

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 331

To amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROTH, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KERREY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.

**TITLE I—EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Sec. 101. Expanding State options under medicaid for workers with disabilities.

Sec. 102. Continuation of medicare coverage for working individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 103. Grants to develop and establish State infrastructures to support working individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 104. Demonstration of coverage of workers with potentially severe disabilities.

**TITLE II—TICKET TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

**Subtitle A—Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency**

Sec. 201. Establishment of the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program.

Sec. 202. Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

**Subtitle B—Elimination of Work Disincentives**

Sec. 211. Prohibition on using work activity as a basis for review of an individual’s disabled status.

Sec. 212. Expedited eligibility determinations for applications of former long-term beneficiaries that completed an extended period of eligibility.

**Subtitle C—Work Incentives Planning, Assistance, and Outreach**

Sec. 221. Work incentives outreach program.

Sec. 222. State grants for work incentives assistance to disabled beneficiaries.

**TITLE III—DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND STUDIES**

Sec. 301. Extension of disability insurance program demonstration project authority.

Sec. 302. Demonstration projects providing for reductions in disability insurance benefits based on earnings.

Sec. 303. Sense of Congress regarding additional demonstration projects.

Sec. 304. Studies and reports.

**TITLE IV—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 401. Technical amendments relating to drug addicts and alcoholics.

Sec. 402. Treatment of prisoners.

Sec. 403. Revocation by members of the clergy of exemption from Social Security coverage.

Sec. 404. Additional technical amendment relating to cooperative research or demonstration projects under titles II and XVI.

Sec. 405. Authorization for State to permit annual wage reports.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ings:

4 (1) Health care is important to all Americans.

5 (2) Health care is particularly important to in-  
6 dividuals with disabilities and special health care  
7 needs who often cannot afford the insurance avail-  
8 able to them through the private market, are unin-  
9 surable by the plans available in the private sector,  
10 and are at great risk of incurring very high and eco-  
11 nomically devastating health care costs.

12 (3) Americans with significant disabilities often  
13 are unable to obtain health care insurance that pro-  
14 vides coverage of the services and supports that en-  
15 able them to live independently and enter or rejoin  
16 the workforce. Personal assistance services (such as  
17 attendant services, personal assistance with trans-  
18 portation to and from work, reader services, job  
19 coaches, and related assistance) remove many of the  
20 barriers between significant disability and work.  
21 Coverage for such services, as well as for prescrip-  
22 tion drugs, durable medical equipment, and basic  
23 health care are powerful and proven tools for indi-

1 individuals with significant disabilities to obtain and re-  
2 tain employment.

3 (4) For individuals with disabilities, the fear of  
4 losing health care and related services is one of the  
5 greatest barriers keeping the individuals from maxi-  
6 mizing their employment, earning potential, and  
7 independence.

8 (5) Individuals with disabilities who are bene-  
9 ficiaries under title II or XVI of the Social Security  
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) risk losing  
11 medicare or medicaid coverage that is linked to their  
12 cash benefits, a risk that is an equal, or greater,  
13 work disincentive than the loss of cash benefits asso-  
14 ciated with working.

15 (6) Currently, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 percent of so-  
16 cial security disability insurance and supplemental  
17 security income beneficiaries cease to receive benefits  
18 as a result of employment.

19 (7) Beneficiaries have cited the lack of adequate  
20 employment training and placement services as an  
21 additional barrier to employment.

22 (8) If an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 percent of the cur-  
23 rent social security disability insurance (DI) and  
24 supplemental security income (SSI) recipients were  
25 to cease receiving benefits as a result of employ-

1       ment, the savings to the Social Security Trust  
2       Funds in cash assistance would total  
3       \$3,500,000,000 over the worklife of the individuals.

4       (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-  
5       lows:

6           (1) To provide health care and employment  
7       preparation and placement services to individuals  
8       with disabilities that will enable those individuals to  
9       reduce their dependency on cash benefit programs.

10          (2) To encourage States to adopt the option of  
11       allowing individuals with disabilities to purchase  
12       medicaid coverage that is necessary to enable such  
13       individuals to maintain employment.

14          (3) To provide individuals with disabilities the  
15       option of maintaining medicare coverage while work-  
16       ing.

17          (4) To establish a return to work ticket pro-  
18       gram that will allow individuals with disabilities to  
19       seek the services necessary to obtain and retain em-  
20       ployment and reduce their dependency on cash bene-  
21       fit programs.

1 **TITLE I—EXPANDED AVAILABIL-**  
 2 **ITY OF HEALTH CARE SERV-**  
 3 **ICES**

4 **SEC. 101. EXPANDING STATE OPTIONS UNDER MEDICAID**  
 5 **FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

6 (a) STATE OPTION TO ELIMINATE INCOME, ASSETS,  
 7 AND RESOURCE LIMITATIONS FOR WORKERS WITH DIS-  
 8 ABILITIES BUYING INTO MEDICAID.—Section  
 9 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 10 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)) is amended—

11 (1) in subclause (XIII), by striking “or” at the  
 12 end;

13 (2) in subclause (XIV), by adding “or” at the  
 14 end; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(XV) who, but for earnings in  
 17 excess of the limit established under  
 18 section 1905(q)(2)(B), and subject to  
 19 limitations on assets, resources, or un-  
 20 earned income that may be set by the  
 21 State, would be considered to be re-  
 22 ceiving supplemental security income  
 23 (subject, notwithstanding section  
 24 1916, to payment of premiums or  
 25 other cost-sharing charges (set on a

1 sliding scale based on income that the  
 2 State may determine and that may re-  
 3 quire an individual with income that  
 4 exceeds 250 percent of the income of-  
 5 ficial poverty line (as defined by the  
 6 Office of Management and Budget,  
 7 and revised annually in accordance  
 8 with section 673(2) of the Omnibus  
 9 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981)  
 10 applicable to a family of the size in-  
 11 volved to pay an amount equal to 100  
 12 percent of the premium cost for pro-  
 13 viding medical assistance to the indi-  
 14 vidual), so long as any such premiums  
 15 or other cost-sharing charges are the  
 16 same as any premiums or other cost-  
 17 sharing charges imposed for individ-  
 18 uals described in subclause (XVI));”.

19 (b) STATE OPTION TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
 20 WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES TO BUY INTO MEDIC-  
 21 AID.—

22 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)  
 23 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 24 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)), as amended by subsection (a),  
 25 is amended—

1 (A) in subclause (XIV), by striking “or” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in subclause (XV), by adding “or” at  
4 the end; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(XVI) who are working individ-  
7 uals with disabilities described in sec-  
8 tion 1905(v) (subject, notwithstanding  
9 section 1916, to payment of premiums  
10 or other cost-sharing charges (set on  
11 a sliding scale based on income) that  
12 the State may determine so long as  
13 any such premiums or other cost-shar-  
14 ing charges are the same as any pre-  
15 miums or other cost-sharing charges  
16 imposed for individuals described in  
17 subclause (XV)), but only if the State  
18 provides medical assistance to individ-  
19 uals described in subclause (XV);”.

20 (2) DEFINITION OF WORKING INDIVIDUALS  
21 WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 1905 of the Social Se-  
22 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended by adding  
23 at the end the following:

24 “(v)(1) The term ‘working individuals with disabil-  
25 ities’ means individuals ages 16 through 64 who—

1           “(A) by reason of medical improvement, cease  
2 to be eligible for benefits under section 223(d) or  
3 1614(a)(3) at the time of a regularly scheduled con-  
4 tinuing disability review but who continue to have a  
5 severe medically determinable impairment; and

6           “(B) are employed.

7           “(2) An individual is considered to be ‘employed’ if  
8 the individual—

9           “(A) is earning at least the applicable minimum  
10 wage requirement under section 6 of the Fair Labor  
11 Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 206) and working at least  
12 40 hours per month; or

13           “(B) is engaged in a work effort that meets  
14 substantial and reasonable threshold criteria for  
15 hours of work, wages, or other measures, as defined  
16 by the State and approved by the Secretary.”.

17           (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
18 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 1396d(a)) is amended in the matter preceding para-  
20 graph (1)—

21           (A) in clause (x), by striking “or” at the  
22 end;

23           (B) in clause (xi), by adding “or” at the  
24 end; and

1 (C) by inserting after clause (xi), the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(xii) individuals described in subsection (v),”.

4 (c) PROHIBITION AGAINST SUPPLANTATION OF  
5 STATE FUNDS; MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIRE-  
6 MENT; CONDITION FOR APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN  
7 AMENDMENT.—

8 (1) NO SUPPLANTATION OF STATE FUNDS.—

9 Federal funds paid to a State for medical assistance  
10 provided to an individual described in subclause  
11 (XV) or (XVI) of section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the  
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii))  
13 must be used to supplement but not supplant the  
14 level of State funds expended as of October 1, 1998  
15 for programs to enable working individuals with dis-  
16 abilities to work.

17 (2) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect  
18 to a fiscal year quarter, no Federal funds may be  
19 paid to a State for medical assistance provided to an  
20 individual described in subclause (XV) or (XVI) of  
21 section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act  
22 (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)) for such fiscal year  
23 quarter if the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
24 ices determines that the total of the State expendi-  
25 tures for programs to enable working individuals

1 with disabilities to work for the preceding fiscal year  
2 quarter is less than the total of such expenditures  
3 for the same fiscal year quarter of the preceding fis-  
4 cal year.

5 (3) CONDITION FOR APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN  
6 AMENDMENTS.—No State plan amendment that pro-  
7 poses to provide medical assistance to an individual  
8 described in subclause (XV) or (XVI) of section  
9 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42  
10 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)) may be approved unless  
11 the chief executive officer of the State certifies to  
12 the Secretary of Health and Human Services that  
13 the plan, as so amended, will satisfy the require-  
14 ments of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

15 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
17 this section shall apply on and after October 1,  
18 1999.

19 (2) EXTENSION OF EFFECTIVE DATE FOR  
20 STATE LAW AMENDMENT.—In the case of a State  
21 plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act  
22 which the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
23 determines requires State legislation in order for the  
24 plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by  
25 the amendments made by this section, the State

1 plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with  
 2 the requirements of this section solely on the basis  
 3 of its failure to meet these additional requirements  
 4 before the first day of the first calendar quarter be-  
 5 ginning after the close of the first regular session of  
 6 the State legislature that begins after the date of en-  
 7 actment of this Act. For purposes of the previous  
 8 sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year  
 9 legislative session, each year of the session is consid-  
 10 ered to be a separate regular session of the State  
 11 legislature.

12 **SEC. 102. CONTINUATION OF MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR**  
 13 **WORKING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

14 (a) CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 1818A  
 15 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2a) is amend-  
 16 ed by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e)(1) During the 10-year period beginning with the  
 18 first month that begins after the date of enactment of this  
 19 subsection, this section shall apply—

20 “(A) in subsection (a), by inserting—

21 “(i) in paragraph (2)(C), “on or after the  
 22 date of enactment of the Work Incentives Im-  
 23 provement Act of 1999” after “ends”; and

24 “(ii) “without being subject to a premium”  
 25 before the period; and

1           “(B) without regard to subsections (c)(2)(D)  
2           and (d).

3           “(2) Any individual who, as of the date of enactment  
4 of this subsection is enrolled in the medicare program  
5 under this section and would, without regard to paragraph  
6 (1), otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements for en-  
7 rollment set forth in subsection (a) shall be deemed to sat-  
8 isfy the requirement of subsection (a)(2)(C) of that section  
9 after the application of paragraph (1)(A)(i) for purposes  
10 of not being subject to a premium for enrollment in the  
11 medicare program under this section.

12           “(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), paragraph (1)  
13 shall continue to apply after the termination of the 10-  
14 year period described in that paragraph in the case of any  
15 individual who is enrolled in the medicare program under  
16 this section for the month that ends such 10-year period.”.

17           (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 8 years after the  
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
19 of the United States shall submit a report to Congress  
20 that—

21           (1) examines the effectiveness and cost of sec-  
22 tion 1818A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 1395i–2a) as amended by subsection (a); and

24           (2) recommends whether that section should  
25 continue to be applied, as so amended, beyond the

1 10-year period described in subsection (e) of that  
2 section.

