 (A) improve water quality of a water
10 source;

11 (B) improve water quality through the im-
12 provement of the safety and security of a drink-
13 ing water delivery system;

14 (C) minimize contamination of drinking
15 water, including contamination by lead, bac-
16 teria, and nitrates;

17 (D) improve the quality and timeliness and
18 decrease the cost of drinking water tests, espe-
19 cially technologies that can be deployed within
20 water systems and at individual faucets to pro-
21 vide accurate real-time tests of water quality,
22 especially with respect to lead, bacteria, and ni-
23 trate content;

24 (E) treat edge-of-field runoff to improve
25 water quality;

1 (F) treat agricultural, municipal, and in-
2 dustrial wastewater;

3 (G) manage urban storm water runoff;

4 (H) conserve water; or

5 (I) address urgent water quality and
6 human health needs.

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

10 (1) to provide substantial cost savings across a
11 sector (such as municipal or agricultural waste
12 treatment); or

13 (2) to significantly improve human health or
14 the environment.

15 (e) COST-SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost
16 of activities carried out using a grant made under this sec-
17 tion shall be not more than 70 percent.

18 (f) LIMITATION.—The maximum amount of a grant
19 provided to a project under this section shall be
20 \$5,000,000.

21 (g) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
22 submit to Congress and make publicly available on the
23 website of the Administrator a report that describes any
24 advancements during the previous year in development of

1 innovative water technologies made as a result of funding
2 provided under this section.

3 (h) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
4 priated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each fis-
5 cal year.

