

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7516

To improve the removal of lead from drinking water in public housing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2022

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve the removal of lead from drinking water in public housing.

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 “Get the Lead Out of
5 Assisted Housing Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency.

4 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
5 means the Department of Housing and Urban De-
6 velopment.

7 (3) LEAD SERVICE LINE.—The term “lead serv-
8 ice line” has the meaning given the term in section
9 1459B(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
10 U.S.C. 300j–19b(a)).

11 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-
12 gram” means the program for providing grants es-
13 tablished under section 6(a).

14 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that—

18 (1) lead is a dangerous neurotoxin that can per-
19 manently impact brain development, especially in
20 young children;

21 (2) the Centers for Disease Control, the Envi-
22 ronmental Protection Agency, the American Associa-
23 tion of Pediatrics, and many other entities have de-
24 termined that there is no safe level of lead exposure;

1 (3) for vulnerable populations like young chil-
2 dren, pregnant mothers, and the elderly, exposure to
3 lead can be life altering;

4 (4) evidence is mounting that the lead in drink-
5 ing water problem in the United States is grossly
6 underestimated and inadequately addressed;

7 (5) according to the Environmental Protection
8 Agency, lead service lines are the single largest
9 source of lead in drinking water; and

10 (6) partial lead service line replacement, where
11 only a portion of a lead service line is replaced, can
12 increase lead exposure.

13 **SEC. 4. UNIFORM PHYSICAL CONDITION STANDARDS.**

14 The Secretary, in consultation with the Adminis-
15 trator, shall amend the physical condition standards set
16 forth in section 5.703 of title 24, Code of Federal Regula-
17 tions, to require that—

18 (1) the entities responsible for maintaining
19 housing inspect building systems to determine, using
20 tests that incorporate the best available technology
21 and science, if—

22 (A) there are lead service lines; or

23 (B) there is lead in the interior plumbing;

24 and

1 (2) if a lead service line is found or lead is
2 found in a service line that connects to the interior
3 plumbing of the housing at the water meter, the en-
4 tity responsible for maintaining the housing shall—

5 (A) not later than 1 day after the date on
6 which the lead is found, notify each tenant of
7 the housing that the lead was found and of pre-
8 cautions that should be taken to reduce expo-
9 sure;

10 (B) disclose that information within 30
11 days to any drinking water provider relevant to
12 the housing;

13 (C) provide necessary interim measures to
14 reduce exposure to the lead, such as water fil-
15 ters designed to remove lead and other innova-
16 tive technologies, based on guidance from the
17 Administrator; and

18 (D) prohibit the partial replacement of
19 lead service lines.

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO INSPECT ALL SOURCES OF LEAD.**

21 The Secretary may inspect all sources of lead con-
22 tamination in housing assisted by a program of the De-
23 partment and work in coordination with the Environ-
24 mental Protection Agency to mitigate sources of lead expo-

1 sure, including as a result of water from the public water
2 supply, and ambient air levels, or industrial emissions.

3 **SEC. 6. HEALTHY HOMES LEAD IN DRINKING WATER PILOT**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall begin providing grants to State and local gov-
9 ernments responsible for developing consolidated
10 plans under part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal
11 Regulations.

12 (2) PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall design the
13 grants under the pilot program to—

14 (A) identify lead service lines and other
15 sources of lead in drinking water serving hous-
16 ing units and take steps to remediate those
17 threats; and

18 (B) optimize corrosion control treatment in
19 public water systems serving housing units.

20 (b) ACTIVITIES.—A State or local government receiv-
21 ing a grant under the pilot program shall prioritize the
22 following activities:

23 (1) Creating an inventory of lead service lines,
24 which shall—

1 (A) be published on the website of the
2 State or local government; and

3 (B) involve—

4 (i) working with public water systems
5 (as such term is defined in section 1401 of
6 the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
7 300f)) that may have a similar inventory;

8 (ii) inspecting for lead service lines at
9 their entry point into a building using
10 methods that do not disturb the pipe;

11 (iii) conducting an inspection of visi-
12 ble pipes at all access points; and

13 (iv) prioritizing buildings based on the
14 age of the building, historical records, and
15 the size of the service line.

16 (2) Testing for lead in the drinking water at
17 child care facilities and schools, providing interim
18 measures to reduce exposure to the lead, and pro-
19 viding remediation, when appropriate.

20 (3) Testing for lead in the drinking water at
21 water fountains in public facilities, providing interim
22 measures to reduce exposure to the lead, and pro-
23 viding remediation, when appropriate.

1 **SEC. 7. HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD HAZARD CONTROL OF-**
2 **FICE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Lead Hazard Con-
4 trol and Healthy Homes of the Department shall, when
5 providing grants for lead-based paint hazard reduction in
6 target housing under section 1011 of the Residential
7 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42
8 U.S.C. 4852)—

9 (1) ensure that testing for lead in drinking
10 water is conducted;

11 (2) require notification of tenants of the level of
12 lead in drinking water found; and

13 (3) offer interim controls, such as the installa-
14 tion of water filters known to remove lead.

15 (b) USE OF FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT.—The Sec-
16 retary shall allow recipients of assistance from the Office
17 of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes of the De-
18 partment or another program of the Department to use
19 the funds to replace leaded water fixtures and lead service
20 lines.

21 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
23 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
24 Act.

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