

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH
ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2005

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 139, S. 1017.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1017) to reauthorize grants for the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments.

[Insert the parts shown in *italic*.]

S. 1017

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Water Resources Research Act Amendments of 2005".

SEC. 2. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 104(f) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection header, by striking "IN GENERAL";

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

"(A) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2008; and

"(B) \$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010."; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking "(2) Any" and inserting the following:

"(2) FAILURE TO OBLIGATE FUNDS.—Any".

(b) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WHERE RESEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF INTERSTATE NATURE.—Section 104(g) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(g)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking "(1) There" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There"; and

(ii) by striking "\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005" and inserting "\$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2008 and \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010";

(B) in the second sentence, by striking "Such" and inserting the following:

"(2) NON-FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS.—The"; and

(C) in the third sentence, by striking "Funds" and inserting the following:

"(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds".

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1017), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

GULF COAST EMERGENCY WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE
ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 1709 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1709) to provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1873) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gulf Coast Emergency Water Infrastructure Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this Act, the term "State" means—

- (1) the State of Alabama;
- (2) the State of Louisiana; and
- (3) the State of Mississippi.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LOANS.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—In this section, the term "eligible project" means a project—

(1) to repair, replace, or rebuild a publicly-owned treatment works (as defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)), including a privately-owned utility that principally treats municipal wastewater or domestic sewage, in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina or a related condition; or

(2) that is a water quality project directly related to relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina or a related condition, as determined by the State in which the project is located.

(b) ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), for the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may provide additional subsidization to an eligible project that receives funds through a revolving loan under section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383), including—

(A) forgiveness of the principal of the revolving loan; or

(B) a zero-percent interest rate on the revolving loan.

(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of any additional subsidization provided under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 30 percent of the

amount of the capitalization grant received by the State under section 602 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1382) for the fiscal year during which the subsidization is provided.

(c) EXTENDED TERMS.—For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may extend the term of a revolving loan under section 603 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) for an eligible project described in subsection (b), if the extended term—

(1) terminates not later than the date that is 30 years after the date of completion of the project that is the subject of the loan; and

(2) does not exceed the expected design life of the project.

(d) PRIORITY LISTS.—For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may provide assistance to an eligible project that is not included on the priority list of the State under section 216 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1296).

SEC. 4. PRIORITY LIST.

For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may provide assistance to a public water system that is not included on the priority list of the State under section 1452(b)(3)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)(3)(B)), if the project—

(1) involves damage caused by Hurricane Katrina or a related condition; and

(2) is in accordance with section 1452(b)(3)(A) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)(3)(A)).

SEC. 5. TESTING OF PRIVATELY-OWNED DRINKING WATER WELLS.

On receipt of a request from a homeowner, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may conduct a test of a drinking water well owned or operated by the homeowner that is, or may be, contaminated as a result of Hurricane Katrina or a related condition.

The bill (S. 1709), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. ISAKSON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES—Continued

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I believe the time will be allocated to my colleague from Michigan, Senator LEVIN, but he has agreed to allow me to use his time to speak. He will speak at a later time today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is under the control of the Democrats from 3:45 on, so the Senator can speak.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, the outcome of this nomination is now all but certain. In that regard, what I am about to say will have little impact on the fate of this nominee.