COMMITTEE PRINT

[Showing the text of H.R. 3291, as forwarded by the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INFRASTRUCTURE

Sec. 101. Drinking water system resilience funding.
Sec. 102. Grants for State programs.
Sec. 103. American iron and steel products.
Sec. 104. Allotments for territories.
Sec. 105. Drinking water SRF funding.
Sec. 106. Lead service line replacement.
Sec. 107. Drinking water assistance to colonias.
Sec. 108. PFAS treatment grants.
Sec. 109. Voluntary school and child care program lead testing grant program.
Sec. 110. Grant program for installation of filtration stations at schools and child care programs.
Sec. 111. Drinking water fountain replacement for schools.
Sec. 112. Indian reservation drinking water program.
Sec. 113. Assistance for areas affected by natural disasters.

TITLE II—SAFETY

Sec. 201. Enabling EPA to set standards for new drinking water contaminants.
Sec. 202. National primary drinking water regulations for PFAS.
Sec. 203. National primary drinking water regulations for microcystin toxin.
Sec. 204. National primary drinking water regulations for 1,4–dioxane.
Sec. 205. Elimination of small system variances.

TITLE III—AFFORDABILITY

Sec. 301. Emergency relief program.
TITLE I—INFRASTRUCTURE

SEC. 101. DRINKING WATER SYSTEM RESILIENCE FUNDING.

Section 1433(g) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300i–2(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and 2021” and inserting “through 2031”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “25,000,000” and inserting “50,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2020 and 2021” and inserting “2022 through 2031”.

SEC. 102. GRANTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS.

Section 1443(a)(7) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–2(a)(7)) is amended by striking “and 2021” and inserting “through 2031”.

SEC. 103. AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS.

Section 1452(a)(4)(A) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(a)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “During fiscal years 2019 through 2023, funds” and inserting “Funds”.

SEC. 104. ALLOTMENTS FOR TERRITORIES.

Section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(j)) is amended by striking “0.33 percent” and inserting “1.5 percent”.
SEC. 105. DRINKING WATER SRF FUNDING.

Section 1452(m)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(m)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2021.” and inserting “2021;” and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) $4,140,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

“(E) $4,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

and

“(F) $5,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2031.”.

SEC. 106. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(u) LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the capitalization grants to eligible States under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall offer to enter into agreements with States, Indian Tribes, and the territories described in subsection (j) to make grants, including letters of credit, to such States, Indian Tribes, and territories under this subsection to fund the replacement of lead service lines.

“(2) ALLOTMENTS.—
“(A) STATES.—Funds made available to carry out this subsection shall be—

“(i) allotted and reallocated to the extent practicable to States as if allotted or reallocated under subsection (a)(1) as a capitalization grant under such subsection; and

“(ii) deposited into the State loan fund of a State receiving such funds pursuant to an agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection.

“(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Administrator shall set aside 1 1⁄2 percent of the amounts made available each fiscal year to carry out this subsection to make grants to Indian Tribes.

“(C) OTHER AREAS.—Funds made available to carry out this subsection shall be allotted to territories described in subsection (j) in accordance with such subsection.

“(3) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, funds made available under this subsection shall be used only for providing grants for the replacement of lead service lines.

“(4) PRIORITY.—Each State that has entered into an agreement pursuant to this subsection shall
annually prepare a plan that identifies the intended uses of the amounts made available to such State under this subsection, and any such plan shall—

“(A) not be required to comply with subsection (b)(3); and

“(B) provide, to the maximum extent practicable, that priority for the use of funds be given to projects that replace lead service lines serving disadvantaged communities and environmental justice communities.

“(5) AMERICAN MADE IRON AND STEEL AND PREVAILING WAGES.—The requirements of paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) shall apply to any project carried out in whole or in part with funds made available under or pursuant to this subsection.

“(6) LIMITATION.—

“(A) PROHIBITION ON PARTIAL LINE REPLACEMENT.—No funds made available pursuant to this subsection may be used for partial lead service line replacement if, at the conclusion of the service line replacement, drinking water is delivered through a publicly or privately owned portion of a lead service line.
“(B) NO PRIVATE OWNER CONTRIBUTION.—Any recipient of funds made available pursuant to this subsection for lead service line replacement shall offer to replace any privately owned portion of the applicable lead service line at no cost to the private owner.

“(7) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE.—All funds made available pursuant to this subsection to fund the replacement of lead service lines may be used to replace lead service lines serving disadvantaged communities.

