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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SORENSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance  
Program, 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 “Low-Income House-  
5       hold Water Assistance Program Establishment Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE**  
7               **PROGRAM.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

4           (2) HOUSEHOLD.—The term “household”  
5           means any individual or group of individuals who  
6           are living together as 1 economic unit.

7           (3) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term  
8           “low-income household” means a household—

9                   (A) in which 1 or more individuals are re-  
10           ceiving—

11                       (i) assistance under the State pro-  
12                       gram funded under part A of title IV of  
13                       the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et  
14                       seq.);

15                       (ii) supplemental security income pay-  
16                       ments under title XVI of the Social Secu-  
17                       rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

18                       (iii) supplemental nutrition assistance  
19                       program benefits under the Food and Nu-  
20                       trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et  
21                       seq.);

22                       (iv) payments under—

23                               (I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or  
24                               1542 of title 38, United States Code;

25                               or

1 (II) section 306 of the Veterans’  
2 and Survivors’ Pension Improvement  
3 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;  
4 Public Law 95–588); or

5 (v) assistance under the Low-Income  
6 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42  
7 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.); or

8 (B) that has a household income that, as  
9 determined by the State or Indian tribe, does  
10 not exceed the greater of—

11 (i) an amount equal to 150 percent of  
12 the poverty level;

13 (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of  
14 the State median income for that State or  
15 the State in which the Indian tribe is pri-  
16 marily located; or

17 (iii) an amount equal to 60 percent of  
18 the area median income for the area in  
19 which the household is located.

20 (4) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term “poverty  
21 level” means the poverty line determined pursuant  
22 to section 673 of the Community Services Block  
23 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

24 (5) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term “public  
25 water system” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 300f).

3 (6) QUALIFIED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—  
4 The term “qualified nonprofit organization” includes  
5 a nonprofit organization described in section  
6 680(a)(3)(B) of the Community Services Block  
7 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9921(a)(3)(B)).

8 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

10 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
11 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States  
13 Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Common-  
14 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

15 (9) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment  
16 works” has the meaning given the term in section  
17 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
18 U.S.C. 1292).

19 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
21 tion with the Administrator, shall establish the Low-  
22 Income Household Water Assistance Program to  
23 award grants, in accordance with paragraph (3), to  
24 eligible entities described in paragraph (2) to provide  
25 funds to owners and operators of public water sys-

1       tems or treatment works to assist low-income house-  
2       holds in paying arrearages and other rates charged  
3       to such households for drinking water or wastewater  
4       services.

5           (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity de-  
6       scribed in this paragraph is a State, or Indian tribe,  
7       that is eligible to receive or previously received a  
8       grant under the Low-Income Home Energy Assist-  
9       ance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.).

10          (3) FORMULA.—In awarding grants under this  
11       subsection to eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

12           (A) allot amounts made available for  
13       grants under this subsection to an eligible enti-  
14       ty that is a State or Indian tribe based on—

15           (i) the percentage of households in the  
16       State, or under the jurisdiction of the In-  
17       dian tribe, with income equal to or less  
18       than 150 percent of the poverty level; or

19           (ii) the percentage of households in  
20       the State, or under the jurisdiction of the  
21       Indian tribe, that spend more than 30 per-  
22       cent of monthly income on housing; and

23           (B) reserve up to 3 percent of amounts  
24       made available for grants under this subsection  
25       to eligible entities that are Indian tribes.

1 (c) RURAL, UNDERSERVED, AND INDIAN TRIBE AC-  
2 CESS GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants to  
3 qualified nonprofit organizations to assist owners or oper-  
4 ators of public water systems or treatment works, in rural  
5 or underserved areas or in the jurisdiction of an Indian  
6 tribe, in accessing funds through the Low-Income House-  
7 hold Water Assistance Program.

8 (d) APPLICATIONS.—Each eligible entity seeking a  
9 grant under subsection (b), and qualified nonprofit organi-  
10 zation seeking a grant under subsection (c), shall submit  
11 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
12 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary  
13 shall require.

14 (e) LIMITATIONS.—A recipient of a grant under sub-  
15 section (b) or (c)—

16 (1) shall not use the funds from the grant to  
17 supplant any other funds for any program that as-  
18 sists low-income households in maintaining access to  
19 affordable drinking water or wastewater services;  
20 and

21 (2) may use the funds from the grant to supple-  
22 ment or otherwise enhance any such program that  
23 satisfies the requirements under this section.

24 (f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBILITY RE-  
25 QUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide technical as-

1 sistance to the recipients of grants under this section for  
2 such recipients to establish data sharing agreements to  
3 streamline categorical eligibility requirements for low-in-  
4 come households.

5 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
6 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
7 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.