



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9, 2020

Be it enacted by the Congress of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

A BILL

To streamline resources to allow for quick relief during the current drought affecting the Midwest

Proposed By: Majority Leader Kyouko Chan (D-NY-5) (for the Halpert Administration,)

Co-Sponsored By: Rep. John Darby (D-NY-5), GOP Leader James (R-GA-2)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as the “Streamlining Resources for Drought Relief Act of 2020”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS AND FINDINGS.

- (a) STATES.— Refers to the state(s) affected by the ongoing drought, as proclaimed by Executive Order 76 of October 6th, 2020, which may be further determined by the President of the United States.
- (b) PROJECT.— Any project directly related to the drought crisis, for additional water supplies, regarding any water systems, programs, and otherwise described by the relevant offices of approval for such programs.
- (c) WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.— Refers to the Water Assistance Program or WaterSMART program administrated by the Department of the Interior.
- (d) Congress finds that—

- (i) a state of major disaster has been proclaimed regarding the drought, following Executive Order 76 of October 6th, 2020
- (ii) although response typically lies in the hands of state and local governments, and rather, the federal government providing relief, the federal government can streamline and prioritize resources for efforts of fighting the drought

SECTION 3. ACCELERATING PROCEDURES.

- (a) **IN GENERAL.**— To the extent of federal law and power, we must prioritize resources and initiate rapid, emergency operation as requested by local and state governments
- (b) **PRIORITIZATION.**—
 - (i) **REVIEW OF PROJECT.**— Upon request for review of a project regarding emergency water projects amongst states affected, Secretaries and Heads of Federal agencies shall use expedited procedures on the projects
 - (1) **MEETING.**— The Secretaries and heads of Federal agencies shall convene meetings requested within 7 days of receiving a meeting request for project
 - (2) **REVIEW.**— Not later than 7 days following a meeting requested for an emergency project, the relevant Secretary and/or Heads of Federal agencies shall be ordered to come to a decision on the approval of such a project
- (c) **EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.**—
 - (i) During the emergency, in the states affected by drought, heads of applicable Federal agencies shall develop alternative arrangements for environmental reviews, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- (d) **FUNDING PRIORITIZATION.**—
 - (i) For funding granted to Water Assistance Programs, funding shall be allocated to states affected by the drought for:
 - (1) providing emergency supplies, including, but not limited to
 - a) installation of water conservation measures;
 - b) wells to use for groundwater resources;
 - c) water supplies;
 - d) drinking water;
 - e) preventing the loss of crops;
 - f) minimize economic losses;
 - g) other uses prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

SECTION 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED

- (a) **IN GENERAL.**— A grant program shall be established to promote and fund resources for installing water-reducing technology for in-general use.
- (b) **DURATION.**— Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period of 10 years.
- (c) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means a public or private entity that revolves around water use, technology, and water resources
- (d) **APPLICATIONS.**—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of the Interior at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance to participate in the evaluation described in this section.
- (e) **PRIORITY.**— Priority for the grant program shall be provided to:
 - (i) states and eligible entities affected by the drought crisis, as determined and proclaimed by the President of the United States
- (f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—
 - (i) **IN GENERAL.**— Funds shall be used for the disbursement of water-saving technology, the development of water-saving technology, and other purposes determined by the Secretary of the Interior, in response to the drought crisis, for example:
 - (1) **WATER-SAVING TECHNOLOGIES.**—
 - a) drip irrigation;
 - b) other technologies related to the agricultural industry;
 - c) rainwater harvesting systems;
 - d) sprinkler automatic shut-off devices;
 - e) shower regulators;
 - f) faucet aerators;
 - g) toilet tank fill cycle diverters;
 - h) outdoor irrigation controls;
 - i) rain sensors;
 - j) soil moisture sensors; and
 - k) other technologies described by the Secretary of the Interior.
- (g) **APPROPRIATION.**—For the purpose of carrying out the Act, the Department of Interior is appropriated a further \$75,000,000 for each fiscal years 2020 through 2030. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

SECTION 5. DETERMINATION

- (a) Under their discretion, when the President shall proclaim the major disaster related to drought over, procedures under Section 3 shall be terminated.

SECTION 6. ENACTMENT

This Act shall be enacted immediately upon passage.

Written by President Ian (R) for Congress' use.