3 **SEC. 103. GRANTS TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH STATE IN-**  
4 **FRASTRUCTURES TO SUPPORT WORKING IN-**  
5 **DIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
8 Human Services (in this section referred to as the  
9 “Secretary”) shall award grants described in sub-  
10 section (b) to States to support the design, establish-  
11 ment, and operation of State infrastructures that  
12 provide items and services to support working indi-  
13 viduals with disabilities. A State may submit an ap-  
14 plication for a grant authorized under this section at  
15 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
16 formation as the Secretary may determine.

17 (2) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section,  
18 the term “State” means each of the 50 States, the  
19 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the  
20 United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and  
21 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
22 lands.

23 (b) GRANTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND OUT-  
24 REACH.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of the funds appro-  
2           priated under subsection (e), the Secretary shall  
3           award grants to States to—

4                   (A) support the establishment, implemen-  
5                   tation, and operation of the State infrastruc-  
6                   tures described in subsection (a); and

7                   (B) conduct outreach campaigns regarding  
8                   the existence of such infrastructures.

9           (2) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

10                   (A) IN GENERAL.—No State may receive a  
11                   grant under this subsection unless—

12                           (i) the State has an approved amend-  
13                           ment to the State plan under title XIX of  
14                           the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et  
15                           seq.) that—

16                                   (I) provides medical assistance  
17                                   under such plan to individuals de-  
18                                   scribed                   in                   section  
19                                   1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV) of the Social  
20                                   Security           Act           (42           U.S.C.  
21                                   1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV)); or

22                                   (II) provides medical assistance  
23                                   under such plan to individuals de-  
24                                   scribed in subclauses (XV) and (XVI)  
25                                   of section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the

1 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)); and

3 (ii) the State demonstrates to the sat-  
4 isfaction of the Secretary that the State  
5 makes personal assistance services avail-  
6 able under the State plan under title XIX  
7 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396  
8 et seq.) to the extent necessary to enable  
9 individuals described in subclause (I) or  
10 (II) of clause (i) to remain employed (as  
11 determined under section 1905(v)(2) of the  
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 1396d(v)(2)).

14 (B) DEFINITION OF PERSONAL ASSIST-  
15 ANCE SERVICES.—In this paragraph, the term  
16 “personal assistance services” means a range of  
17 services, provided by 1 or more persons, de-  
18 signed to assist an individual with a disability  
19 to perform daily activities on and off the job  
20 that the individual would typically perform if  
21 the individual did not have a disability. Such  
22 services shall be designed to increase the indi-  
23 vidual’s control in life and ability to perform ev-  
24 eryday activities on or off the job.

25 (3) DETERMINATION OF AWARDS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
2 graph (B), the Secretary shall determine a for-  
3 mula for awarding grants to States under this  
4 section that provides special consideration to  
5 States that provide medical assistance under  
6 title XIX of the Social Security Act to individ-  
7 uals described in section  
8 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XVI) of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XVI)).

10 (B) AWARD LIMITS.—

11 (i) MINIMUM AWARDS.—No State that  
12 submits an approved application for fund-  
13 ing under this section shall receive a grant  
14 for a fiscal year that is less than \$500,000.

15 (ii) MAXIMUM AWARDS.—No State  
16 that submits an approved application for  
17 funding under this section shall receive a  
18 grant for a fiscal year that exceeds 15 per-  
19 cent of the total expenditures by the State  
20 (including the reimbursed Federal share of  
21 such expenditures) for medical assistance  
22 for individuals eligible under subclause  
23 (XV) or (XVI) of section  
24 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii), whichever is greater, as

1                   estimated by the State and approved by  
2                   the Secretary.

3           (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

4                   (1) FUNDS ALLOCATED TO STATES.—Funds al-  
5                   located to a State under a grant made under this  
6                   section for a fiscal year shall remain available until  
7                   expended.

8                   (2) FUNDS NOT ALLOCATED TO STATES.—

9                   Funds not allocated to States in the fiscal year for  
10                   which they are appropriated shall remain available  
11                   in succeeding fiscal years for allocation by the Sec-  
12                   retary using the allocation formula established by  
13                   the Secretary under subsection (c)(3)(A).

14           (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—A State that receives a grant  
15           under this section shall submit an annual report to the  
16           Secretary on the use of funds provided under the grant.  
17           Each report shall include the percentage increase in the  
18           number of title II disability beneficiaries, as defined in sec-  
19           tion 1148(k)(3) of the Social Security Act (as amended  
20           by section 201) in the State, and title XVI disability bene-  
21           ficiaries, as defined in section 1148(k)(4) of the Social Se-  
22           curity Act (as so amended) in the State who return to  
23           work.

24           (e) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any funds in the Treas-  
25           ury not otherwise appropriated, there is authorized to be

1 appropriated and there is appropriated to make grants  
2 under this section—

3 (1) for fiscal year 2000, \$20,000,000;

4 (2) for fiscal year 2001, \$25,000,000;

5 (3) for fiscal year 2002, \$30,000,000;

6 (4) for fiscal year 2003, \$35,000,000;

7 (5) for fiscal year 2004, \$40,000,000; and

8 (6) for fiscal years 2005 through 2010, the  
9 amount appropriated for the preceding fiscal year  
10 increased by the percentage increase (if any) in the  
11 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers  
12 (United States city average) for the preceding fiscal  
13 year.

14 (f) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than October 1,  
15 2009, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in  
16 consultation with the Work Incentives Advisory Panel es-  
17 tablished under section 202, shall submit a recommenda-  
18 tion to the Committee on Commerce and the Committee  
19 on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and  
20 the Committee on Finance of the Senate regarding wheth-  
21 er the grant program established under this section should  
22 be continued after fiscal year 2010.

1 **SEC. 104. DEMONSTRATION OF COVERAGE OF WORKERS**  
 2 **WITH POTENTIALLY SEVERE DISABILITIES.**

3 (a) STATE APPLICATION.—A State may apply to the  
 4 Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section  
 5 referred to as the “Secretary”) for approval of a dem-  
 6 onstration project (in this section referred to as a “dem-  
 7 onstration project”) under which up to a specified maxi-  
 8 mum number of individuals who are workers with a poten-  
 9 tially severe disability (as defined in subsection (b)(1)) are  
 10 provided medical assistance equal to that provided under  
 11 section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 12 1396d(a)) to individuals described in section  
 13 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV) of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
 14 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV)).

15 (b) WORKER WITH A POTENTIALLY SEVERE DIS-  
 16 ABILITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term “worker with a  
 18 potentially severe disability” means, with respect to  
 19 a demonstration project, an individual who—

20 (A) is at least 16, but less than 65, years  
 21 of age;

22 (B) has a specific physical or mental im-  
 23 pairment that, as defined by the State under  
 24 the demonstration project, is reasonably ex-  
 25 pected, but for the receipt of items and services  
 26 described in section 1905(a) of the Social Secu-

1           rity Act, to become blind or disabled (as defined  
2           under section 1614(a) of the Social Security  
3           Act); and

4           (C) is employed (as defined in paragraph  
5           (2)).

6           (2) DEFINITION OF EMPLOYED.—An individual  
7           is considered to be “employed” if the individual—

8           (A) is earning at least the applicable mini-  
9           mum wage requirement under section 6 of the  
10          Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 206) and  
11          working at least 40 hours per month; or

12          (B) is engaged in a work effort that meets  
13          substantial and reasonable threshold criteria for  
14          hours of work, wages, or other measures, as de-  
15          fined under the demonstration project and ap-  
16          proved by the Secretary.

17          (c) APPROVAL OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

18          (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),  
19          the Secretary shall approve applications under sub-  
20          section (a) that meet the requirements of paragraph  
21          (2) and such additional terms and conditions as the  
22          Secretary may require. The Secretary may waive the  
23          requirement of section 1902(a)(1) of the Social Se-  
24          curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(1)) to allow for sub-  
25          State demonstrations.

1           (2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF DEMONSTRA-  
2           TION PROJECTS.—The Secretary may not approve a  
3           demonstration project under this section unless the  
4           State provides assurances satisfactory to the Sec-  
5           retary that the following conditions are or will be  
6           met:

7                   (A) ELECTION OF OPTIONAL CATEGORY.—  
8           The State has elected to provide coverage under  
9           its plan under title XIX of the Social Security  
10          Act of individuals described in section  
11          1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV) of the Social Security  
12          Act.

13                   (B) MAINTENANCE OF STATE EFFORT.—  
14          Federal funds paid to a State pursuant to this  
15          section must be used to supplement, but not  
16          supplant, the level of State funds expended for  
17          workers with potentially severe disabilities  
18          under programs in effect for such individuals at  
19          the time the demonstration project is approved  
20          under this section.

21                   (C) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—The  
22          State provides for an independent evaluation of  
23          the project.

24           (3) LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL FUNDING.—

1 (A) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any funds in  
2 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there  
3 is authorized to be appropriated and there is  
4 appropriated to carry out this section—

5 (i) for fiscal year 2000, \$70,000,000;

6 (ii) for fiscal year 2001, \$73,000,000;

7 (iii) for fiscal year 2002, \$77,000,000;

8 and

9 (iv) for fiscal year 2003, \$80,000,000.

10 (B) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—In no  
11 case may—

12 (i) the aggregate amount of payment  
13 made by the Secretary to States under this  
14 section exceed \$300,000,000; or

15 (ii) payment be provided by the Sec-  
16 retary for a fiscal year after fiscal year  
17 2005.

18 (C) FUNDS ALLOCATED TO STATES.—The  
19 Secretary shall allocate funds to States based  
20 on their applications and the availability of  
21 funds. Funds allocated to a State under a grant  
22 made under this section for a fiscal year shall  
23 remain available until expended.

24 (D) FUNDS NOT ALLOCATED TO STATES.—  
25 Funds not allocated to States in the fiscal year

1           for which they are appropriated shall remain  
2           available in succeeding fiscal years for alloca-  
3           tion by the Secretary using the allocation for-  
4           mula established under this section.

5           (E) PAYMENTS TO STATES.—Subject to  
6           the succeeding provisions of this section, the  
7           Secretary shall pay to each State with a dem-  
8           onstration project approved under this section,  
9           from its allocation under subparagraph (C), an  
10          amount for each quarter equal to the Federal  
11          medical assistance percentage (as defined in  
12          section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42  
13          U.S.C. 1395d(b)) of expenditures in the quarter  
14          for medical assistance provided to workers with  
15          a potentially severe disability.

16          (d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
17          “State” has the meaning given such term for purposes of  
18          title XIX of the Social Security Act.

1 **TITLE II—TICKET TO WORK AND**  
 2 **SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND RE-**  
 3 **LATED PROVISIONS**

4 **Subtitle A—Ticket to Work and**  
 5 **Self-Sufficiency**

6 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TICKET TO WORK AND**  
 7 **SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title XI of the Social  
 9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by add-  
 10 ing after section 1147 (as added by section 8 of the Non-  
 11 citizen Benefit Clarification and Other Technical Amend-  
 12 ments Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–306; 112 Stat.  
 13 2928)) the following:

14 “TICKET TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

15 “SEC. 1148. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
 16 shall establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Pro-  
 17 gram, under which a disabled beneficiary may use a ticket  
 18 to work and self-sufficiency issued by the Commissioner  
 19 in accordance with this section to obtain employment serv-  
 20 ices, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support  
 21 services from an employment network which is of the bene-  
 22 ficiary’s choice and which is willing to provide such serv-  
 23 ices to the beneficiary.

24 “(b) TICKET SYSTEM.—

1           “(1) DISTRIBUTION OF TICKETS.—The Com-  
2           missioner may issue a ticket to work and self-suffi-  
3           ciency to disabled beneficiaries for participation in  
4           the Program.

5           “(2) ASSIGNMENT OF TICKETS.—A disabled  
6           beneficiary holding a ticket to work and self-suffi-  
7           ciency may assign the ticket to any employment net-  
8           work of the beneficiary’s choice which is serving  
9           under the Program and is willing to accept the as-  
10          signment.

