



Legislative Bulletin.....March 8, 2007

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H.R. 700—Amendments to the Health Communities Water Supply Act of 2007

H.R. 700, the Health Communities Water Supply Act of 2007 (sponsored by Rep. McNerney, D-CA), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor tomorrow, March 8, 2007, subject to a modified open rule ([H.Res. 215](#)), allowing one motion to recommit with instructions. Below are the summaries of the amendments preprinted in the *Congressional Record*. Amendments are debatable for 10 minutes, unless otherwise noted. As other amendments are considered throughout the day, the RSC will provide additional information on them. Note: summaries are based on RSC staff's review of *actual amendment text*. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released earlier this week.

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Price (R-GA). Applies PAYGO to the provisions in H.R. 700, requiring all spending in the bill to be offset by decreasing spending elsewhere. Specifically, the amendment states, “No authorization of appropriations made by this Act or other provision of this Act that results in costs to the Federal Government shall be effective except to the extent that this Act provides for offsetting decreases in spending of the Federal Government, such that the net effect of this Act does not either increase the Federal deficit or reduce the Federal surplus.”

According to the sponsor's office, “In an effort to control federal funding, this amendment applies PAYGO, requiring that spending in this legislation, which authorizes \$125 million in discretionary spending, be offset by reductions in spending elsewhere.”

Rohrabacher (R-CA). Requires that entities receiving grant funding through these programs assure the EPA that they will impose conditions requiring all persons, including contractors, and subcontractors, carrying out activities in these programs to participate in the Employment Eligibility Verification Pilot Program. According to the sponsor's office, this amendment would require grantees to utilize a database operated by the Department of Homeland Security in which an employer can enter information about an employee, such as their alien number, in order to confirm an individual's identity and status in the United States. The cosponsor intends that this amendment would prohibit funding in this program from going to contractors who hire illegal aliens.

Conaway (R-TX). Inserts into the bill a provision providing that additional consideration be provided to projects that are located in an area that is served by a public water system serving 10,000 individuals or fewer. According to the sponsor's office, this amendment is designed to

“provide for additional consideration being given to rural communities in areas that are served by a public water system serving 10,000 or fewer individuals. In rural communities across the country there are people who are currently paying upwards of 770% more for water service than that of urban populations due to regulatory burdens and other items.”

Kucinich (D-OH). Inserts a section into the bill that would amend current law to require that in order for an entity to be eligible to receive a grant from this program it must not “permit the use of its water for retail sale of water in containers of 5.7 gallons (20 liters) or less.”

Sessions (R-TX). Would authorize the pilot program in the underlying bill through FY 2008. The underlying bill, which authorizes \$125 million for a pilot water program, does not include a sunset date for the program. According to the sponsor’s office, “This amendment would change the open-ended authorization for \$125 million for EPA grants for alternative water source projects currently provided for by the legislation. This would provide for fiscal responsibility by ensuring that these funds not remain available in perpetuity and that if unspent, Congress could determine the effectiveness of this program again in 2 years.”

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