



May 2019

Summary of the Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's (LIFT) America Act

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

TITLE I—BROADBAND AND NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A. Broadband Internet Access Service Programs

This subtitle would fund **\$40 billion in high-speed broadband internet buildout across the country**. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates indicate that \$40 billion in funding is necessary to complete broadband internet service deployment so that 98 percent of the country has access to high-speed, reliable broadband.

Three-fourths of the funds would be awarded by the FCC through a national reverse auction, a mechanism that ensures efficient distribution of the funds to areas that don't have broadband internet service today. By using a reverse auction, the LIFT America Act would deploy high-speed broadband internet service to the largest portion of America at the lowest cost by requiring bidders seeking federal subsidies to compete to serve areas that aren't served today.

The FCC would be required to allocate to states the remaining one-fourth of the funds under Title I, which authorizes the FCC to conduct similar reverse auctions to build out broadband internet infrastructure in unserved areas, or to unserved anchor institutions such as schools or libraries. If a state doesn't have any unserved areas, the state may conduct a reverse auction to build out to underserved areas.

Subtitle B. Next Generation 9-1-1

This subtitle would authorize the Next Generation 9-1-1 Implementation Coordination Office to provide **\$12 billion in grants over five years for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 services**. Next Generation 9-1-1 service would protect American lives by making 9-1-1 service more resilient and by allowing callers to send text messages, images, or videos to 9-1-1 to help first responders better assess the nature of emergencies and protect callers when they can't speak to 9-1-1 dispatchers.

Subtitle C. Broadband Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

This subtitle would create the Broadband Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (BIFIA) program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. This title would authorize **\$5 billion in federal funding for the BIFIA program to make low-interest financing available for broadband infrastructure deployment projects**.

BIFIA is modeled after two similarly authorized infrastructure programs, which were created under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA), respectively. Under the BIFIA program, a wide range of eligible entities, including State and local governments, private companies, and public-private partnerships that could apply for secured loans, lines of credit, or loan guarantees to finance broadband infrastructure build out projects.

Title II—Drinking Water Infrastructure

Subtitle A. Providing Financial Assistance for Safe Drinking Water Act

This subtitle would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator to establish, within 180 days of enactment, a program to award grants to water systems affected by contamination from per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to pay the capital costs associated with eligible treatment technologies. These grants would provide up to **\$2.5 billion over five years to affected water systems to combat PFAS contamination**. The legislation further directs the EPA Administrator to create a list of eligible treatment technologies, defined as those which can remove all detectable amounts of PFAS from drinking water.

Subtitle B. Additional Drinking Water Funding

The LIFT America Act includes provisions to extend and increase authorizations of **\$18.69 billion for essential drinking water programs** including the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program, School and Child Care Program Lead Testing grants, Lead Drinking Fountain Replacement, Community Water System Risk and Resilience grants, and Public Water System Supervision grants to states. This subtitle also extends Buy American requirements for drinking water projects along with the funding extension.

Title III—Clean Energy Infrastructure

Subtitle A. Grid Security and Modernization

This subtitle provides **\$4 billion over five years for electric grid infrastructure, focused on grid modernization, security, resiliency, and efficiency**. Funds will support infrastructure improvements to enhance energy security, deployment of smart grid technology, and efficiency upgrades. This subtitle includes funding to establish a strategic transformer reserve, to speed electric grid recovery following extreme weather events. It also includes a study on needs and challenges to expanding interregional transmission.

Subtitle B. Energy Efficiency Infrastructure

This subtitle includes several programs to cut energy usage, benefit consumers, and address climate change. The subtitle provides **\$1.85 billion over five years for home and school energy efficiency retrofits**. These retrofits will save consumers and school systems money and remove dangerous lighting containing PCBs from school environments.

This subtitle reauthorizes the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act, providing \$1.25 billion over five years to reduce emissions from older vehicles including school buses.