11          “(3) TICKET TERMS.—A ticket issued under  
12          paragraph (1) shall consist of a document which evi-  
13          dences the Commissioner’s agreement to pay (as  
14          provided in paragraph (4)) an employment network,  
15          which is serving under the Program and to which  
16          such ticket is assigned by the beneficiary, for such  
17          employment services, vocational rehabilitation serv-  
18          ices, and other support services as the employment  
19          network may provide to the beneficiary.

20          “(4) PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYMENT NET-  
21          WORKS.—The Commissioner shall pay an employ-  
22          ment network under the Program in accordance with  
23          the outcome payment system under subsection  
24          (h)(2) or under the outcome-milestone payment sys-  
25          tem under subsection (h)(3) (whichever is elected

1 pursuant to subsection (h)(1)). An employment net-  
2 work may not request or receive compensation for  
3 such services from the beneficiary.

4 “(c) STATE PARTICIPATION.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State agency admin-  
6 istering or supervising the administration of the  
7 State plan approved under title I of the Rehabilita-  
8 tion Act of 1973 may elect to participate in the Pro-  
9 gram as an employment network with respect to a  
10 disabled beneficiary. If the State agency does elect  
11 to participate in the Program, the State agency also  
12 shall elect to be paid under the outcome payment  
13 system or the outcome-milestone payment system in  
14 accordance with subsection (h)(1). With respect to a  
15 disabled beneficiary that the State agency does not  
16 elect to have participate in the Program, the State  
17 agency shall be paid for services provided to that  
18 beneficiary under the system for payment applicable  
19 under section 222(d) and subsections (d) and (e) of  
20 section 1615. The Commissioner shall provide for  
21 periodic opportunities for exercising such elections  
22 (and revocations).

23 “(2) EFFECT OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE  
24 AGENCY.—

1           “(A) STATE AGENCIES PARTICIPATING.—

2           In any case in which a State agency described  
3           in paragraph (1) elects under that paragraph to  
4           participate in the Program, the employment  
5           services, vocational rehabilitation services, and  
6           other support services which, upon assignment  
7           of tickets to work and self-sufficiency, are pro-  
8           vided to disabled beneficiaries by the State  
9           agency acting as an employment network shall  
10          be governed by plans for vocational rehabilita-  
11          tion services approved under title I of the Reha-  
12          bilitation Act of 1973.

13           “(B) STATE AGENCIES ADMINISTERING  
14          MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PRO-  
15          GRAMS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply  
16          with respect to any State agency administering  
17          a program under title V of this Act.

18           “(3) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO  
19          CROSS-REFERRAL TO CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES.—

20           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which  
21          an employment network has been assigned a  
22          ticket to work and self-sufficiency by a disabled  
23          beneficiary, no State agency shall be deemed re-  
24          quired, under this section, title I of the Work-  
25          force Investment Act of 1998, title I of the Re-

1 habilitation Act of 1973, or a State plan ap-  
2 proved under such title, to accept any referral  
3 of such disabled beneficiary from such employ-  
4 ment network unless such employment network  
5 and such State agency have entered into a writ-  
6 ten agreement that meets the requirements of  
7 subparagraph (B). Any beneficiary who has as-  
8 signed a ticket to work and self-sufficiency to  
9 an employment network that has not entered  
10 into such a written agreement with such a  
11 State agency may not access vocational rehabili-  
12 tation services under title I of the Rehabilita-  
13 tion Act of 1973 until such time as the bene-  
14 ficiary is reassigned to a State vocational reha-  
15 bilitation agency by the Program Manager.

16 “(B) TERMS OF AGREEMENT.—An agree-  
17 ment required by subparagraph (A) shall speci-  
18 fy, in accordance with regulations prescribed  
19 pursuant to subparagraph (C)—

20 “(i) the extent (if any) to which the  
21 employment network holding the ticket will  
22 provide to the State agency—

23 “(I) reimbursement for costs in-  
24 curred in providing services described

1 in subparagraph (A) to the disabled  
2 beneficiary; and

3 “(II) other amounts from pay-  
4 ments made by the Commissioner to  
5 the employment network pursuant to  
6 subsection (h); and

7 “(ii) any other conditions that may be  
8 required by such regulations.

9 “(C) REGULATIONS.—The Commissioner  
10 and the Secretary of Education shall jointly  
11 prescribe regulations specifying the terms of  
12 agreements required by subparagraph (A) and  
13 otherwise necessary to carry out the provisions  
14 of this paragraph.

15 “(D) PENALTY.—No payment may be  
16 made to an employment network pursuant to  
17 subsection (h) in connection with services pro-  
18 vided to any disabled beneficiary if such em-  
19 ployment network makes referrals described in  
20 subparagraph (A) in violation of the terms of  
21 the agreement required under subparagraph (A)  
22 or without having entered into such an agree-  
23 ment.

24 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.—

1           “(1) SELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF PRO-  
2           GRAM MANAGERS.—The Commissioner shall enter  
3           into agreements with 1 or more organizations in the  
4           private or public sector for service as a program  
5           manager to assist the Commissioner in administer-  
6           ing the Program. Any such program manager shall  
7           be selected by means of a competitive bidding proc-  
8           ess, from among organizations in the private or pub-  
9           lic sector with available expertise and experience in  
10          the field of vocational rehabilitation and employment  
11          services.

12           “(2) TENURE, RENEWAL, AND EARLY TERMI-  
13          NATION.—Each agreement entered into under para-  
14          graph (1) shall provide for early termination upon  
15          failure to meet performance standards which shall be  
16          specified in the agreement and which shall be  
17          weighted to take into account any performance in  
18          prior terms. Such performance standards shall  
19          include—

20                   “(A) measures for ease of access by bene-  
21                   ficiaries to services; and

22                   “(B) measures for determining the extent  
23                   to which failures in obtaining services for bene-  
24                   ficiaries fall within acceptable parameters, as  
25                   determined by the Commissioner.

1           “(3) PRECLUSION FROM DIRECT PARTICIPA-  
2           TION IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN OWN SERVICE  
3           AREA.—Agreements under paragraph (1) shall  
4           preclude—

5                   “(A) direct participation by a program  
6                   manager in the delivery of employment services,  
7                   vocational rehabilitation services, or other sup-  
8                   port services to beneficiaries in the service area  
9                   covered by the program manager’s agreement;  
10                  and

11                   “(B) the holding by a program manager of  
12                   a financial interest in an employment network  
13                   or service provider which provides services in a  
14                   geographic area covered under the program  
15                   manager’s agreement.

16           “(4) SELECTION OF EMPLOYMENT NET-  
17           WORKS.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
19                   shall select and enter into agreements with em-  
20                   ployment networks for service under the Pro-  
21                   gram. Such employment networks shall be in  
22                   addition to State agencies serving as employ-  
23                   ment networks pursuant to elections under sub-  
24                   section (c).

1           “(B) ALTERNATE PARTICIPANTS.—In any  
2           State where the Program is being implemented,  
3           the Commissioner shall enter into an agreement  
4           with any alternate participant that is operating  
5           under the authority of section 222(d)(2) in the  
6           State as of the date of enactment of this section  
7           and chooses to serve as an employment network  
8           under the Program.

9           “(5) TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH EM-  
10          PLOYMENT NETWORKS.—The Commissioner shall  
11          terminate agreements with employment networks for  
12          inadequate performance, as determined by the Com-  
13          missioner.

14          “(6) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—The Commissioner  
15          shall provide for such periodic reviews as are nec-  
16          essary to provide for effective quality assurance in  
17          the provision of services by employment networks.  
18          The Commissioner shall solicit and consider the  
19          views of consumers and the program manager under  
20          which the employment networks serve and shall con-  
21          sult with providers of services to develop perform-  
22          ance measurements. The Commissioner shall ensure  
23          that the results of the periodic reviews are made  
24          available to beneficiaries who are prospective service  
25          recipients as they select employment networks. The

1 Commissioner shall ensure that the periodic surveys  
2 of beneficiaries receiving services under the Program  
3 are designed to measure customer service satisfac-  
4 tion.

5 “(7) DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—The Commis-  
6 sioner shall provide for a mechanism for resolving  
7 disputes between beneficiaries and employment net-  
8 works, between program managers and employment  
9 networks, and between program managers and pro-  
10 viders of services. The Commissioner shall afford a  
11 party to such a dispute a reasonable opportunity for  
12 a full and fair review of the matter in dispute.

13 “(e) PROGRAM MANAGERS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A program manager shall  
15 conduct tasks appropriate to assist the Commis-  
16 sioner in carrying out the Commissioner’s duties in  
17 administering the Program.

18 “(2) RECRUITMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NET-  
19 WORKS.—A program manager shall recruit, and rec-  
20 ommend for selection by the Commissioner, employ-  
21 ment networks for service under the Program. The  
22 program manager shall carry out such recruitment  
23 and provide such recommendations, and shall mon-  
24 itor all employment networks serving in the Program  
25 in the geographic area covered under the program

1 manager's agreement, to the extent necessary and  
2 appropriate to ensure that adequate choices of serv-  
3 ices are made available to beneficiaries. Employment  
4 networks may serve under the Program only pursu-  
5 ant to an agreement entered into with the Commis-  
6 sioner under the Program incorporating the applica-  
7 ble provisions of this section and regulations there-  
8 under, and the program manager shall provide and  
9 maintain assurances to the Commissioner that pay-  
10 ment by the Commissioner to employment networks  
11 pursuant to this section is warranted based on com-  
12 pliance by such employment networks with the terms  
13 of such agreement and this section. The program  
14 manager shall not impose numerical limits on the  
15 number of employment networks to be recommended  
16 pursuant to this paragraph.

17           “(3) FACILITATION OF ACCESS BY BENE-  
18 FICIARIES TO EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS.—A pro-  
19 gram manager shall facilitate access by beneficiaries  
20 to employment networks. The program manager  
21 shall ensure that each beneficiary is allowed changes  
22 in employment networks for good cause, as deter-  
23 mined by the Commissioner, without being deemed  
24 to have rejected services under the Program. The  
25 program manager shall establish and maintain lists

1 of employment networks available to beneficiaries  
2 and shall make such lists generally available to the  
3 public. The program manager shall ensure that all  
4 information provided to disabled beneficiaries pursu-  
5 ant to this paragraph is provided in accessible for-  
6 mats.

7 “(4) ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE  
8 SERVICES.—The program manager shall ensure that  
9 employment services, vocational rehabilitation serv-  
10 ices, and other support services are provided to  
11 beneficiaries throughout the geographic area covered  
12 under the program manager’s agreement, including  
13 rural areas.

14 “(5) REASONABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES.—The  
15 program manager shall take such measures as are  
16 necessary to ensure that sufficient employment net-  
17 works are available and that each beneficiary receiv-  
18 ing services under the Program has reasonable ac-  
19 cess to employment services, vocational rehabilitation  
20 services, and other support services. Services pro-  
21 vided under the Program may include case manage-  
22 ment, work incentives planning, supported employ-  
23 ment, career planning, career plan development, vo-  
24 cational assessment, job training, placement, follow-  
25 up services, and such other services as may be speci-

1       fied by the Commissioner under the Program. The  
2       program manager shall ensure that such services are  
3       available in each service area.

4       “(f) EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS.—

5               “(1) QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT NET-  
6       WORKS.—

7               “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each employment net-  
8       work serving under the Program shall consist of  
9       an agency or instrumentality of a State (or a  
10      political subdivision thereof) or a private entity  
11      that assumes responsibility for the coordination  
12      and delivery of services under the Program to  
13      individuals assigning to the employment net-  
14      work tickets to work and self-sufficiency issued  
15      under subsection (b).

16              “(B) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS.—An  
17      employment network serving under the Pro-  
18      gram may consist of a one-stop delivery system  
19      established under subtitle B of title I of the  
20      Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

21              “(C) COMPLIANCE WITH SELECTION CRI-  
22      TERIA.—No employment network may serve  
23      under the Program unless it meets and main-  
24      tains compliance with both general selection cri-  
25      teria (such as professional and educational

1           qualifications (where applicable)) and specific  
2           selection criteria (such as substantial expertise  
3           and experience in providing relevant employ-  
4           ment services and supports).

