

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6437

To extend eligibility for programs under title IV of the Social Security Act to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To extend eligibility for programs under title IV of the Social Security Act to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

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 “Fostering Family Co-
5 hesion Nationwide Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1101(a)(1) of the Social
8 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301(a)(1)) is amended in the

1 final sentence by inserting “and the Commonwealth of the
2 Northern Mariana Islands” before the period at the end.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM OF TEMPORARY
4 ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title IV of such
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 401–419) is amended by inserting
7 after section 413 the following:

8 **“SEC. 414. APPLICABILITY TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
9 **THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

10 “(a) FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANT.—The Common-
11 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (in this section
12 referred to as the ‘Commonwealth’) shall be entitled to
13 receive from the Secretary a family assistance grant in an
14 amount equal to \$1,631,000 for each fiscal year covered
15 by a family assistance plan approved under subsection (b).

16 “(b) 3-YEAR FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN.—The Sec-
17 retary shall approve a 3-year family assistance plan sub-
18 mitted by the Commonwealth if the plan—

19 “(1) outlines the approach of the Common-
20 wealth to providing benefits and services for needy
21 families for the 3-year period, consistent with this
22 section;

23 “(2) specifies whether the benefits and services
24 provided under the plan will be provided by the

1 Commonwealth or through agreements or contracts
2 with other entities;

3 “(3) provides that a family receiving assistance
4 under the plan may not receive duplicative assist-
5 ance from other State programs funded under this
6 part; and

7 “(4) identifies the employment opportunities in
8 the Commonwealth and the manner in which the
9 Commonwealth will cooperate and participate in en-
10 hancing such opportunities for recipients of assist-
11 ance under the plan.

12 “(c) LIMITATIONS ON APPLICABILITY OF OTHER
13 SECTIONS OF THIS PART.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
15 subsection, the other sections of this part, other
16 than section 418, shall not apply to the Common-
17 wealth.

18 “(2) MINIMUM WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIRE-
19 MENTS; TIME LIMITS; EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE; AC-
20 COUNTABILITY.—Subsections (c), (d), and (e)(1) of
21 section 412 shall apply to the Commonwealth in the
22 same manner in which such subsections apply to an
23 Indian tribe.

24 “(3) ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL LOANS.—Sec-
25 tion 406 shall apply to the Commonwealth, if the

1 Commonwealth has a family assistance plan ap-
2 proved under this section, in the same manner as
3 such section applies to any other State, except that
4 section 406(c) shall be applied by substituting ‘sec-
5 tion 414(a)’ for ‘section 403(a)’.

6 “(4) PENALTIES.—

7 “(A) Subsections (a)(1), (a)(6), (b), and
8 (c) of section 409 shall apply to the Common-
9 wealth in the same manner as such subsections
10 apply to any other State.

11 “(B) Section 409(a)(3) shall apply to the
12 Commonwealth by substituting ‘meet minimum
13 work participation requirements established
14 under section 414(c)(2)’ for ‘comply with sec-
15 tion 407(a)’.

16 “(5) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—
17 Section 411 shall apply to the Commonwealth if the
18 Commonwealth has a family assistance plan ap-
19 proved under this section.

20 “(d) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
21 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
22 there are appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as
23 are necessary for grants under this section.”.

24 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
25 419(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 619(5)) is amended

1 by striking “and American Samoa” and inserting
2 “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands”.

4 (c) MATCHING GRANTS; LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAY-
5 MENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1108(c) of such Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 1308(c)) is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and
9 American Samoa” and inserting “American
10 Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern
11 Mariana Islands”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (4)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
14 “and” at the end;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
16 the period at the end and inserting “;
17 and”; and

18 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
19 (D) the following:

20 “(E) \$2,131,000 with respect to the Com-
21 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

22 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section
23 1108(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(a)(1)) is
24 amended by inserting “(as in effect before the

1 amendment made by section 301 of the Social Secu-
2 rity Amendments of 1972)” after “XVI”.

3 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) SHARING OF COLLECTED CHILD SUPPORT
5 WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Section
6 457(c)(3)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 657(c)(3)(A))
7 is amended by striking “and American Samoa” and
8 inserting “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth
9 of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

10 (2) EXEMPTION FROM AFDC-RELATED ELIGI-
11 BILITY REQUIREMENT IN MAKING FOSTER CARE
12 MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS.—Section 472(a)(1)(B) of
13 such Act (42 U.S.C. 672(a)(1)(B)) is amended by
14 inserting “in the case of a State other than the
15 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,”
16 before “the child”.

17 (3) EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRONIC INTER-
18 STATE DATA EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS WITH RE-
19 SPECT TO CASES INVOLVING THE INTERSTATE
20 PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN.—Section 471(a)(25) of
21 such Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(25)) is amended by
22 striking “or American Samoa” and inserting “Amer-
23 ican Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern
24 Mariana Islands”.

1 (e) START-UP FUNDING FOR CHILD SUPPORT EN-
2 FORCEMENT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services shall make a grant of \$5,000,000 to the
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the
5 costs of developing a program pursuant to part D of title
6 IV of the Social Security Act that are reasonable, nec-
7 essary, and allocable to the program, including the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) Planning for the initial development and im-
10 plementation of the program.

11 (2) Developing laws, codes, guidelines, systems,
12 and procedures necessary for the program.

13 (3) Recruiting, hiring, and training program
14 staff.

15 (4) Any other reasonable, necessary, and allo-
16 cable costs with a direct correlation to the initial de-
17 velopment of the program, consistent with the cost
18 principles in subpart E of part 75 of title 45, Code
19 of Federal Regulations, and approved by the Sec-
20 retary.

21 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall apply with respect to fiscal years begin-
23 ning after the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not later than Octo-
25 ber 1 of the 1st fiscal year that begins after the date of

1 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
2 Human Services shall provide the Commonwealth of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands with technical assistance in de-
4 veloping plans to meet the requirements of sections 402,
5 454, and 471(a) of the Social Security Act.

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