



Bill Summary

“Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2010”

Committee on Energy and Commerce

On May 10, 2010, Chairmen Henry Waxman and Edward Markey circulated legislation, the “Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2010”, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1976 to ensure that public water supplies are protective of human health.

The following briefly summarizes the key provisions of the “Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2010”.

- Reauthorizes the drinking water state revolving fund (SRF).
- Establishes that projects designed to improve the sustainability and long term viability of water systems should get priority for funding through the SRF.
- Encourages public water systems to improve their managerial capacity and reduce their environmental impact.
- Ensures that technical assistance funds for small water systems are awarded through a competitive process.
- Establishes that the first priority for SRF funds should be water systems serving disadvantaged communities that cannot afford to comply with new drinking water standards.
- Requires states to provide additional assistance to water systems serving disadvantaged communities and struggling to comply with existing drinking water standards.
- Strengthens the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program by outlining transparent procedures for requiring testing and updating methods.
- Changes the legal definition of “lead-free” for pipes and fixtures from 8% lead to 0.25% lead in wetted surfaces.
- Strengthens enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act by clarifying requirements for technical assistance and follow up inspections.