5           “(D) SINGLE OR ASSOCIATED PROVIDERS  
6           ALLOWED.—An employment network shall con-  
7           sist of either a single provider of such services  
8           or of an association of such providers organized  
9           so as to combine their resources into a single  
10          entity. An employment network may meet the  
11          requirements of subsection (e)(4) by providing  
12          services directly, or by entering into agreements  
13          with other individuals or entities providing ap-  
14          propriate employment services, vocational reha-  
15          bilitation services, or other support services.

16          “(2) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PROVISION  
17          OF SERVICES.—Each employment network serving  
18          under the Program shall be required under the  
19          terms of its agreement with the Commissioner to—

20                  “(A) serve prescribed service areas; and

21                  “(B) take such measures as are necessary  
22          to ensure that employment services, vocational  
23          rehabilitation services, and other support serv-  
24          ices provided under the Program by, or under  
25          agreements entered into with, the employment

1 network are provided under appropriate individ-  
2 ual work plans meeting the requirements of  
3 subsection (g).

4 “(3) ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING.—Each  
5 employment network shall meet financial reporting  
6 requirements as prescribed by the Commissioner.

7 “(4) PERIODIC OUTCOMES REPORTING.—Each  
8 employment network shall prepare periodic reports,  
9 on at least an annual basis, itemizing for the covered  
10 period specific outcomes achieved with respect to  
11 specific services provided by the employment net-  
12 work. Such reports shall conform to a national  
13 model prescribed under this section. Each employ-  
14 ment network shall provide a copy of the latest re-  
15 port issued by the employment network pursuant to  
16 this paragraph to each beneficiary upon enrollment  
17 under the Program for services to be received  
18 through such employment network. Upon issuance of  
19 each report to each beneficiary, a copy of the report  
20 shall be maintained in the files of the employment  
21 network. The program manager shall ensure that  
22 copies of all such reports issued under this para-  
23 graph are made available to the public under reason-  
24 able terms.

25 “(g) INDIVIDUAL WORK PLANS.—

1           “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Each employment net-  
2 work shall—

3           “(A) take such measures as are necessary  
4 to ensure that employment services, vocational  
5 rehabilitation services, and other support serv-  
6 ices provided under the Program by, or under  
7 agreements entered into with, the employment  
8 network are provided under appropriate individ-  
9 ual work plans that meet the requirements of  
10 subparagraph (C);

11           “(B) develop and implement each such in-  
12 dividual work plan in partnership with each  
13 beneficiary receiving such services in a manner  
14 that affords the beneficiary the opportunity to  
15 exercise informed choice in selecting an employ-  
16 ment goal and specific services needed to  
17 achieve that employment goal;

18           “(C) ensure that each individual work plan  
19 includes at least—

20           “(i) a statement of the vocational goal  
21 developed with the beneficiary;

22           “(ii) a statement of the services and  
23 supports that have been deemed necessary  
24 for the beneficiary to accomplish that goal;

1           “(iii) a statement of any terms and  
2           conditions related to the provision of such  
3           services and supports; and

4           “(iv) a statement of understanding re-  
5           garding the beneficiary’s rights under the  
6           Program (such as the right to retrieve the  
7           ticket to work and self-sufficiency if the  
8           beneficiary is dissatisfied with the services  
9           being provided by the employment net-  
10          work) and remedies available to the indi-  
11          vidual, including information on the avail-  
12          ability of advocacy services and assistance  
13          in resolving disputes through the State  
14          grant program authorized under section  
15          1150;

16          “(D) provide a beneficiary the opportunity  
17          to amend the individual work plan if a change  
18          in circumstances necessitates a change in the  
19          plan; and

20          “(E) make each beneficiary’s individual  
21          work plan available to the beneficiary in, as ap-  
22          propriate, an accessible format chosen by the  
23          beneficiary.

24          “(2) EFFECTIVE UPON WRITTEN APPROVAL.—  
25          A beneficiary’s individual work plan shall take effect

1 upon written approval by the beneficiary or a rep-  
2 resentative of the beneficiary and a representative of  
3 the employment network that, in providing such  
4 written approval, acknowledges assignment of the  
5 beneficiary's ticket to work and self-sufficiency.

6 “(h) EMPLOYMENT NETWORK PAYMENT SYSTEMS.—

7 “(1) ELECTION OF PAYMENT SYSTEM BY EM-  
8 PLOYMENT NETWORKS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall  
10 provide for payment authorized by the Commis-  
11 sioner to employment networks under either an  
12 outcome payment system or an outcome-mile-  
13 stone payment system. Each employment net-  
14 work shall elect which payment system will be  
15 utilized by the employment network, and, for  
16 such period of time as such election remains in  
17 effect, the payment system so elected shall be  
18 utilized exclusively in connection with such em-  
19 ployment network (except as provided in sub-  
20 paragraph (B)).

21 “(B) NO CHANGE IN METHOD OF PAY-  
22 MENT FOR BENEFICIARIES WITH TICKETS AL-  
23 READY ASSIGNED TO THE EMPLOYMENT NET-  
24 WORKS.—Any election of a payment system by  
25 an employment network that would result in a

1 change in the method of payment to the em-  
2 ployment network for services provided to a  
3 beneficiary who is receiving services from the  
4 employment network at the time of the election  
5 shall not be effective with respect to payment  
6 for services provided to that beneficiary and the  
7 method of payment previously selected shall  
8 continue to apply with respect to such services.

9 “(2) OUTCOME PAYMENT SYSTEM.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The outcome payment  
11 system shall consist of a payment structure gov-  
12 erning employment networks electing such sys-  
13 tem under paragraph (1)(A) which meets the  
14 requirements of this paragraph.

15 “(B) PAYMENTS MADE DURING OUTCOME  
16 PAYMENT PERIOD.—The outcome payment sys-  
17 tem shall provide for a schedule of payments to  
18 an employment network in connection with each  
19 individual who is a beneficiary for each month  
20 during the individual’s outcome payment period  
21 for which benefits (described in paragraphs (3)  
22 and (4) of subsection (k)) are not payable to  
23 such individual because of work or earnings.

24 “(C) COMPUTATION OF PAYMENTS TO EM-  
25 PLOYMENT NETWORK.—The payment schedule

1 of the outcome payment system shall be de-  
2 signed so that—

3 “(i) the payment for each of the 60  
4 months during the outcome payment pe-  
5 riod for which benefits (described in para-  
6 graphs (3) and (4) of subsection (k)) are  
7 not payable is equal to a fixed percentage  
8 of the payment calculation base for the cal-  
9 endar year in which such month occurs;  
10 and

11 “(ii) such fixed percentage is set at a  
12 percentage which does not exceed 40 per-  
13 cent.

14 “(3) OUTCOME-MILESTONE PAYMENT SYS-  
15 TEM.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The outcome-mile-  
17 stone payment system shall consist of a pay-  
18 ment structure governing employment networks  
19 electing such system under paragraph (1)(A)  
20 which meets the requirements of this para-  
21 graph.

22 “(B) EARLY PAYMENTS UPON ATTAIN-  
23 MENT OF MILESTONES IN ADVANCE OF OUT-  
24 COME PAYMENT PERIODS.—The outcome-mile-  
25 stone payment system shall provide for 1 or

1 more milestones with respect to beneficiaries re-  
2 ceiving services from an employment network  
3 under the Program that are directed toward the  
4 goal of permanent employment. Such milestones  
5 shall form a part of a payment structure that  
6 provides, in addition to payments made during  
7 outcome payment periods, payments made prior  
8 to outcome payment periods in amounts based  
9 on the attainment of such milestones.

10 “(C) LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS TO  
11 EMPLOYMENT NETWORK.—The payment sched-  
12 ule of the outcome-milestone payment system  
13 shall be designed so that the total of the pay-  
14 ments to the employment network with respect  
15 to each beneficiary is less than, on a net  
16 present value basis (using an interest rate de-  
17 termined by the Commissioner that appro-  
18 priately reflects the cost of funds faced by pro-  
19 viders), the total amount to which payments to  
20 the employment network with respect to the  
21 beneficiary would be limited if the employment  
22 network were paid under the outcome payment  
23 system.

24 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1           “(A) PAYMENT CALCULATION BASE.—The  
2 term ‘payment calculation base’ means, for any  
3 calendar year—

4           “(i) in connection with a title II dis-  
5 ability beneficiary, the average disability  
6 insurance benefit payable under section  
7 223 for all beneficiaries for months during  
8 the preceding calendar year; and

9           “(ii) in connection with a title XVI  
10 disability beneficiary (who is not concur-  
11 rently a title II disability beneficiary), the  
12 average payment of supplemental security  
13 income benefits based on disability payable  
14 under title XVI (excluding State sup-  
15 plementation) for months during the pre-  
16 ceding calendar year to all beneficiaries  
17 who have attained age 18 but have not at-  
18 tained age 65.

19           “(B) OUTCOME PAYMENT PERIOD.—The  
20 term ‘outcome payment period’ means, in con-  
21 nection with any individual who had assigned a  
22 ticket to work and self-sufficiency to an employ-  
23 ment network under the Program, a period—

24           “(i) beginning with the first month,  
25 ending after the date on which such ticket

1 was assigned to the employment network,  
2 for which benefits (described in paragraphs  
3 (3) and (4) of subsection (k)) are not pay-  
4 able to such individual by reason of en-  
5 gagement in substantial gainful activity or  
6 by reason of earnings from work activity;  
7 and

8 “(ii) ending with the 60th month  
9 (consecutive or otherwise), ending after  
10 such date, for which such benefits are not  
11 payable to such individual by reason of en-  
12 gagement in substantial gainful activity or  
13 by reason of earnings from work activity.

14 “(5) PERIODIC REVIEW AND ALTERATIONS OF  
15 PRESCRIBED SCHEDULES.—

16 “(A) PERCENTAGES AND PERIODS.—The  
17 Commissioner shall periodically review the per-  
18 centage specified in paragraph (2)(C), the total  
19 payments permissible under paragraph (3)(C),  
20 and the period of time specified in paragraph  
21 (4)(B) to determine whether such percentages,  
22 such permissible payments, and such period  
23 provide an adequate incentive for employment  
24 networks to assist beneficiaries to enter the  
25 workforce, while providing for appropriate

1 economies. The Commissioner may alter such  
2 percentage, such total permissible payments, or  
3 such period of time to the extent that the Com-  
4 missioner determines, on the basis of the Com-  
5 missioner's review under this paragraph, that  
6 such an alteration would better provide the in-  
7 centive and economies described in the preced-  
8 ing sentence.

9 “(B) NUMBER AND AMOUNTS OF MILE-  
10 STONE PAYMENTS.—The Commissioner shall  
11 periodically review the number and amounts of  
12 milestone payments established by the Commis-  
13 sioner pursuant to this section to determine  
14 whether they provide an adequate incentive for  
15 employment networks to assist beneficiaries to  
16 enter the workforce, taking into account infor-  
17 mation provided to the Commissioner by pro-  
18 gram managers, the Work Incentives Advisory  
19 Panel established under section 202 of the  
20 Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, and  
21 other reliable sources. The Commissioner may  
22 from time to time alter the number and  
23 amounts of milestone payments initially estab-  
24 lished by the Commissioner pursuant to this  
25 section to the extent that the Commissioner de-

1           termines that such an alteration would allow an  
2           adequate incentive for employment networks to  
3           assist beneficiaries to enter the workforce. Such  
4           alteration shall be based on information pro-  
5           vided to the Commissioner by program man-  
6           agers, the Work Incentives Advisory Panel es-  
7           tablished under section 202 of the Work Incen-  
8           tives Improvement Act of 1999, or other reli-  
9           able sources.

10          “(i) SUSPENSION OF DISABILITY REVIEWS.—During  
11 any period for which an individual is using, as defined by  
12 the Commissioner, a ticket to work and self-sufficiency  
13 issued under this section, the Commissioner (and any ap-  
14 plicable State agency) may not initiate a continuing dis-  
15 ability review or other review under section 221 of whether  
16 the individual is or is not under a disability or a review  
17 under title XVI similar to any such review under section  
18 221.

