

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3286

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require drinking water distribution systems to be flushed under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2021

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require drinking water distribution systems to be flushed under certain circumstances, 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 “Emergency Order As-
5 surance, Safety, and Inspection of water Systems Act” or
6 the “Emergency OASIS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.**

8 (a) DRINKING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
9 FLUSHING.—Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water

1 Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is amended by adding at the
2 end the following:

3 “(16) DRINKING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
4 FLUSHING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
5 enactment of the Emergency OASIS Act, the Ad-
6 ministrator shall promulgate a regulation to require
7 each community water system to flush its distribu-
8 tion system if—

9 “(A) the concentration of any contaminant
10 in the drinking water of the community water
11 system has exceeded the applicable maximum
12 contaminant level for longer than 6 months; or

13 “(B) drinking water has stood motionless
14 in the distribution system of the community
15 water system for longer than 6 months.”.

16 (b) EMERGENCY ORDERS.—Section 1431 of the Safe
17 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300i) is amended by add-
18 ing at the end the following:

19 “(c) The actions the Administrator may take under
20 subparagraph (a) also include, with respect to a commu-
21 nity water system that is the subject of an order issued
22 under subsection (a)(1)—

23 “(1) carrying out testing for metalloids contami-
24 nants at not more than 25, but not less than 10 per-

1 cent, of the service connections of such a community
2 water system; and

3 “(2) providing alternative water supplies in ac-
4 cordance with subsection (d).

5 “(d) If the Administrator determines that, after a pe-
6 riod of 7 days beginning on the date on which an order
7 is issued under subsection (a)(1), a community water sys-
8 tem has not provided alternative water supplies as re-
9 quired by such order—

10 “(1) the Administrator may provide such alter-
11 native water supplies; and

12 “(2) if the Administrator provides such alter-
13 native water supplies under paragraph (1), the Ad-
14 ministrator may require the owner of the community
15 water system to pay an amount that is not less than
16 twice the cost of providing such alternative water
17 supplies.

18 “(e) Any community water system that is required
19 to provide alternative water supplies under an order issued
20 under subsection (a) may not increase any fees, rent, or
21 other costs on customers in order to comply with such
22 order.”.

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