

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8878

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to carry out a demonstration project relating to disability benefits of blind individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. MFUME) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to carry out a demonstration project relating to disability benefits of blind individuals.

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 “Blind Americans Re-
5 turn to Work Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR BLIND AMERI-**
 2 **CANS.**

3 Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401
 4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 235. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR BLIND AMERI-**
 6 **CANS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For a 20-year period beginning
 8 not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
 9 this section, the Commissioner shall carry out the dem-
 10 onstration project described in subsection (b).

11 “(b) BENEFIT OFFSET.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The demonstration project
 13 described in this subsection is a project under which
 14 benefits under section 223 are modified pursuant to
 15 paragraph (2) for individuals—

16 “(A) who are entitled to a benefit under
 17 223(a)(1) for a month during the 120-month
 18 period beginning with the first month of the 20-
 19 year period described in subsection (a); and

20 “(B) whose disability is by reason of blind-
 21 ness (as defined in section 216(i)(1)).

22 “(2) MODIFICATION.—For purposes of para-
 23 graph (1), the benefit under section 223 of an indi-
 24 vidual described in paragraph (1) is modified as fol-
 25 lows:

1 “(A) In determining eligibility for such
2 benefit, a determination of whether the indi-
3 vidual is disabled under section 223(d)(1)(B)
4 shall be made without respect to substantial
5 gainful activity.

6 “(B) Any benefit payable to the individual
7 for a month (other than a benefit payable for
8 any month prior to the first month beginning
9 after the date on which the individual’s entitle-
10 ment to such benefit is determined) shall be re-
11 duced, except such benefit may not be reduced
12 below \$0, by \$1 for every \$2 by which the indi-
13 vidual’s earnings derived from services paid
14 during such month exceeds the sum of—

15 “(i) the exempt amount described in
16 section 223(d)(4)(A); and

17 “(ii) an amount equal to the individ-
18 ual’s expenses reasonably attributable to
19 the earning of any income for such month.

20 “(C) Entitlement to any such benefit shall
21 not terminate due to earnings derived from
22 services.

23 “(D) The period of trial work described in
24 section 222(c) shall not apply.

1 “(E) The provisions related to the termi-
2 nation month in subsection (a)(1) of section
3 223 shall not apply.

4 “(c) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE COMPLIANCE WITH CER-
5 TAIN REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the demonstra-
6 tion project under this section, the Commissioner may
7 waive compliance with the benefit requirements of this
8 title and the requirements of section 1148 as they relate
9 to the programs established under this title, insofar as
10 necessary to carry out the demonstration project.

11 “(d) OPT OUT.—After the 120-month period de-
12 scribed in subsection (b)(1)(A), an individual described in
13 such subsection may opt out of the demonstration
14 project.”.

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