19          “(j) ALLOCATION OF COSTS.—

20                 “(1) PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYMENT NET-  
21 WORKS.—Payments to employment networks (in-  
22 cluding State agencies that elect to participate in the  
23 Program as an employment network) shall be made  
24 from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance  
25 Trust Fund or the Federal Disability Insurance

1 Trust Fund, as appropriate, in the case of ticketed  
2 title II disability beneficiaries who return to work,  
3 or from the appropriation made available for making  
4 supplemental security income payments under title  
5 XVI, in the case of title XVI disability beneficiaries  
6 who return to work. With respect to ticketed bene-  
7 ficiaries who concurrently are entitled to benefits  
8 under title II and eligible for payments under title  
9 XVI who return to work, the Commissioner shall al-  
10 locate the cost of payments to employment networks  
11 to which the tickets of such beneficiaries have been  
12 assigned among such Trust Funds and appropria-  
13 tion, as appropriate.

14 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The costs  
15 of administering this section (other than payments  
16 to employment networks) shall be paid from  
17 amounts made available for the administration of  
18 title II and amounts made available for the adminis-  
19 tration of title XVI, and shall be allocated among  
20 those amounts as appropriate.

21 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-  
23 sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

1           “(2) DISABLED BENEFICIARY.—The term ‘dis-  
2           abled beneficiary’ means a title II disability bene-  
3           ficiary or a title XVI disability beneficiary.

4           “(3) TITLE II DISABILITY BENEFICIARY.—The  
5           term ‘title II disability beneficiary’ means an individ-  
6           ual entitled to disability insurance benefits under  
7           section 223 or to monthly insurance benefits under  
8           section 202 based on such individual’s disability (as  
9           defined in section 223(d)). An individual is a title II  
10          disability beneficiary for each month for which such  
11          individual is entitled to such benefits.

12          “(4) TITLE XVI DISABILITY BENEFICIARY.—  
13          The term ‘title XVI disability beneficiary’ means an  
14          individual eligible for supplemental security income  
15          benefits under title XVI on the basis of blindness  
16          (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(2)) or dis-  
17          ability (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(3)).  
18          An individual is a title XVI disability beneficiary for  
19          each month for which such individual is eligible for  
20          such benefits.

21          “(5) SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENE-  
22          FIT UNDER TITLE XVI.—The term ‘supplemental se-  
23          curity income benefit under title XVI’ means a cash  
24          benefit under section 1611 or 1619(a), and does not

1 include a State supplementary payment, adminis-  
2 tered federally or otherwise.

3 “(l) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4 date of enactment of this section, the Commissioner shall  
5 prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out  
6 the provisions of this section.

7 “(m) SUNSET OF PROGRAM.—The Program estab-  
8 lished under this section shall terminate on September 30,  
9 2004.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE II.—

12 (A) Section 221(i) of the Social Security  
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 421(i)) is amended by adding at  
14 the end the following:

15 “(5) For suspension of reviews under this subsection  
16 in the case of an individual using a ticket to work and  
17 self-sufficiency, see section 1148(i).”.

18 (B) Section 222(a) of the Social Security  
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 422(a)) is repealed.

20 (C) Section 222(b) of the Social Security  
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 422(b)) is repealed.

22 (D) Section 225(b)(1) of the Social Secu-  
23 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 425(b)(1)) is amended by  
24 striking “a program of vocational rehabilitation  
25 services” and inserting “a program consisting

1 of the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Pro-  
2 gram under section 1148 or another program of  
3 vocational rehabilitation services, employment  
4 services, or other support services”.

5 (2) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE XVI.—

6 (A) Section 1615(a) of the Social Security  
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1382d(a)) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 “SEC. 1615. (a) In the case of any blind or disabled  
10 individual who—

11 “(1) has not attained age 16, and

12 “(2) with respect to whom benefits are paid  
13 under this title,

14 the Commissioner of Social Security shall make provision  
15 for referral of such individual to the appropriate State  
16 agency administering the State program under title V.”.

17 (B) Section 1615(c) of the Social Security  
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 1382d(c)) is repealed.

19 (C) Section 1631(a)(6)(A) of the Social  
20 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(a)(6)(A)) is  
21 amended by striking “a program of vocational  
22 rehabilitation services” and inserting “a pro-  
23 gram consisting of the Ticket to Work and Self-  
24 Sufficiency Program under section 1148 or an-  
25 other program of vocational rehabilitation serv-

1           ices, employment services, or other support  
2           services”.

3                   (D) Section 1633(c) of the Social Security  
4           Act (42 U.S.C. 1383b(c)) is amended—

5                           (i) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”; and

6                           (ii) by adding at the end the follow-  
7                   ing:

8           “(2) For suspension of continuing disability reviews  
9           and other reviews under this title similar to reviews under  
10          section 221 in the case of an individual using a ticket to  
11          work and self-sufficiency, see section 1148(i).”.

12          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subject to subsection (d),  
13          the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall  
14          take effect with the first month following 1 year after the  
15          date of enactment of this Act.

16          (d) GRADUATED IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.—

17                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
18           the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner  
19           of Social Security shall commence implementation of  
20           the amendments made by this section (other than  
21           paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(B) of subsection (b)) in  
22           graduated phases at phase-in sites selected by the  
23           Commissioner. Such phase-in sites shall be selected  
24           so as to ensure, prior to full implementation of the  
25           Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program, the

1 development and refinement of referral processes,  
2 payment systems, computer linkages, management  
3 information systems, and administrative processes  
4 necessary to provide for full implementation of such  
5 amendments. Subsection (c) shall apply with respect  
6 to paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(B) of subsection (b)  
7 without regard to this subsection.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Implementation of the  
9 Program at each phase-in site shall be carried out  
10 on a wide enough scale to permit a thorough evalua-  
11 tion of the alternative methods under consideration,  
12 so as to ensure that the most efficacious methods  
13 are determined and in place for full implementation  
14 of the Program on a timely basis.

15 (3) FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commis-  
16 sioner shall ensure that the ability to provide tickets  
17 and services to individuals under the Program exists  
18 in every State as soon as practicable on or after the  
19 effective date specified in subsection (c) but not later  
20 than 3 years after such date.

21 (4) ONGOING EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
23 shall design and conduct a series of evaluations  
24 to assess the cost-effectiveness of activities car-  
25 ried out under this section and the amendments

1 made thereby, as well as the effects of this sec-  
2 tion and the amendments made thereby on  
3 work outcomes for beneficiaries receiving tickets  
4 to work and self-sufficiency under the Program.

5 (B) CONSULTATION.—The Commissioner  
6 shall design and carry out the series of evalua-  
7 tions after receiving relevant advice from ex-  
8 perts in the fields of disability, vocational reha-  
9 bilitation, and program evaluation and individ-  
10 uals using tickets to work and self-sufficiency  
11 under the Program and consulting with the  
12 Work Incentives Advisory Panel established  
13 under section 202, the Comptroller General of  
14 the United States, other agencies of the Federal  
15 Government, and private organizations with ap-  
16 propriate expertise.

17 (C) METHODOLOGY.—

18 (i) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commis-  
19 sioner, in consultation with the Work In-  
20 centives Advisory Panel established under  
21 section 202, shall ensure that plans for  
22 evaluations and data collection methods  
23 under the Program are appropriately de-  
24 signed to obtain detailed employment infor-  
25 mation.

1 (ii) SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE AD-  
2 DRESSED.—Each such evaluation shall ad-  
3 dress (but is not limited to)—

4 (I) the annual cost (including net  
5 cost) of the Program and the annual  
6 cost (including net cost) that would  
7 have been incurred in the absence of  
8 the Program;

9 (II) the determinants of return to  
10 work, including the characteristics of  
11 beneficiaries in receipt of tickets  
12 under the Program;

13 (III) the types of employment  
14 services, vocational rehabilitation serv-  
15 ices, and other support services fur-  
16 nished to beneficiaries in receipt of  
17 tickets under the Program who return  
18 to work and to those who do not re-  
19 turn to work;

20 (IV) the duration of employment  
21 services, vocational rehabilitation serv-  
22 ices, and other support services fur-  
23 nished to beneficiaries in receipt of  
24 tickets under the Program who return  
25 to work and the duration of such serv-

1           ices furnished to those who do not re-  
2           turn to work and the cost to employ-  
3           ment networks of furnishing such  
4           services;

5                   (V) the employment outcomes,  
6           including wages, occupations, benefits,  
7           and hours worked, of beneficiaries  
8           who return to work after receiving  
9           tickets under the Program and those  
10          who return to work without receiving  
11          such tickets;

12                   (VI) the characteristics of provid-  
13          ers whose services are provided within  
14          an employment network under the  
15          Program;

16                   (VII) the extent (if any) to which  
17          employment networks display a great-  
18          er willingness to provide services to  
19          beneficiaries with a range of disabil-  
20          ities;

21                   (VIII) the characteristics (includ-  
22          ing employment outcomes) of those  
23          beneficiaries who receive services  
24          under the outcome payment system  
25          and of those beneficiaries who receive

1 services under the outcome-milestone  
2 payment system;

3 (IX) measures of satisfaction  
4 among beneficiaries in receipt of tick-  
5 ets under the Program; and

6 (X) reasons for (including com-  
7 ments solicited from beneficiaries re-  
8 garding) their choice not to use their  
9 tickets or their inability to return to  
10 work despite the use of their tickets.

11 (D) PERIODIC EVALUATION REPORTS.—

12 Following the close of the third and fifth fiscal  
13 years ending after the effective date under sub-  
14 section (c), and prior to the close of the seventh  
15 fiscal year ending after such date, the Commis-  
16 sioner shall transmit to the Committee on Ways  
17 and Means of the House of Representatives and  
18 the Committee on Finance of the Senate a re-  
19 port containing the Commissioner's evaluation  
20 of the progress of activities conducted under the  
21 provisions of this section and the amendments  
22 made thereby. Each such report shall set forth  
23 the Commissioner's evaluation of the extent to  
24 which the Program has been successful and the  
25 Commissioner's conclusions on whether or how

1 the Program should be modified. Each such re-  
2 port shall include such data, findings, materials,  
3 and recommendations as the Commissioner may  
4 consider appropriate.

5 (5) EXTENT OF STATE'S RIGHT OF FIRST RE-  
6 FUSAL IN ADVANCE OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
7 AMENDMENTS IN SUCH STATE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any  
9 State in which the amendments made by sub-  
10 section (a) have not been fully implemented  
11 pursuant to this subsection, the Commissioner  
12 shall determine by regulation the extent to  
13 which—

14 (i) the requirement under section  
15 222(a) of the Social Security Act for  
16 prompt referrals to a State agency, and

17 (ii) the authority of the Commissioner  
18 under section 222(d)(2) of the Social Secu-  
19 rity Act to provide vocational rehabilitation  
20 services in such State by agreement or  
21 contract with other public or private agen-  
22 cies, organizations, institutions, or individ-  
23 uals,

24 shall apply in such State.

1           (B) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in  
2           subparagraph (A) or the amendments made by  
3           subsection (a) shall be construed to limit, im-  
4           pede, or otherwise affect any agreement entered  
5           into pursuant to section 222(d)(2) of the Social  
6           Security Act before the date of enactment of  
7           this Act with respect to services provided pursu-  
8           ant to such agreement to beneficiaries receiving  
9           services under such agreement as of such date,  
10          except with respect to services (if any) to be  
11          provided after 3 years after the effective date  
12          provided in subsection (c).

13       (e) SPECIFIC REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social  
15           Security shall prescribe such regulations as are nec-  
16           essary to implement the amendments made by this  
17           section.

