

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1091

To amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to promote the reemployment of unemployed workers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 15, 2017

Mr. Renacci (for himself, Mr. Bucshon, and Mr. Kilmer) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to promote the reemployment of unemployed workers.

- 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 "Flexibility to Promote
- 5 Reemployment Act".

1	SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO PROMOTE REEMPLOY-
2	MENT THROUGH DEMONSTRATION
3	PROJECTS.
4	(a) Modification of Numerical Limitation.—
5	Subsection (a) of section 305 of the Social Security Act
6	(42 U.S.C. 505) is amended by inserting "per year" after
7	"10 States".
8	(b) Clarification of Application Require-
9	MENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section 305 is amended—
10	(1) by inserting "or his or her designee" after
11	"The Governor of any State"; and
12	(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
13	following:
14	"(2) for any waiver requested under subsection
15	(c), a statement describing—
16	"(A) the specific provision or provisions of
17	law for which such waiver is requested; and
18	"(B) the specific aspects of the project to
19	which such waiver would apply and the reasons
20	why it is needed;".
21	(c) Extension of Eligible Time Period.—Sub-
22	section (d) of such section 305 is amended—
23	(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "may not be
24	approved" and inserting "may not be conducted";
25	and

1	(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "December
2	31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2021".
3	(d) Clarification of Demonstration Activi-
4	TIES.—Subsection (e) of such section 305 is amended—
5	(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "for employer-
6	provided training, such as" and inserting "to em-
7	ployers or claimants for employer-provided training
8	or"; and
9	(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ", not to ex-
10	ceed the weekly benefit amount for each such indi-
11	vidual, to pay part of the cost of wages that exceed
12	the unemployed individual's prior benefit level" and
13	inserting "that include disbursements promoting re-
14	tention".
15	(e) Selection of Qualifying Applications on A
16	FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.—Subsection (f) of
17	such section 305 is amended—
18	(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
19	paragraphs (2) and (3); and
20	(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redes-
21	ignated by this subsection) the following:
22	"(1) approve completed applications in the
23	order of receipt;".

1	(f) Termination of Demonstration Projects.—
2	Subsection (g) of such section 305 is amended to read as
3	follows:
4	"(g) The Secretary of Labor may terminate a dem-
5	onstration project under this section if the Secretary—
6	"(1) determines that the State has violated the
7	substantive terms or conditions of the project;
8	"(2) notifies the State in writing with sufficient
9	detail describing the violation; and
10	"(3) determines that the State has not taken
11	action to correct the violation within 90 days after
12	the notification.".
13	(g) Effective Date; Transition Rule.—
14	(1) Effective date.—The amendments made
15	by this section shall take effect on the date of the
16	enactment of this Act.
17	(2) Transition rule.—
18	(A) In General.—Nothing in this Act
19	shall be considered to terminate or otherwise af-
20	fect any demonstration project approved under
21	section 305 of the Social Security Act before
22	the date of the enactment of this Act.
23	(B) Original conditions continue to
24	APPLY.—A demonstration project described in
25	subparagraph (A) shall be conducted in the

1	same manner as if subsections (a) through (f)
2	had not been enacted.
3	SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.
4	(a) In General.—Section 305 of the Social Security
5	Act (42 U.S.C. 505) is amended by adding at the end the
6	following:
7	"(i) The Secretary of Labor shall conduct an impact
8	evaluation of each demonstration project conducted under
9	this section, using existing data sources to the extent pos-
10	sible and methodology appropriate to determine the effects
11	of the demonstration project, including on individual skill
12	levels, earnings, and employment retention.".
13	(b) Cooperation by State.—Section 305(b) of the
14	Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 505(b)) (as amended by
15	section 2(b) of this Act) is further amended by striking
16	paragraphs (5) and (6) and inserting the following:
17	"(5) a description of the manner in which the
18	State will determine the extent to which the goals
19	and outcomes described in paragraph (3) were
20	achieved;
21	"(6) assurances that the State will cooperate, in
22	a timely manner, with the Secretary of Labor with
23	respect to the impact evaluation conducted under
24	subsection (i); and".

1	(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the
2	end of fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter,
3	until the completion of the last evaluation under section
4	305(i) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary shall sub-
5	mit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House
6	of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
7	Senate, a report that includes a description of—
8	(1) the status of each demonstration project
9	being carried out under this section;
10	(2) the results of the evaluation completed dur-
11	ing the previous fiscal year; and
12	(3) the Secretary's plan for—
13	(A) disseminating the findings of the re-
14	port to appropriate State agencies; and
15	(B) incorporating the components of suc-
16	cessful demonstration projects that reduced
17	benefit duration and increased employment into
18	Federal unemployment law.
19	(d) Public Dissemination.—In addition to the re-
20	porting requirements under subparagraph (c), evaluation
21	results shall be shared broadly to inform policy makers,
22	service providers, other partners, and the public in order
23	to promote wide use of successful strategies, including by

- 1 posting evaluation results on the Internet website of the
- 2 Department of Labor.

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