“(8) STATE CONTRIBUTION NOT REQUIRED.—No agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that a State deposit, at any time, in the applicable State loan fund from State moneys any contribution in order to receive funds under this subsection.

“(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $4,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

“(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—To the extent amounts authorized to be appropriated
under this subsection in any fiscal year are not appropriated in that fiscal year, such amounts are authorized to be appropriated in a subsequent fiscal year. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

“(10) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term ‘disadvantaged community’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (d)(3).

“(B) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘environmental justice community’ means any population of color, community of color, indigenous community, or low-income community that experiences a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.

“(C) LEAD SERVICE LINE.—The term ‘lead service line’ means a pipe and its fittings, which are not lead free (as defined in section 1417(d)), that connect the drinking water main to the building inlet.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1452(m)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
300j–12(m)(1)) is amended by striking “(a)(2)(G) and (t)” and inserting “(a)(2)(G), (t), and (u)”.

SEC. 107. DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

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

“(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means each of the following:

“(A) A border State.

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

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

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “shall not exceed 50 percent” and inserting “may not be less than 80 percent”; and

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “$25,000,000” and inserting “$100,000,000”; and

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


SEC. 108. PFAS TREATMENT GRANTS.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1459E. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS AFFECTED BY PFAS.

“(a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program to award grants to affected community water systems to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies.

“(b) Applications.—

“(1) Guidance.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish guidance describing the form and timing for community water systems to apply for grants under this section.

“(2) Required Information.—The Administrator shall require a community water system applying for a grant under this section to submit—

“(A) information showing the presence of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance in water of the community water system; and

“(B) a certification that the treatment technology in use by the community water sys-
tem at the time of application is not sufficient
to remove all detectable amounts of
perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(c) LIST OF ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES.—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall publish a list of treatment technologies that the Administrator determines are effective at removing all detectable amounts of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from drinking water.

“(d) PRIORITY FOR FUNDING.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall prioritize affected community water systems that—

“(1) serve a disadvantaged community;
“(2) will provide at least a 10-percent cost share for the cost of implementing an eligible treatment technology; or
“(3) demonstrate the capacity to maintain the eligible treatment technology to be implemented using the grant.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2031.
“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1), $25,000,000 are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for grants under subsection (a) to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies during the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on the date of enactment of this section.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AFFECTED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM.—The term ‘affected community water system’ means a community water system that is affected by the presence of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance in the water in the community water system.

“(2) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term ‘disadvantaged community’ has the meaning given that term in section 1452.

“(3) ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘eligible treatment technology’ means a treatment technology included on the list published under subsection (c).”
SEC. 109. VOLUNTARY SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM

LEAD TESTING GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 1464(d)(8) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24(d)(8)) is amended by striking “and 2021” and inserting “through 2031”.

SEC. 110. GRANT PROGRAM FOR INSTALLATION OF FILTRATION STATIONS AT SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

Section 1464 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) GRANT PROGRAM FOR INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FILTRATION STATIONS.—

“(1) Program.—The Administrator shall establish a program to make grants to States to assist local educational agencies in voluntary installation and maintenance of filtration stations at schools and child care programs under the jurisdiction of the local educational agencies.

“(2) Direct grants to local educational agencies.—The Administrator may make a grant described in paragraph (1) directly available to—

“(A) any local educational agency described in clause (i) or (iii) of subsection (d)(1)(B) located in a State that does not par-
participate in the program established under para-
graph (1); or

“(B) any local educational agency de-
scribed in clause (ii) of subsection (d)(1)(B).

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under the
program established under this subsection may be
used to pay the costs of—

“(A) installation and maintenance of filtra-
tion stations at schools and child care pro-
grams; and

“(B) annual testing of drinking water at
such schools and child care programs following
the installation of filtration stations.

“(4) PRIORITY.—In making grants under the
program established under this subsection, the Ad-
ministrator shall give priority to States and local
educational agencies that will assist in voluntary in-
stallation and maintenance of filtration stations at
schools and child care programs that are in low-in-
come areas.

“(5) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
Administrator shall establish guidance to carry out
the program established under this subsection.
“(6) NO PRIOR TESTING REQUIRED.—The program established under this subsection shall not require testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs prior to participation in such program.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) CHILD CARE PROGRAM AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms ‘child care program’ and ‘local educational agency’ have the meaning given such terms in subsection (d).

