

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7258

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides access to potable water for individuals during a public health emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides access to potable water for individuals during a public health emergency.

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 for Public
5 Health Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO WATER.**

2 The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
3 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended:

4 (1) in section 403 by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(e) ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN A PUB-
7 LIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
9 graph (2), during an emergency period (as defined
10 in section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
11 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1))), the President, acting
12 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
13 gency Management Agency, may—

14 “(A) through the use of Federal depart-
15 ments, agencies, and instrumentalities provide
16 every individual access to potable water and
17 basic sanitation; and

18 “(B) make grants to States, local govern-
19 ments, Indian tribal governments, and owners
20 or operators of private nonprofit facilities to as-
21 sist in carrying out subparagraph (A), which
22 may include—

23 “(i) installation of mobile water sta-
24 tions;

25 “(ii) installation of handwashing fa-
26 cilities;

1 “(iii) distribution or delivery of emer-
2 gency bottled water and personal and home
3 sanitization products;

4 “(iv) reconnection of water utility
5 service, regardless of when such service
6 was discontinued or for what reason; and

7 “(v) moratorium on water utility shut-
8 offs.

9 “(2) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CON-
10 TRACTS OR REIMBURSEMENT.—The Administrator
11 shall also provide reimbursement to a State, local
12 government, or Indian tribal government that pro-
13 vided services described in paragraph (1) during the
14 emergency period.”; and

15 (2) in section 502 by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(d) ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN A PUB-
18 LIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (2), during an emergency period (as defined
21 in section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
22 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1))), the President, acting
23 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
24 gency Management Agency may—

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4 basic sanitation; and

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16 sanitization products;

17 “(iv) reconnection of water utility
18 service, regardless of when such service
19 was discontinued or for what reason; and

20 “(v) moratorium on water utility shut-
21 offs.

22 “(2) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CON-
23 TRACTS OR REIMBURSEMENT.—The Administrator
24 shall also provide reimbursement to a State, local
25 government, or Indian tribal government that pro-

- 1 vided services described in paragraph (1) during the
- 2 emergency period.”.