The subtitle also provides **\$1.75 billion over five years in weatherization grants and programs to promote smart buildings and \$15 million for a pilot program to promote energy efficient water distribution systems**.

This subtitle provides grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes to support their efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions and conserve energy. The bill **reauthorizes the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to provide \$17.5 billion**, including funding to deploy infrastructure for delivering alternative fuels (including electricity). And, it provides **\$500 million to support improvements to energy performance of public buildings**.

Subtitle C. Energy Supply Infrastructure

This subtitle will strengthen existing energy supply infrastructure and expand renewable energy infrastructure to increase climate resiliency and reduce greenhouse gases. To strengthen existing infrastructure, the subtitle provides **\$1.5 billion in assistance for low income communities to support methane pipeline replacement**. It also provides **\$4 billion for improvements to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to make it environmentally sound**. The subtitle also establishes Northeast and Southeast refined product reserves and provides the Secretary authority to establish other regional reserves to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events on fuel supplies.

To expand renewable energy infrastructure, the subtitle provides **\$2.25 billion over five years to create new grant programs for distributed energy systems and solar installations in low income and underserved communities**.

The subtitle also increases the authorization for the Office of Indian Energy Programs at the Department of Energy to provide additional assistance to ensure reliable, affordable power for Indian communities.

Subtitle D. Smart Communities Infrastructure

This subtitle provides **\$850 million over five years to spur the development of Smart Communities infrastructure** through technical assistance, grants, and training. This section authorizes the Department of Energy's proposed Cities, Counties, and Communities energy program to provide technical assistance and competitive grants for clean energy solutions in development and redevelopment efforts. It also funds technical assistance to be provided by the national labs to cities and towns looking to deploy smart community infrastructure. Lastly, this subtitle expands the Department of Commerce smart cities demonstration project to include small and medium cities and towns.

The subtitle also authorizes the **Clean Cities Coalition Network Program with \$300 million over five years** which supports expanded development of alternative fuel infrastructure and expanded use of alternative fuel vehicles.

The subtitle also provides **\$625 million over five years to reauthorize the State Energy Program and provides additional funds through this program to support the development of an electric vehicle charging network to facilitate greater use of electricity to fuel the transportation sector**.

The subtitle also includes policy changes to accelerate electrification of the transportation sector. It reauthorizes **\$925 million over five years to provide grants to state and local governments to support projects that encourage the use of electric vehicles**.

Title IV—Health Care Infrastructure

Subtitle A. Hospital Infrastructure

The LIFT America Act reauthorizes the Hill-Burton Act to provide **\$2 billion over five years for hospital infrastructure**. The reauthorization will expand access to care nationwide and promote security by design for hospital networks, records databases, and interconnected devices. The reauthorization will also ensure the use of American iron and steel in funded projects.

Subtitle B. Indian Health Service Healthcare Infrastructure

This subtitle provides **\$1 billion over five years for healthcare infrastructure projects** through the Indian Health Service to continue progress in reducing health disparities across Indian Country.

Subtitle C. Laboratory Infrastructure

This subtitle creates a **pilot program and provides \$100 million to support laboratory infrastructure**, including state laboratories involved in combating the spread of infectious diseases.

Subtitle D. Infrastructure for Community Based Care

This subtitle creates a **pilot program and provides \$100 million to fund infrastructure development for community-based care**, including teaching health centers and mental health care centers.

Subtitle E. Public Health Infrastructure

This subtitle enhances and modernizes the Center for Disease Control and Protection's (CDC) ability to coordinate with state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments. This includes **\$500 million over five years to improve the capabilities of CDC and public health departments relating to information technology, data, and data systems, as well as an additional \$3.75 billion over five years to improve core public health infrastructure at CDC and public health departments.** Core public health infrastructure includes workforce capacity and competency, laboratory systems, health information systems, communications, financing, and other relevant components.

Title V—Brownfields Redevelopment

This title provides **\$2.7 billion over five years for EPA's Brownfields redevelopment grants.**