18           (2) SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN  
19           REGULATIONS.—The matters which shall be ad-  
20           dressed in such regulations shall include—

21           (A) the form and manner in which tickets  
22           to work and self-sufficiency may be distributed  
23           to beneficiaries pursuant to section 1148(b)(1)  
24           of the Social Security Act;

1           (B) the format and wording of such tick-  
2           ets, which shall incorporate by reference any  
3           contractual terms governing service by employ-  
4           ment networks under the Program;

5           (C) the form and manner in which State  
6           agencies may elect participation in the Ticket to  
7           Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (and revoke  
8           such an election) pursuant to section  
9           1148(c)(1) of the Social Security Act and provi-  
10          sion for periodic opportunities for exercising  
11          such elections (and revocations);

12          (D) the status of State agencies under sec-  
13          tion 1148(c)(1) at the time that State agencies  
14          exercise elections (and revocations) under that  
15          section;

16          (E) the terms of agreements to be entered  
17          into with program managers pursuant to sec-  
18          tion 1148(d) of the Social Security Act,  
19          including—

20               (i) the terms by which program man-  
21               agers are precluded from direct participa-  
22               tion in the delivery of services pursuant to  
23               section 1148(d)(3) of the Social Security  
24               Act;

1           (ii) standards which must be met by  
2           quality assurance measures referred to in  
3           paragraph (6) of section 1148(d) and  
4           methods of recruitment of employment net-  
5           works utilized pursuant to paragraph (2)  
6           of section 1148(e); and

7           (iii) the format under which dispute  
8           resolution will operate under section  
9           1148(d)(7);

10          (F) the terms of agreements to be entered  
11          into with employment networks pursuant to sec-  
12          tion 1148(d)(4) of the Social Security Act,  
13          including—

14           (i) the manner in which service areas  
15           are specified pursuant to section  
16           1148(f)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act;

17           (ii) the general selection criteria and  
18           the specific selection criteria which are ap-  
19           plicable to employment networks under  
20           section 1148(f)(1)(C) of the Social Secu-  
21           rity Act in selecting service providers;

22           (iii) specific requirements relating to  
23           annual financial reporting by employment  
24           networks pursuant to section 1148(f)(3) of  
25           the Social Security Act; and

1 (iv) the national model to which peri-  
2 odic outcomes reporting by employment  
3 networks must conform under section  
4 1148(f)(4) of the Social Security Act;

5 (G) standards which must be met by indi-  
6 vidual work plans pursuant to section 1148(g)  
7 of the Social Security Act;

8 (H) standards which must be met by pay-  
9 ment systems required under section 1148(h) of  
10 the Social Security Act, including—

11 (i) the form and manner in which  
12 elections by employment networks of pay-  
13 ment systems are to be exercised pursuant  
14 to section 1148(h)(1)(A);

15 (ii) the terms which must be met by  
16 an outcome payment system under section  
17 1148(h)(2);

18 (iii) the terms which must be met by  
19 an outcome-milestone payment system  
20 under section 1148(h)(3);

21 (iv) any revision of the percentage  
22 specified in paragraph (2)(C) of section  
23 1148(h) of the Social Security Act or the  
24 period of time specified in paragraph  
25 (4)(B) of such section 1148(h); and

1 (v) annual oversight procedures for  
2 such systems; and

3 (I) procedures for effective oversight of the  
4 Program by the Commissioner of Social Secu-  
5 rity, including periodic reviews and reporting  
6 requirements.

7 **SEC. 202. WORK INCENTIVES ADVISORY PANEL.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
9 the Social Security Administration a panel to be known  
10 as the “Work Incentives Advisory Panel” (in this section  
11 referred to as the “Panel”).

12 (b) DUTIES OF PANEL.—It shall be the duty of the  
13 Panel to—

14 (1) advise the Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of  
16 Education, and the Commissioner of Social Security  
17 on issues related to work incentives programs, plan-  
18 ning, and assistance for individuals with disabilities,  
19 including work incentive provisions under titles II,  
20 XI, XVI, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act  
21 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1301 et seq., 1381 et seq.,  
22 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq.); and

23 (2) with respect to the Ticket to Work and Self-  
24 Sufficiency Program established under section 1148  
25 of the Social Security Act—

1 (A) advise the Commissioner of Social Se-  
2 curity with respect to establishing phase-in sites  
3 for such Program and fully implementing the  
4 Program thereafter, the refinement of access of  
5 disabled beneficiaries to employment networks,  
6 payment systems, and management information  
7 systems, and advise the Commissioner whether  
8 such measures are being taken to the extent  
9 necessary to ensure the success of the Program;

10 (B) advise the Commissioner regarding the  
11 most effective designs for research and dem-  
12 onstration projects associated with the Program  
13 or conducted pursuant to section 302;

14 (C) advise the Commissioner on the devel-  
15 opment of performance measurements relating  
16 to quality assurance under section 1148(d)(6)  
17 of the Social Security Act; and

18 (D) furnish progress reports on the Pro-  
19 gram to the Commissioner and each House of  
20 Congress.

21 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Panel  
23 shall be composed of 12 members appointed by the  
24 Commissioner of Social Security in consultation with  
25 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the

1 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives,  
2 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority  
3 Leader of the Senate.

4 (2) REPRESENTATION.—All members appointed  
5 to the Panel shall have experience or expert knowl-  
6 edge in the fields of, or related to, work incentive  
7 programs, employment services, vocational rehabili-  
8 tation services, health care services, and other sup-  
9 port services for individuals with disabilities. At least  
10 7 members of the Panel shall be individuals with dis-  
11 abilities or representatives of individuals with dis-  
12 abilities, except that, of those 7 members, at least 5  
13 members shall be current or former title II disability  
14 beneficiaries or title XVI disability beneficiaries (as  
15 such terms are defined in section 1148(k) of the So-  
16 cial Security Act (as added by section 201(a) of this  
17 Act)).

18 (3) TERMS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be  
20 appointed for a term of 4 years (or, if less, for  
21 the remaining life of the Panel), except as pro-  
22 vided in subparagraphs (B) and (C). The initial  
23 members shall be appointed not later than 90  
24 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As  
2 designated by the Commissioner at the time of  
3 appointment, of the members first appointed—

4 (i) 6 of the members appointed under  
5 paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a  
6 term of 2 years, and

7 (ii) 6 of the members appointed under  
8 paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a  
9 term of 4 years.

10 (C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed  
11 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration  
12 of the term for which the member's predecessor  
13 was appointed shall be appointed only for the  
14 remainder of that term. A member may serve  
15 after the expiration of that member's term until  
16 a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the  
17 Panel shall be filled in the manner in which the  
18 original appointment was made.

19 (4) BASIC PAY.—Members shall each be paid at  
20 a rate, and in a manner, that is consistent with  
21 guidelines established under section 7 of the Federal  
22 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

23 (5) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall  
24 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of

1 subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and  
2 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (6) QUORUM.—Eight members of the Panel  
4 shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may  
5 hold hearings.

6 (7) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the  
7 Panel shall be designated by the Commissioner. The  
8 term of office of the Chairperson shall be 4 years.

9 (8) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at least  
10 quarterly and at other times at the call of the Chair-  
11 person or a majority of its members.

12 (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF PANEL; EXPERTS AND  
13 CONSULTANTS.—

14 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Panel shall have a Direc-  
15 tor who shall be appointed by the Commissioner and  
16 paid at a rate, and in a manner, that is consistent  
17 with guidelines established under section 7 of the  
18 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

19 (2) STAFF.—Subject to rules prescribed by the  
20 Commissioner, the Director may appoint and fix the  
21 pay of additional personnel as the Director considers  
22 appropriate.

23 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to  
24 rules prescribed by the Commissioner, the Director

1 may procure temporary and intermittent services  
2 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

3 (4) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-  
4 quest of the Panel, the head of any Federal depart-  
5 ment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis,  
6 any of the personnel of that department or agency  
7 to the Panel to assist it in carrying out its duties  
8 under this section.

9 (e) POWERS OF PANEL.—

10 (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Panel may,  
11 for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this  
12 section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times  
13 and places, and take such testimony and evidence as  
14 the Panel considers appropriate.

15 (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any  
16 member or agent of the Panel may, if authorized by  
17 the Panel, take any action which the Panel is au-  
18 thorized to take by this section.

19 (3) MAILS.—The Panel may use the United  
20 States mails in the same manner and under the  
21 same conditions as other departments and agencies  
22 of the United States.

23 (f) REPORTS.—

1           (1) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Panel shall sub-  
2           mit to the President and Congress interim reports at  
3           least annually.

4           (2) FINAL REPORT.—The Panel shall transmit  
5           a final report to the President and Congress not  
6           later than 8 years after the date of enactment of  
7           this Act. The final report shall contain a detailed  
8           statement of the findings and conclusions of the  
9           Panel, together with its recommendations for legisla-  
10          tion and administrative actions which the Panel con-  
11          siders appropriate.

12          (g) TERMINATION.—The Panel shall terminate 30  
13          days after the date of the submission of its final report  
14          under subsection (f)(2).

15          (h) ALLOCATION OF COSTS.—The costs of carrying  
16          out this section shall be paid from amounts made available  
17          for the administration of title II of the Social Security Act  
18          (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and amounts made available for  
19          the administration of title XVI of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
20          1381 et seq.), and shall be allocated among those amounts  
21          as appropriate.

1     **Subtitle B—Elimination of Work**  
2                     **Disincentives**

3     **SEC. 211. PROHIBITION ON USING WORK ACTIVITY AS A**  
4                     **BASIS FOR REVIEW OF AN INDIVIDUAL’S DIS-**  
5                     **ABLED STATUS.**

6             Section 221 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 421) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8             “(m)(1) In any case where an individual entitled to  
9 disability insurance benefits under section 223 or to  
10 monthly insurance benefits under section 202 based on  
11 such individual’s disability (as defined in section 223(d))  
12 has received such benefits for at least 24 months—

13             “(A) no continuing disability review conducted  
14 by the Commissioner may be scheduled for the indi-  
15 vidual solely as a result of the individual’s work ac-  
16 tivity;

17             “(B) no work activity engaged in by the individ-  
18 ual may be used as evidence that the individual is  
19 no longer disabled; and

20             “(C) no cessation of work activity by the indi-  
21 vidual may give rise to a presumption that the indi-  
22 vidual is unable to engage in work.

23             “(2) An individual to which paragraph (1) applies  
24 shall continue to be subject to—

1           “(A) continuing disability reviews on a regularly  
2           scheduled basis that is not triggered by work; and

3           “(B) termination of benefits under this title in  
4           the event that the individual has earnings that ex-  
5           ceed the level of earnings established by the Com-  
6           missioner to represent substantial gainful activity.”.

7   **SEC. 212. EXPEDITED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR**  
8                           **APPLICATIONS OF FORMER LONG-TERM**  
9                           **BENEFICIARIES THAT COMPLETED AN EX-**  
10                          **TENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.**

11           Section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 423) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13   “Expedited Eligibility Determinations for Applications of  
14           Former Long-Term Beneficiaries That Completed  
15           an Extended Period of Eligibility

16           “(j) The Commissioner of Social Security shall estab-  
17           lish a process for providing an expedited eligibility deter-  
18           mination in the case of an application for disability insur-  
19           ance benefits under this section, or for monthly insurance  
20           benefits under section 202 based on another individual’s  
21           disability, that is filed by an individual that previously—

22                   “(1) received such benefits for at least 24  
23           months; and

1           “(2) engaged in substantial gainful activity dur-  
2           ing the 36-month period following the end of a trial  
3           work period under section 222(c).”.

4           **Subtitle C—Work Incentives**  
5 **Planning, Assistance, and Outreach**

6 **SEC. 221. WORK INCENTIVES OUTREACH PROGRAM.**

7           Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), as amended by section 201, is  
9 amended by adding after section 1148 the following:

10           “WORK INCENTIVES OUTREACH PROGRAM

11           “SEC. 1149. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner, in con-  
13 sultation with the Work Incentives Advisory Panel  
14 established under section 202 of the Work Incentives  
15 Improvement Act of 1999, shall establish a commu-  
16 nity-based work incentives planning and assistance  
17 program for the purpose of disseminating accurate  
18 information to disabled beneficiaries on work incen-  
19 tives programs and issues related to such programs.

