

**AMENDMENT TO  
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-9  
OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB OF MICHIGAN**

Amend section 13301 to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 13301. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.**

2 (a) EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.—The Adminis-  
3 trator shall establish and carry out a residential emer-  
4 gency relief program to provide payments to owners and  
5 operators of public water systems and owners and opera-  
6 tors of treatment works to reimburse such owners and op-  
7 erators for providing forgiveness of arrearages and fees  
8 incurred by eligible residential customers before the date  
9 of enactment of this section to help such eligible residen-  
10 tial customers retain, or reconnect or restore, drinking  
11 water service and wastewater service.

12 (b) PRIORITY.—In providing payments under the  
13 program, the Administrator shall prioritize public water  
14 systems and treatment works that serve eligible residential  
15 customers described in subsection (c)(3).

16 (c) CONDITIONS.—To receive funds under this sec-  
17 tion, an owner or operator of a public water system or  
18 treatment works shall agree to—

1           (1) except as otherwise provided in this section,  
2           use such funds to forgive—

3                   (A) all arrearages incurred by eligible resi-  
4                   dential customers before the date of enactment  
5                   of this section; and

6                   (B) fees relating to direct costs of dis-  
7                   connection or nonpayment, or arrearages, in-  
8                   curred by eligible residential customers before  
9                   the date of enactment of this section;

10           (2) forgive any fees not relating to direct costs  
11           of disconnection, nonpayment, or arrearages in-  
12           curred by eligible residential customers before the  
13           date of enactment of this section;

14           (3) if forgiveness of all arrearages and fees de-  
15           scribed in paragraph (1) is not possible given the  
16           amount of funds received, except as otherwise pro-  
17           vided in this section, prioritize the use of such funds  
18           to forgive or reduce such arrearages and fees for eli-  
19           gible residential customers that are members of  
20           households—

21                   (A) described in section 2605(b)(2)(A) of  
22                   the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act  
23                   of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)(A));

24                   (B) in which one or more individuals are  
25                   participating in the special supplemental nutri-

1           tion program under section 17 of the Child Nu-  
2           trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786); or

3           (C) where household income does not ex-  
4           ceed the greater of—

5           (i) an amount equal to 200 percent of  
6           the poverty level for the State; or

7           (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of  
8           the State median income;

9           (4) with respect to households described in  
10          paragraph (3)(C), give priority amongst such house-  
11          holds to households with the highest arrearages in  
12          relation to household income;

13          (5) not later than 30 days after receiving such  
14          funds—

15          (A) in the case of a public water system,  
16          restore, without fee, water service to eligible  
17          residential customers who have been discon-  
18          nected due to nonpayment; or

19          (B) in the case of a treatment works, with-  
20          draw any prior request to an owner or operator  
21          of a public water system to withhold the service  
22          of any eligible residential customer as a result  
23          of nonpayment or arrearages owed with respect  
24          to the treatment works and request such owner

1 or operator of a public water system to restore  
2 such service promptly;

3 (6) during the 5-year period that begins on the  
4 date on which the owner or operator receives such  
5 funds—

6 (A) take no action that negatively affects  
7 the credit score of an eligible residential cus-  
8 tomer;

9 (B) not pursue any type of collection ac-  
10 tion against such eligible residential customer;  
11 and

12 (C) not to sell the uncollected debt of any  
13 eligible residential customer;

14 (7) not disconnect or interrupt the service of  
15 any eligible residential customer as a result of non-  
16 payment or arrearages during such 5-year period;

17 (8) notify each eligible residential customer of  
18 the amount of such customer's arrearages and fees  
19 forgiven or reduced;

20 (9) notify any State utility regulatory commis-  
21 sion with jurisdiction over the public water system  
22 or treatment works of payments received under the  
23 program and the disposition of such funds;

1           (10) certify monthly to the Administrator that  
2           it is adhering to the conditions under this sub-  
3           section:

4           (11) publish monthly on its internet website, if  
5           applicable—

6           (A) the total amount of funds received  
7           under the program;

8           (B) the total amount credited to eligible  
9           residential customers' accounts under the pro-  
10          gram; and

11          (C) any other data or reports submitted to  
12          the Administrator pursuant to this section; and

13          (12) provide to the Administrator such other in-  
14          formation as the Administrator determines appro-  
15          priate.

