

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
83rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2001

As Engrossed: H3/14/01

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2639

By: Representative Bevis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO DEFINE THOSE ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED
TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR
OPERATORS OF SMALLER COMMUNITY WATER UTILITIES;
TO AUTHORIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAINING
EXPENSES FROM FEDERAL GRANTS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO DEFINE THOSE ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED
TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES FOR OPERATORS OF SMALLER
COMMUNITY WATER UTILITIES; TO AUTHORIZE
THE REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAINING EXPENSES
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Intent. It is hereby recognized that the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, and amendments thereto, as enacted by the United States Congress, appropriates funds to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency which, in turn, are to be granted to the states for the purpose of providing financial reimbursement for costs of training and certifying operators of water systems serving communities with populations of three thousand three hundred (3,300) or less. It is further recognized that the State of Arkansas should identify those organizations which shall be responsible for the providing of water system operator training and certifying and which shall qualify for financial

1 reimbursement of training and certifying costs.

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3 SECTION 2. For purposes of this act:

4 (1) "Qualified training organization" means any not-for-profit
5 corporation that:

6 (A) Has been in existence for at least twenty (20) years;

7 (B) Has provided training, educational, informational,
8 legislative, and other services to rural and municipal water utilities
9 throughout its existence;

10 (C) Is member owned; and

11 (D) Does not pay dividends or profits to its members or equity
12 holders;

13 (2) "Qualified training organization" also means the Arkansas
14 Environmental Academy (Environment Control Center), a Training Division of
15 SAU-Tech.

16
17 (3) "Safe Drinking Water Act" means the Safe Drinking Water Act of
18 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996 and all other amendments
19 thereto as enacted by the Congress of the United States of America; and

20 (4) "Smaller community water operators" means those salaried or
21 unsalaried operators of water systems serving cities, towns and communities
22 within the State of Arkansas with populations of three thousand three hundred
23 (3,300) or less, it being understood that all such operators must hold
24 current water system operating licenses issued by the Department of Health.

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26 SECTION 3. Qualified training organizations shall serve as the only
27 organizations or entities within the State of Arkansas which are authorized
28 and empowered to provide to smaller community water operators those training,
29 education, certification and recertification services as required by the Safe
30 Drinking Water Act.

31
32 SECTION 4. Qualified training organizations shall represent the only
33 organizations or entities within the State of Arkansas which are authorized
34 and entitled to receive cost and expense reimbursement from the administrator
35 of the Environmental Protection Agency as incurred in connection with the
36 training, certification and recertification of smaller community water

operators pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

/s/ Bevi s