20           “(2) GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS,  
21 CONTRACTS, AND OUTREACH.—Under the program  
22 established under this section, the Commissioner  
23 shall—

24           “(A) establish a competitive program of  
25 grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to  
26 provide benefits planning and assistance, in-

1 including information on the availability of pro-  
2 tection and advocacy services, to disabled bene-  
3 ficiaries, including individuals participating in  
4 the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Pro-  
5 gram established under section 1148, the pro-  
6 gram established under section 1619, and other  
7 programs that are designed to encourage dis-  
8 abled beneficiaries to work;

9 “(B) conduct directly, or through grants,  
10 cooperative agreements, or contracts, ongoing  
11 outreach efforts to disabled beneficiaries (and  
12 to the families of such beneficiaries) who are  
13 potentially eligible to participate in Federal or  
14 State work incentive programs that are de-  
15 signed to assist disabled beneficiaries to work,  
16 including—

17 “(i) preparing and disseminating in-  
18 formation explaining such programs; and

19 “(ii) working in cooperation with  
20 other Federal, State, and private agencies  
21 and nonprofit organizations that serve dis-  
22 abled beneficiaries, and with agencies and  
23 organizations that focus on vocational re-  
24 habilitation and work-related training and  
25 counseling;

1           “(C) establish a corps of trained, acces-  
2           sible, and responsive work incentives specialists  
3           within the Social Security Administration who  
4           will specialize in disability work incentives  
5           under titles II and XVI for the purpose of dis-  
6           seminating accurate information with respect to  
7           inquiries and issues relating to work incentives  
8           to—

9                   “(i) disabled beneficiaries;

10                   “(ii) benefit applicants under titles II  
11           and XVI; and

12                   “(iii) individuals or entities awarded  
13           grants under subparagraphs (A) or (B);  
14           and

15           “(D) provide—

16                   “(i) training for the work incentive  
17           specialists and the individuals providing  
18           planning assistance described in subpara-  
19           graph (C); and

20                   “(ii) technical assistance to organiza-  
21           tions and entities that are designed to en-  
22           courage disabled beneficiaries to return to  
23           work.

24           “(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PRO-  
25           GRAMS.—The responsibilities of the Commissioner

1 established under this section shall be coordinated  
2 with other public and private programs that provide  
3 information and assistance regarding rehabilitation  
4 services and independent living supports and bene-  
5 fits planning for disabled beneficiaries including the  
6 program under section 1619, the plans for achieving  
7 self-support program (PASS), and any other Federal  
8 or State work incentives programs that are designed  
9 to assist disabled beneficiaries, including educational  
10 agencies that provide information and assistance re-  
11 garding rehabilitation, school-to-work programs,  
12 transition services (as defined in, and provided in ac-  
13 cordance with, the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-  
14 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)), and other serv-  
15 ices.

16 “(b) CONDITIONS.—

17 “(1) SELECTION OF ENTITIES.—

18 “(A) APPLICATION.—An entity shall sub-  
19 mit an application for a grant, cooperative  
20 agreement, or contract to provide benefits plan-  
21 ning and assistance to the Commissioner at  
22 such time, in such manner, and containing such  
23 information as the Commissioner may deter-  
24 mine is necessary to meet the requirements of  
25 this section.

1           “(B) STATEWIDENESS.—The Commis-  
2 sioner shall ensure that the planning, assist-  
3 ance, and information described in paragraph  
4 (2) shall be available on a statewide basis.

5           “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF STATES AND PRI-  
6 VATE ORGANIZATIONS.—

7           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
8 may award a grant, cooperative agreement,  
9 or contract under this section to a State or  
10 a private agency or organization (other  
11 than Social Security Administration Field  
12 Offices and the State agency administering  
13 the State medicaid program under title  
14 XIX, including any agency or entity de-  
15 scribed in clause (ii), that the Commis-  
16 sioner determines is qualified to provide  
17 the planning, assistance, and information  
18 described in paragraph (2)).

19           “(ii) AGENCIES AND ENTITIES DE-  
20 SCRIBED.—The agencies and entities de-  
21 scribed in this clause are the following:

22           “(I) Any public or private agency  
23 or organization (including Centers for  
24 Independent Living established under  
25 title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of

1                   1973, protection and advocacy organi-  
2                   zations, client assistance programs es-  
3                   tablished in accordance with section  
4                   112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,  
5                   and State Developmental Disabilities  
6                   Councils established in accordance  
7                   with section 124 of the Developmental  
8                   Disabilities Assistance and Bill of  
9                   Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6024)) that the  
10                  Commissioner determines satisfies the  
11                  requirements of this section.

12                   “(II) The State agency admin-  
13                   istering the State program funded  
14                   under part A of title IV.

15                   “(D) EXCLUSION FOR CONFLICT OF IN-  
16                   TEREST.—The Commissioner may not award a  
17                   grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under  
18                   this section to any entity that the Commissioner  
19                   determines would have a conflict of interest if  
20                   the entity were to receive a grant, cooperative  
21                   agreement, or contract under this section.

22                   “(2) SERVICES PROVIDED.—A recipient of a  
23                   grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to provide  
24                   benefits planning and assistance shall select individ-  
25                   uals who will act as planners and provide informa-

1       tion, guidance, and planning to disabled beneficiaries  
2       on the—

3               “(A) availability and interrelation of any  
4       Federal or State work incentives programs de-  
5       signed to assist disabled beneficiaries that the  
6       individual may be eligible to participate in;

7               “(B) adequacy of any health benefits cov-  
8       erage that may be offered by an employer of  
9       the individual and the extent to which other  
10      health benefits coverage may be available to the  
11      individual; and

12              “(C) availability of protection and advo-  
13      cacy services for disabled beneficiaries and how  
14      to access such services.

15              “(3) AMOUNT OF GRANTS, COOPERATIVE  
16      AGREEMENTS, OR CONTRACTS.—

17              “(A) BASED ON POPULATION OF DIS-  
18      ABLED BENEFICIARIES.—Subject to subpara-  
19      graph (B), the Commissioner shall award a  
20      grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under  
21      this section to an entity based on the percent-  
22      age of the population of the State where the en-  
23      tity is located who are disabled beneficiaries.

24              “(B) LIMITATIONS.—

1           “(i) PER GRANT.—No entity shall re-  
2           ceive a grant, cooperative agreement, or  
3           contract under this section for a fiscal year  
4           that is less than \$50,000 or more than  
5           \$300,000.

6           “(ii) TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ALL  
7           GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND  
8           CONTRACTS.—The total amount of all  
9           grants, cooperative agreements, and con-  
10          tracts awarded under this section for a fis-  
11          cal year may not exceed \$23,000,000.

12          “(4) ALLOCATION OF COSTS.—The costs of car-  
13          rying out this section shall be paid from amounts  
14          made available for the administration of title II and  
15          amounts made available for the administration of  
16          title XVI, and shall be allocated among those  
17          amounts as appropriate.

18          “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19               “(1) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-  
20               sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

21               “(2) DISABLED BENEFICIARY.—The term ‘dis-  
22               abled beneficiary’ has the meaning given that term  
23               in section 1148(k)(2).”.

1 **SEC. 222. STATE GRANTS FOR WORK INCENTIVES ASSIST-**  
2 **ANCE TO DISABLED BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), as amended by section 221, is  
5 amended by adding after section 1149 the following:

6 “STATE GRANTS FOR WORK INCENTIVES ASSISTANCE TO  
7 DISABLED BENEFICIARIES

8 “SEC. 1150. (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection  
9 (c), the Commissioner may make payments in each State  
10 to the protection and advocacy system established pursu-  
11 ant to part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities  
12 Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6041 et seq.)  
13 for the purpose of providing services to disabled bene-  
14 ficiaries.

15 “(b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
17 services provided to disabled beneficiaries pursuant  
18 to a payment made under this section may include—

19 “(A) information and advice about obtain-  
20 ing vocational rehabilitation and employment  
21 services; and

22 “(B) advocacy or other services that a dis-  
23 abled beneficiary may need to secure or regain  
24 gainful employment.

25 “(c) APPLICATION.—In order to receive payments  
26 under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall

1 submit an application to the Commissioner, at such time,  
2 in such form and manner, and accompanied by such infor-  
3 mation and assurances as the Commissioner may require.

4 “(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the amount ap-  
6 propriated for a fiscal year for making payments  
7 under this section, a protection and advocacy system  
8 shall not be paid an amount that is less than—

9 “(A) in the case of a protection and advo-  
10 cacy system located in a State (including the  
11 District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) other  
12 than Guam, American Samoa, the United  
13 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth  
14 of the Northern Mariana Islands, the greater  
15 of—

16 “(i) \$100,000; or

17 “(ii)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 1 percent of the amount  
18 available for payments under this section;

19 and

20 “(B) in the case of a protection and advo-  
21 cacy system located in Guam, American Samoa,  
22 the United States Virgin Islands, and the Com-  
23 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,  
24 \$50,000.

1           “(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal  
2           year in which the total amount appropriated to carry  
3           out this section exceeds the total amount appro-  
4           priated to carry out this section in the preceding fis-  
5           cal year, the Commissioner shall increase each mini-  
6           mum payment under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of  
7           paragraph (1) by a percentage equal to the percent-  
8           age increase in the total amount appropriated to  
9           carry out this section between the preceding fiscal  
10          year and the fiscal year involved.

11          “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each protection and advo-  
12          cacy system that receives a payment under this section  
13          shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner and  
14          the Work Incentives Advisory Panel established under sec-  
15          tion 202 of the Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999  
16          on the services provided to individuals by the system.

17          “(f) FUNDING.—

18                 “(1) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—Payments  
19                 under this section shall be made from amounts made  
20                 available for the administration of title II and  
21                 amounts made available for the administration of  
22                 title XVI, and shall be allocated among those  
23                 amounts as appropriate.

24                 “(2) CARRYOVER.—Any amounts allotted for  
25                 payment to a protection and advocacy system under

1 this section for a fiscal year shall remain available  
 2 for payment to or on behalf of the protection and  
 3 advocacy system until the end of the succeeding fis-  
 4 cal year.

5 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-  
 7 sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

8 “(2) DISABLED BENEFICIARY.—The term ‘dis-  
 9 abled beneficiary’ has the meaning given that term  
 10 in section 1148(k)(2).

11 “(3) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM.—  
 12 The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a  
 13 protection and advocacy system established pursuant  
 14 to part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities  
 15 Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6041  
 16 et seq.).”

17 **TITLE III—DEMONSTRATION**  
 18 **PROJECTS AND STUDIES**

19 **SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF DISABILITY INSURANCE PRO-**  
 20 **GRAM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AUTHOR-**  
 21 **ITY.**

22 Section 505 of the Social Security Disability Amend-  
 23 ments of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1310 note) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

1 (A) by striking “and (B)” and inserting “,  
2 (B)”;

3 (B) by inserting “, and (C) implementing  
4 sliding scale benefit offsets using variations in  
5 the amount of the offset as a proportion of  
6 earned income, the duration of the offset pe-  
7 riod, and the method of determining the  
8 amount of income earned by the beneficiaries,  
9 and using state-of-the-art information tech-  
10 nology and electronic funds transfer technology  
11 to streamline the reporting of data and the im-  
12 plementation of the offsets, and developing and  
13 making available to beneficiaries, their families,  
14 guardians, and advocates, through the Internet  
15 information regarding work incentives and as-  
16 sistance for beneficiaries to make informed deci-  
17 sions regarding work,” after “rehabilitation),”;  
18 and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:  
20 “The Commissioner may expand the scope of  
21 any such demonstration project to include any  
22 group of applicants for benefits under such pro-  
23 gram with impairments which may reasonably  
24 be presumed to be disabling for purposes of  
25 such demonstration project, and may limit any

1 such demonstration project to any such group  
 2 of applicants, subject to the terms of such dem-  
 3 onstration project which shall define the extent  
 4 of any such presumption.”;

5 (2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “June 10,  
 6 1996” and inserting “June 10, 2001”;

7 (3) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “and on or  
 8 before October 1, 2000,” after “1995,”; and

9 (4) in subsection (c), by striking “October 1,  
 10 1996” and inserting “October 1, 2002”.