“(B) FILTRATION STATION.—The term ‘filtration station’ means an apparatus that—

“(i) is connected to building plumbing;

“(ii) is certified to the latest version of NSF/ANSI 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI 42 for particulate reduction (Class I) by a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board;

“(iii) has an indicator to show filter performance;

“(iv) can fill bottles or containers for water consumption; and
“(v) allows users to drink directly
from a stream of flowing water.

“(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
this subsection $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
2022 through 2031.”.

SEC. 111. DRINKING WATER FOUNTAIN REPLACEMENT FOR
SCHOOLS.

Section 1465(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
U.S.C. 300j–25(d)) is amended by striking “2021” and
inserting “2031”.

SEC. 112. INDIAN RESERVATION DRINKING WATER PRO-
GRAM.

Section 2001(d) of America’s Water Infrastructure
Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270) is amended by striking
“2022” and inserting “2031”.

SEC. 113. ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY NATURAL
DISASTERS.

Section 2020 of America’s Water Infrastructure Act
of 2018 (Public Law 115–270) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subsection
(e)(1)” and inserting “subsection (f)(1)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;
(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) ASSISTANCE FOR TERRITORIES.—The Administrator may use funds made available under subsection (f)(1) to make grants to Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands for the purposes of providing assistance to eligible systems to restore or increase compliance with national primary drinking water regulations.”; and

(4) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) in the heading, by striking “STATE REVOLVING FUND CAPITALIZATION”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and to make grants under subsection (c) of this section,” before “to be available”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or subsection (c), as applicable” after “subsection (b)(1)”.

TITLE II—SAFETY

SEC. 201. ENABLING EPA TO SET STANDARDS FOR NEW DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(6)) is repealed.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(C)(i)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (5) or (6)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (5)”; and

(B) by striking “paragraphs (4), (5), and (6)” and inserting “paragraphs (4) and (5)”;

and

(2) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “paragraphs (5) and (6)” and inserting “paragraph (5)”.

SEC. 202. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS FOR PFAS.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for public comment, promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances,
which shall, at a minimum, include standards
for—

“(i) perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly
referred to as ‘PFOA’); and

“(ii) perfluorooctane sulfonic acid
(commonly referred to as ‘PFOS’).

“(B) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
year after the validation by the Adminis-
trator of an equally effective quality con-
trol and testing procedure to ensure com-
pliance with the national primary drinking
water regulation promulgated under sub-
paragraph (A) to measure the levels de-
scribed in clause (ii) or other methods to
detect and monitor perfluoroalkyl and
polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking
water, the Administrator shall add the pro-
cedure or method as an alternative to the
quality control and testing procedure de-
scribed in such national primary drinking
water regulation by publishing the proce-
dure or method in the Federal Register in
accordance with section 1401(1)(D).
“(ii) LEVELS DESCRIBED.—The levels referred to in clause (i) are—

“(I) the level of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

“(II) the total levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(III) the total levels of organic fluorine.

“(C) INCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances on—

“(i) the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i), in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(ii) the list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored under section 1445(a)(2)(B)(i), in accordance with such section.

“(D) MONITORING.—When establishing monitoring requirements for public water systems as part of a national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) or
subparagraph (G)(ii), the Administrator shall tailor the monitoring requirements for public water systems that do not detect or are reliably and consistently below the maximum contaminant level (as defined in section 1418(b)(2)(B)) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances subject to the national primary drinking water regulation.

“(E) HEALTH PROTECTION.—The national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be protective of the health of subpopulations at greater risk, as described in section 1458.

“(F) HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND COST ANALYSIS.—In meeting the requirements of paragraph (3)(C), the Administrator may rely on information available to the Administrator with respect to one or more specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to extrapolate reasoned conclusions regarding the health risks and effects of a class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances of which the specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances are a part.
“(G) Regulation of additional substances.—

“(i) Determination.—The Administrator shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A), using the criteria described in clauses (i) through (iii) of that paragraph, whether to include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in the national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) not later than 18 months after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is listed on the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

“(II) the date on which—

“(aa) the Administrator has received the results of monitoring under section 1445(a)(2)(B) for the perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substance or class
of perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substances; or

“(bb) the Administrator has
received reliable water data or
water monitoring surveys for the
perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
substance or class of
perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
substances from a Federal or
State agency that the Adminis-
trator determines to be of a qual-
ity sufficient to make a deter-
mination under paragraph
(1)(A).

