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H.R.6113 - ARPA-H20 Act of 2020

116th Congress (2019-2020) | [Get alerts](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Katko, John \[R-NY-24\]](#) (Introduced 03/05/2020)

Committees: [House - Science, Space, and Technology](#)

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Introduced in House (03/05/2020)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6113

To establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency–Water, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2020

Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. KILDEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency–Water, and for other purposes.

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 “ARPA–H20 Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY–WATER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Environmental Protection Agency the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Water, headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Administrator to carry out programs to provide funds to eligible entities for projects intended to enhance, through the deployment of advanced technologies, the treatment, monitoring, delivery, affordability, and safety of—

- (1) drinking water provided by a water system;
- (2) wastewater or stormwater discharged by a water system;
- (3) groundwater or well water used for drinking water; or
- (4) any other activities carried out by a water system for the purposes of enhancing public health or environmental safety.

(b) PROGRAMS.—ARPA—H20 shall be comprised of programs that—

- (1) provide funds for projects described in subsection (a), as determined appropriate by the Director; and
- (2) are carried out and overseen by program managers under subsection (e).

(c) RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a research advisory council to recommend the content of the programs under ARPA—H20, including annual research priorities for funding consideration.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The council established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of 12 members appointed by the Director who represent—

- (A) public and private water systems including large decentralized systems;
- (B) academia;
- (C) national nonprofits and organizations that represent the water sector and collaborate with the Agency;
- (D) public or private entities engaged in technology development, deployment, or consultation to enhance delivery, reliability, affordability, and safety of the operations of water systems; and
- (E) relevant Federal agencies.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

- (1) approve each grant, contract, cooperative agreement, cash prize, or other transaction to fund projects under this Act;
- (2) terminate funding for any project under this Act that does not meet the goals of the program through which such project was funded;
- (3) ensure that projects funded under this Act are not duplicative of other Federal research projects that enhance the delivery, reliability, affordability, and safety of the operations of water systems;

(4) coordinate with non-governmental entities for demonstration of technologies and research applications to facilitate technology transfer;

(5) establish research and development goals to carry out this Act;

(6) set criteria for funding and assessment of projects under this Act in addition to the criteria established in section 3(c); and

(7) provide funds through any funding mechanism that the Director determines appropriate to eligible entities to carry out this Act.

(e) PROGRAM MANAGERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall designate managers to carry out the programs established under subsection (b).

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A program manager shall—

(A) establish research and development goals for the program, including by convening workshops, conferring with outside experts, and publicizing the goals of the program to public and private sector entities;

(B) solicit applications for projects in specific areas of particular promise, especially areas that the private sector or the Federal Government are not likely to undertake alone;

(C) build research collaborations to carry out the program; and

(D) establish a selection process under the program based upon criteria established in section 3(c).

(3) TERM.—The term of a program manager shall be not more than 5 years and such term may be renewed by the Director.

SEC. 3. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a program under this Act, the program manager shall select projects described in subsection (b) to receive funds under the program.

(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Projects related to the following shall be eligible for funding under a program:

(1) Advanced technologies for—

(A) the security and materials of water systems; or

(B) the testing, monitoring, conveyance, distribution, and treatment of—

(i) drinking water provided by a water system; or

(ii) wastewater or stormwater discharged by a water system.

(2) Water technologies that may improve efficiency and resiliency of water systems, lower life-cycle costs or reduce energy consumption of water systems treatment and conveyance.

(3) Methods to detect, monitor, and address contaminants present in drinking water or wastewater.

- (4) Methods to advance nutrient management for source water protection.
- (5) Resource recovery of marketable products derived from water systems including, but not limited to, nutrient, biosolids, energy, metals, and recycled water.
- (6) Advancements in beneficial reuse and desalination that support the diversification of water supplies.
- (7) Approaches to mitigation, containment, and treatment of stormwater.
- (8) Methods to test, treat, and study the impacts of emerging contaminants.
- (9) Any other activities carried out by a water system for the purposes of enhancing public health or environmental safety.

(c) **CRITERIA.**—A program manager shall select a project to receive funds under the program based on the demonstration of the applicant of—

- (1) the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project;
- (2) transformative technological potential;
- (3) the potential for cost effective technology applications;
- (4) the capabilities of the applicants to successfully carry out the proposed project;
- (5) the consideration of future commercial applications of the project, including the feasibility of partnering with one or more water sector entities;
- (6) the potential of the applicant to use funds from non-Federal sources in addition to the funds made available under this Act; and
- (7) any other criteria considered appropriate by the Director.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to carry out this Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the first funds are appropriated for ARPA–H2O.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which funds are first appropriated to carry out this Act, the Director shall submit to Congress a report with a detailed list of each project funded under the new ARPA–H2O program and a description of the technological achievements and progress made by the project.

(2) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Director shall publish on a publicly available website a description of each project that receives funds under this Act, including—

- (A) the name of the entity that received such funds; and
- (B) the amount of funds that such entity received.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) ARPA-H2O.—The term “ARPA-H2O” means the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Water established in subsection (a).

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of ARPA-H2O appointed in subsection (a).

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means the following:

(A) Nonprofit research organizations.

(B) Academic institutions.

(C) Private sector entities.

(D) Water systems.

(E) National labs.

(F) Federally funded research and development centers.

(G) Research consortia that consist of entities in industries that the Director determines relevant to the program under this Act.

(4) WATER SYSTEMS.—The term “water system” means an entity that—

(A) serves the public;

(B) manages the supply, treatment, or conveyance of—

(i) drinking water;

(ii) wastewater and water resource recovery;

(iii) stormwater; or

(iv) water reuse; and

(C) large decentralized systems that provide treatment for two or more households.