

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

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## 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

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## 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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