“(ii) PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REG-
ULATIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For each
perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substances that the
Administrator determines to regulate
under clause (i), the Administrator—

“(aa) not later than 18
months after the date on which
the Administrator makes the determination, shall propose a national primary drinking water regulation for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(bb) may publish the proposed national primary drinking water regulation described in item (aa) concurrently with the publication of the determination to regulate the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(II) DEADLINE.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator publishes a proposed national primary drinking water regulation under clause (i)(I) and subject to item (bb), the Administrator shall take final action on the pro-
posed national primary drinking water regulation.

“(bb) **Extension.**—The Administrator, on publication of notice in the Federal Register, may extend the deadline under item (aa) by not more than 6 months.

“(H) **Health Advisory.**—

“(i) **In General.**—Subject to clause (ii), the Administrator shall publish a health advisory under paragraph (1)(F) for a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances not subject to a national primary drinking water regulation not later than 1 year after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the Administrator finalizes a toxicity value for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(II) the date on which the Administrator validates an effective qual-
ity control and testing procedure for
the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator
may waive the requirements of clause (i)
with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of
perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
stances if the Administrator determines
that there is a substantial likelihood that
the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
polyfluoroalkyl substances will not occur in
drinking water with sufficient frequency to
justify the publication of a health advisory,
and publishes such determination, includ-
ing the information and analysis used, and
basis for, such determination, in the Fed-
eral Register.”.

SEC. 203. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-
TIONS FOR MICROCYSTIN TOXIN.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is further amended by adding at the
end the following:
“(17) MICROCYSTIN TOXIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other deadline established in this subsection, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021, the Administrator shall publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for microcystin toxin.

“(B) HEALTH PROTECTION.—The maximum contaminant level goal and national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be protective of the health of subpopulations at greater risk, as described in section 1458.”.

SEC. 204. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS FOR 1,4-DIOXANE.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(18) 1,4–DIOXANE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other deadline established in this subsection, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Assistance, Quality, and Afford-
ability Act of 2021, the Administrator shall publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for 1,4–dioxane.

“(B) HEALTH PROTECTION.—The maximum contaminant level goal and national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be protective of the health of subpopulations at greater risk, as described in section 1458.”

SEC. 205. ELIMINATION OF SMALL SYSTEM VARIANCES.

(a) SMALL SYSTEM VARIANCES.—Section 1415 (42 U.S.C. 300g–4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1412(b)(15) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(15)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) Section 1414(c)(1)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “, (a)(2), or (e)” and inserting “or (a)(2)”.

(3) Section 1416(b)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–5(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).
(4) Section 1445(h) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–4(h)) is amended—

(A) by striking “sections 1412(b)(4)(E) and 1415(e) (relating to small system variance program)” and inserting “section 1412(b)(4)(E)”;

and

(B) by striking “guidance under sections 1412(b)(4)(E) and 1415(e)” and inserting “guidance under section 1412(b)(4)(E)”.

TITLE III—AFFORDABILITY

SEC. 301. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.

Part F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1466. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.

“(a) EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a residential emergency relief program to provide payments to public water systems to reimburse such public water systems for providing forgiveness of arrearages and fees incurred by eligible residential customers before the date of enactment of this section to help such eligible residential customers retain water service.

“(b) CONDITIONS.—To receive funds under this section, a public water system shall agree to—
“(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), use such funds to forgive all arrearages and fees relating to nonpayment or arrearages incurred by eligible residential customers before the date of enactment of this section;

“(2) if forgiveness of all arrearages and fees described in paragraph (1) is not possible given the amount of funds received, use such funds to reduce such arrearages and fees for each eligible residential customer by, to the extent practicable, a consistent percentage;

“(3) take no action that negatively affects the credit score of an eligible residential customer, or pursue any type of collection action against such eligible residential customer, during the 5-year period that begins on the date on which the public water system receives such funds; and

“(4) not disconnect or interrupt the service of any eligible residential customer as a result of non-payment or arrearages during such 5-year period.

“(c) ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS.—To be eligible for forgiveness or reduction of arrearages and fees pursuant to the program established under subsection (a), a residential customer of a public water system shall have accrued new arrearages on or after March 1, 2020.
“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may authorize—

“(1) States to implement the program established under subsection (a); and

“(2) a State implementing such program to use up to 4 percent of funds made available to carry out such program in such State for administrative expenses.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.