16          (d) **ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS.**—To be eligible for for-  
17          giveness or reduction of arrearages and fees pursuant to  
18          the program, a residential customer of a public water sys-  
19          tem or treatment works shall have accrued new arrearages  
20          on or after March 1, 2020.

21          (e) **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.**—Notwith-  
22          standing any other provision of law, the amount of any  
23          forgiveness or reduction of arrearages and fees that an  
24          eligible residential customer receives under the program  
25          shall not be includible in the gross income of the customer

1 for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or  
2 otherwise considered income, or resources, of the customer  
3 or any member of the customer's household for any pur-  
4 pose under any Federal or State law, including any law  
5 relating to taxation or public benefits programs.

6 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Adminis-  
7 trator may authorize—

8 (1) States to implement the program estab-  
9 lished under subsection (a); and

10 (2) a State implementing such program to use  
11 up to 4 percent of funds made available to carry out  
12 such program in such State for administrative ex-  
13 penses.

14 (g) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—

15 (1) MONTHLY REPORTS.—Not later than 180  
16 days after the date of enactment of this section, and  
17 every other month thereafter until all amounts made  
18 available under this section are expended, the Ad-  
19 ministrator shall submit to the Committee on En-  
20 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
21 and the Committee on Environment and Public  
22 Works of the Senate a report that describes—

23 (A) each public water system and treat-  
24 ment works with respect to which a payment  
25 was received under or pursuant to this section;

1 (B) the total amount of each payment pro-  
2 vided under or pursuant to this section;

3 (C) for each owner or operator of a public  
4 water system or treatment works receiving a  
5 payment under or pursuant to this section—

6 (i) the amount of arrearages and fees  
7 forgiven or reduced;

8 (ii) the number of eligible residential  
9 customers benefitting from forgiveness or  
10 reduction of arrearages and fees under this  
11 section;

12 (iii) the amount of arrearages and  
13 fees of customers described in clause (ii)  
14 incurred before the date of enactment of  
15 this section that remain outstanding;

16 (iv) the number of eligible residential  
17 customers that did not benefit from for-  
18 giveness or reduction of arrearages and  
19 fees under this section; and

20 (v) the amount of arrearages and fees  
21 of customers described in clause (iv) in-  
22 curred before the date of enactment of this  
23 section that remain outstanding; and

24 (D) a summary of any other information  
25 provided to the Administrator by an owner or

1 operator of a public water system or treatment  
2 works that received a payment pursuant to this  
3 section.

4 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days  
5 after the Administrator receives the final certifi-  
6 cation described in subsection (c)(10), the Adminis-  
7 trator shall submit to the Committee on Energy and  
8 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the  
9 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the  
10 Senate a report that describes the results of activi-  
11 ties carried out pursuant to this section.

12 (h) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the program,  
13 the Administrator shall take all necessary steps, including  
14 outreach and the provision of technical assistance to own-  
15 ers and operators of public water systems and treatment  
16 works, to ensure that all such owners and operators serv-  
17 ing residential customers, without regard to the number  
18 of residential customers served, have a fair opportunity  
19 to receive payments under the program.

20 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
22 appropriated—

23 (A) \$4,000,000,000 for payments to own-  
24 ers and operators of public water systems under



1 the program, to remain available until ex-  
2 pended; and

3 (B) \$4,000,000,000 for payments to own-  
4 ers and operators of treatment works under the  
5 program, to remain available until expended,

6 (2) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—The Admin-  
7 istrator may use amounts made available—

8 (A) under paragraph (1)(A) to provide  
9 payments to owners and operators of treatment  
10 works under the program, if sufficient applica-  
11 tions are not received from owners and opera-  
12 tors of public water systems; and

13 (B) under paragraph (1)(B) to provide  
14 payments to owners and operators of public  
15 water systems under the program, if sufficient  
16 applications are not received from owners and  
17 operators of treatment works.

18 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

22 (2) ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER.—The  
23 term “eligible residential customer” means a resi-  
24 dential customer of a public water system, or treat-  
25 ment works, described in subsection (d).

1           (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
2           the program established under subsection (a).

3           (4) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term “public  
4           water system” has the meaning given such term in  
5           section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
6           U.S.C. 300f).

7           (5) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment  
8           works” has the meaning given such term in section  
9           502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
10          U.S.C. 1362).

