

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1018

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program to provide cybersecurity-related technical assistance to certain entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program to provide cybersecurity-related technical assistance to certain entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cybersecurity for
5 Rural Water Systems Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CYBERSECURITY**
2 **CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.**

3 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-
5 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

6 “(23) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CY-
7 BERSECURITY CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program,
10 which shall be structured similarly to the circuit
11 rider program under paragraph (22), to provide
12 technical assistance to associations described in
13 paragraph (1) that operate rural water or
14 wastewater systems—

15 “(i) to provide rapid assessments of
16 the current ability or inability of those as-
17 sociations—

18 “(I) to respond to cybersecurity
19 threats; and

20 “(II) to protect the
21 cyberinfrastructure of those associa-
22 tions and public health;

23 “(ii) to develop reasonable protocols to
24 enhance cybersecurity protection;

25 “(iii) to provide assistance to address
26 inadequate cyber protection plans; and

1 “(iv) to document the state of cyber
 2 protection with respect to the water sup-
 3 plies of those associations.

4 “(B) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—A circuit
 5 rider that receives funding under this para-
 6 graph shall submit to the Secretary a report
 7 documenting—

8 “(i) the associations served by the cir-
 9 cuit rider under this paragraph; and

10 “(ii) the activities performed by the
 11 circuit rider under this paragraph.

12 “(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR CIRCUIT RID-
 13 ERS.—To provide technical assistance under
 14 subparagraph (A), a circuit rider shall possess
 15 the necessary experience and certification to ef-
 16 fectively carry out the activities described in
 17 that subparagraph, as determined by the Sec-
 18 retary.

19 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 20 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
 21 to carry out this paragraph \$10,000,000 for
 22 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

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