S. 3590, Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020:
Section-By-Section

The Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020, or S. 3590, authorizes approximately $2.5 billion in resources and technical assistance to communities across the country.

Section 2: Host Communities
This section amends SDWA to expand eligibility for the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program, established in AWIA 2018, to communities that have received an influx of population due to a natural hazard.

Section 3: Authorization of Appropriations for Emergencies Affecting Public Water Systems
This section reauthorizes an EPA fund to provide technical assistance and grants to states and public water systems responding to drinking water emergencies, including those related to lead and other contaminants. The grant program is authorized at $35 million for fiscal years 2021-2024. The technical assistance program is funded at $15 million for fiscal years 2021-2024.

Section 4: Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
This section makes permanent a set-aside to the DWSRF that requires states to use 20% of their capitalization grants for grants; negative interest loans; or to buy, refinance, or purchase debt. The section also makes permanent the DWSRF “Buy America” requirements and authorizes $300 million for remediation of contamination from emerging contaminants (PFAS).

Section 5: Source Water Petition Program
This section reauthorizes the Source Water Petition Program, which allows owners and operators of community water systems, municipal or local governments and political subdivisions of a state to submit a source water quality protection partnership petition to the state in order to obtain financial or technical assistance.

Section 6: Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities
This section reauthorizes the Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities program at $100 million for fiscal years 2022-2024; allows for the use of funds to purchase filters; and revises the non-federal cost match to 10%, which can be waived by the Administrator.

This section also creates an additional competitive grant program administered by the EPA and distributed to states based on demonstrated high proportions of underserved communities. This grant program is authorized at $50 million for fiscal years 2021-2024.

This section also reauthorizes the existing Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resiliency program for fiscal years 2021-2024 and increases the program from $4 million to $10 million for
each fiscal year. This includes a waivable non-federal share of 10%.

Finally, this section instructs the EPA to create a grant program to provide grants to a utility or nonprofit to voluntarily connect a low-income household to a municipal public drinking water system. This program is authorized at $20 million for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

Section 7: Lead Mapping Pilot Program
This section amends SDWA to create a $10 million pilot program for system operators who know through lead mapping that their system contains, or likely contains, at least 30% lead service lines. EPA is required to report to Congress on the program’s efficacy and accuracy after two years.

Section 8: Operational Sustainability of Small Public Water Systems
This section establishes a program under SDWA to ensure operational sustainability for small public water systems. The program is authorized at $10 million for fiscal years 2021-2024 and has a non-federal cost match of 10%, which can be waived by the Administrator.

Section 9: Midsize Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program
This section establishes a $5 million grant program for increased resilience and sustainability for drinking water projects in mid-size systems serving a population between 10,000 and 100,000. The program is designed to mirror the one established in section 2005 of AWIA 2018 for small and disadvantaged systems.

Section 10: Needs Assessment for Nationwide Rural and Urban Low-Income Community Water Assistance
This section requires the EPA Administrator to conduct a study of low-income households in the United States without affordable public water services and submit a report to Congress with recommendations to increase access to services in these areas.

Section 11: Lead Contamination in School Drinking Water
This section expands eligibility for the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing Grant Program to public water systems and nonprofit organizations that service schools and childcare locations. The $25 million authorization is extended through fiscal year 2022.

Section 12: Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program
This section amends the Tribal Drinking Water Program established in AWIA and extends the authorization of the program to fiscal year 2024. It increases the authorization of the pilot program to $50 million and designates 50% of the funds be used nationally, while the other 50% of the funds must be used to fund thirty projects equally divided between the Missouri River Basin, Upper Rio Grande River Basin and the Columbia River Basin. In addition, two projects in the Missouri River Basin must go to a reservation that serves more than one federally recognized tribe.

Section 13: Advanced Drinking Water Technologies
This section requires the EPA Administrator to conduct a study to examine the state of existing and emerging technology that enhances the treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, and safety of drinking water provided by public water systems. The section also creates a grant program to deploy new or emerging technology in public water systems that serve 100,000 or fewer people.

Section 14: Drinking Water Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program
This section establishes a new grant program, modeled after the SRFs, to fund preconstruction
activities like planning, design, and siting; and replacement or rehabilitation of aging treatment, storage, or distribution facilities. Priority is given to public water systems that need help complying with SDWA. The program has a non-federal cost share of 20%, which can be waived by the Administrator.