

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3238

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to reauthorize certain grant programs providing assistance to colonias, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ESCOBAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

## A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to reauthorize certain grant programs providing assistance to colonias, 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 “Colonia Infrastructure  
5 Improvement Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.**

2 Section 1456 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
3 U.S.C. 300j-16) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
6 paragraph (3); and

7 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
8 following new paragraph:

9 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-  
10 tity’ means each of the following:

11 “(A) A border State.

12 “(B) A local government with jurisdiction  
13 over an eligible community.”;

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “border  
15 State” and inserting “covered entity”;

16 (3) by striking subsection (d);

17 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
18 section (d); and

19 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

20 (A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-  
21 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

22 (B) by striking “1997 through 1999” and  
23 inserting “2022 through 2026”.

24 **SEC. 3. WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.**

25 Section 307 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amend-  
26 ments of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 1281 note) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and  
3 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
5 following:

6 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-  
7 tity’ means each of the following:

8 “(A) A border State.

9 “(B) A local government with jurisdiction  
10 over an eligible community.”;

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “border  
12 State” and inserting “covered entity”;

13 (3) by striking subsection (d);

14 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
15 section (d); and

16 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

17 (A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-  
18 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

19 (B) by striking “1997 through 1999” and  
20 inserting “2022 through 2026”.

21 **SEC. 4. COLONIAS STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANT PRO-**  
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation shall establish a program under which the Secretary  
2 may award grants to assist projects that—

3 (1) facilitate the state of good repair of surface  
4 infrastructure; and

5 (2) are carried out in, or for the benefit of, a  
6 colonia.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award  
8 a grant under this section to the following:

9 (1) A State.

10 (2) A metropolitan planning organization.

11 (3) A unit of local government.

12 (4) A Federal land management agency.

13 (5) A Tribal Government.

14 (c) COLONIA DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
15 “colonia” means a low-income community with economic  
16 hardship that—

17 (1) is commonly referred to as a colonia; and

18 (2) is located along the United States-Mexico  
19 border (generally in an unincorporated area).

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
22 \$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.