11 **SEC. 302. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS PROVIDING FOR RE-**  
 12 **DUCTIONS IN DISABILITY INSURANCE BENE-**  
 13 **FITS BASED ON EARNINGS.**

14 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Commissioner of Social Secu-  
 15 rity shall conduct demonstration projects for the purpose  
 16 of evaluating, through the collection of data, a program  
 17 for title II disability beneficiaries (as defined in section  
 18 1148(k)(3) of the Social Security Act) under which each  
 19 \$1 of benefits payable under section 223, or under section  
 20 202 based on the beneficiary’s disability, is reduced for  
 21 each \$2 of such beneficiary’s earnings that is above a level  
 22 to be determined by the Commissioner. Such projects shall  
 23 be conducted at a number of localities which the Commis-  
 24 sioner shall determine is sufficient to adequately evaluate  
 25 the appropriateness of national implementation of such a

1 program. Such projects shall identify reductions in Fed-  
2 eral expenditures that may result from the permanent im-  
3 plementation of such a program.

4 (b) SCOPE AND SCALE AND MATTERS TO BE DETER-  
5 MINED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The demonstration projects  
7 developed under subsection (a) shall be of sufficient  
8 duration, shall be of sufficient scope, and shall be  
9 carried out on a wide enough scale to permit a thor-  
10 ough evaluation of the project to determine—

11 (A) the effects, if any, of induced entry  
12 into the project and reduced exit from the  
13 project;

14 (B) the extent, if any, to which the project  
15 being tested is affected by whether it is in oper-  
16 ation in a locality within an area under the ad-  
17 ministration of the Ticket to Work and Self-  
18 Sufficiency Program established under section  
19 1148 of the Social Security Act; and

20 (C) the savings that accrue to the Federal  
21 Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund,  
22 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund,  
23 and other Federal programs under the project  
24 being tested.

1 The Commissioner shall take into account advice  
2 provided by the Work Incentives Advisory Panel pur-  
3 suant to section 202(b)(2)(B).

4 (2) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—The Commissioner  
5 shall also determine with respect to each project—

6 (A) the annual cost (including net cost) of  
7 the project and the annual cost (including net  
8 cost) that would have been incurred in the ab-  
9 sence of the project;

10 (B) the determinants of return to work, in-  
11 cluding the characteristics of the beneficiaries  
12 who participate in the project; and

13 (C) the employment outcomes, including  
14 wages, occupations, benefits, and hours worked,  
15 of beneficiaries who return to work as a result  
16 of participation in the project.

17 The Commissioner may include within the matters  
18 evaluated under the project the merits of trial work  
19 periods and periods of extended eligibility.

20 (c) WAIVERS.—The Commissioner may waive compli-  
21 ance with the benefit provisions of title II of the Social  
22 Security Act, and the Secretary of Health and Human  
23 Services may waive compliance with the benefit require-  
24 ments of title XVIII of that Act, insofar as is necessary  
25 for a thorough evaluation of the alternative methods under

1 consideration. No such project shall be actually placed in  
2 operation unless at least 90 days prior thereto a written  
3 report, prepared for purposes of notification and informa-  
4 tion only and containing a full and complete description  
5 thereof, has been transmitted by the Commissioner to the  
6 Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives and to the Committee on Finance of the Sen-  
8 ate. Periodic reports on the progress of such projects shall  
9 be submitted by the Commissioner to such committees.  
10 When appropriate, such reports shall include detailed rec-  
11 ommendations for changes in administration or law, or  
12 both, to carry out the objectives stated in subsection (a).

13 (d) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
15 the Commissioner of Social Security shall submit to Con-  
16 gress an interim report on the progress of the demonstra-  
17 tion projects carried out under this subsection together  
18 with any related data and materials which the Commis-  
19 sioner of Social Security may consider appropriate.

20 (e) FINAL REPORT.—The Commissioner of Social Se-  
21 curity shall submit to Congress a final report with respect  
22 to all demonstration projects carried out under this section  
23 not later than 1 year after their completion.

24 (f) EXPENDITURES.—Expenditures made for dem-  
25 onstration projects under this section shall be made from

1 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund and the Fed-  
 2 eral Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, as de-  
 3 termined appropriate by the Commissioner of Social Secu-  
 4 rity, and from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund  
 5 and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust  
 6 Fund, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of  
 7 Health and Human Services, to the extent provided in ad-  
 8 vance in appropriation Acts.

9 **SEC. 303. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ADDITIONAL**  
 10 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that the Commissioner  
 12 of Social Security and the Secretary of Health and Human  
 13 Services should establish additional demonstration  
 14 projects to assist individuals with disabilities to engage in  
 15 work.

16 **SEC. 304. STUDIES AND REPORTS.**

17 (a) STUDY BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE OF  
 18 EXISTING DISABILITY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT INCEN-  
 19 TIVES.—

20 (1) STUDY.—As soon as practicable after the  
 21 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
 22 eral of the United States shall undertake a study to  
 23 assess existing tax credits and other disability-relat-  
 24 ed employment incentives under the Americans with  
 25 Disabilities Act of 1990 and other Federal laws. In

1 such study, the Comptroller General shall specifically  
2 address the extent to which such credits and other  
3 incentives would encourage employers to hire and re-  
4 tain individuals with disabilities.

5 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
7 eral shall transmit to the Committee on Ways and  
8 Means of the House of Representatives and the  
9 Committee on Finance of the Senate a written re-  
10 port presenting the results of the Comptroller Gen-  
11 eral’s study conducted pursuant to this subsection,  
12 together with such recommendations for legislative  
13 or administrative changes as the Comptroller Gen-  
14 eral determines are appropriate.

15 (b) STUDY BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE OF  
16 EXISTING COORDINATION OF THE DI AND SSI PROGRAMS  
17 AS THEY RELATE TO INDIVIDUALS ENTERING OR LEAV-  
18 ING CONCURRENT ENTITLEMENT.—

19 (1) STUDY.—As soon as practicable after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
21 eral of the United States shall undertake a study to  
22 evaluate the coordination under current law of the  
23 disability insurance program under title II of the So-  
24 cial Security Act and the supplemental security in-  
25 come program under title XVI of that Act, as such

1 programs relate to individuals entering or leaving  
2 concurrent entitlement under such programs. In  
3 such study, the Comptroller General shall specifically  
4 address the effectiveness of work incentives under  
5 such programs with respect to such individuals and  
6 the effectiveness of coverage of such individuals  
7 under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security  
8 Act.

9 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the  
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
11 eral shall transmit to the Committee on Ways and  
12 Means of the House of Representatives and the  
13 Committee on Finance of the Senate a written re-  
14 port presenting the results of the Comptroller Gen-  
15 eral's study conducted pursuant to this subsection,  
16 together with such recommendations for legislative  
17 or administrative changes as the Comptroller Gen-  
18 eral determines are appropriate.

19 (c) STUDY BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE OF  
20 THE IMPACT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY  
21 LIMIT ON RETURN TO WORK.—

22 (1) STUDY.—As soon as practicable after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
24 eral of the United States shall undertake a study of  
25 the substantial gainful activity level applicable as of

1 that date to recipients of benefits under section 223  
2 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423) and  
3 under section 202 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 402) on  
4 the basis of a recipient having a disability, and the  
5 effect of such level as a disincentive for those recipi-  
6 ents to return to work. In the study, the Comptroller  
7 General also shall address the merits of increasing  
8 the substantial gainful activity level applicable to  
9 such recipients of benefits and the rationale for not  
10 yearly indexing that level to inflation.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
13 eral shall transmit to the Committee on Ways and  
14 Means of the House of Representatives and the  
15 Committee on Finance of the Senate a written re-  
16 port presenting the results of the Comptroller Gen-  
17 eral's study conducted pursuant to this subsection,  
18 together with such recommendations for legislative  
19 or administrative changes as the Comptroller Gen-  
20 eral determines are appropriate.

1                   **TITLE IV—TECHNICAL**  
2                   **AMENDMENTS**

3 **SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DRUG**  
4                   **ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS.**

5           (a) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO THE EFFECTIVE  
6 DATE OF THE DENIAL OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY  
7 BENEFITS TO DRUG ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS.—Sec-  
8 tion 105(a)(5) of the Contract with America Advancement  
9 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–121; 110 Stat. 853) is  
10 amended—

11           (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “by the  
12 Commissioner of Social Security” and “by the Com-  
13 missioner”; and

14           (2) by adding at the end the following:

15                   “(D) For purposes of this paragraph, an  
16 individual’s claim, with respect to benefits  
17 under title II of the Social Security Act based  
18 on disability, which has been denied in whole  
19 before the date of enactment of this Act, may  
20 not be considered to be finally adjudicated be-  
21 fore such date if, on or after such date—

22                           “(i) there is pending a request for ei-  
23 ther administrative or judicial review with  
24 respect to such claim, or

1           “(ii) there is pending, with respect to  
2           such claim, a readjudication by the Com-  
3           missioner of Social Security pursuant to  
4           relief in a class action or implementation  
5           by the Commissioner of a court remand  
6           order.

7           “(E) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
8           this paragraph, with respect to any individual  
9           for whom the Commissioner of Social Security  
10          does not perform the entitlement redetermina-  
11          tion before the date prescribed in subparagraph  
12          (C), the Commissioner shall perform such enti-  
13          tlement redetermination in lieu of a continuing  
14          disability review whenever the Commissioner de-  
15          termines that the individual’s entitlement is  
16          subject to redetermination based on the preced-  
17          ing provisions of this paragraph, and the provi-  
18          sions of section 223(f) of the Social Security  
19          Act shall not apply to such redetermination.”.

20          (b) CORRECTION TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROVI-  
21          SIONS CONCERNING REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES AND  
22          TREATMENT REFERRALS OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENE-  
23          FICIARIES WHO ARE DRUG ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS.—  
24          Section 105(a)(5)(B) of the Contract with America Ad-

1 vancement Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 405 note) is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3           “(B) The amendments made by para-  
4           graphs (2) and (3) shall take effect on July 1,  
5           1996, with respect to any individual—

6                   “(i) whose claim for benefits is finally  
7                   adjudicated on or after the date of enact-  
8                   ment of this Act; or

9                   “(ii) whose entitlement to benefits is  
10                  based on an entitlement redetermination  
11                  made pursuant to subparagraph (C).”.

12       (c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by  
13 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-  
14 ment of section 105 of the Contract with America Ad-  
15 vancement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–121; 110 Stat.  
16 852 et seq.).

17 **SEC. 402. TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.**

18       (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROHIBITION AGAINST  
19 PAYMENT OF TITLE II BENEFITS TO PRISONERS.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(x)(3) of the So-  
21           cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(x)(3)) is  
22           amended—

23                   (A) by inserting “(A)” after “(3)”; and

24                   (B) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(B)(i) The Commissioner shall enter into an agree-  
2 ment under this subparagraph with any interested State  
3 or local institution comprising a jail, prison, penal institu-  
4 tion, or correctional facility, or comprising any other insti-  
5 tution a purpose of which is to confine individuals as de-  
6 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii). Under such agreement—

7               “(I) the institution shall provide to the Com-  
8 missioner, on a monthly basis and in a manner spec-  
9 ified by the Commissioner, the names, Social Secu-  
10 rity account numbers, dates of birth, confinement  
11 commencement dates, and, to the extent available to  
12 the institution, such other identifying information  
13 concerning the individuals confined in the institution  
14 as the Commissioner may require for the purpose of  
15 carrying out paragraph (1); and

16               “(II) the Commissioner shall pay to the institu-  
17 tion, with respect to information described in sub-  
18 clause (I) concerning each individual who is confined  
19 therein as described in paragraph (1)(A), who re-  
20 ceives a benefit under this title for the month pre-  
21 ceeding the first month of such confinement, and  
22 whose benefit under this title is determined by the  
23 Commissioner to be not payable by reason of con-  
24 finement based on the information provided by the  
25 institution, \$400 (subject to reduction under clause

1 (ii) if the institution furnishes the information to  
2 the Commissioner within 30 days after the date such  
3 individual's confinement in such institution begins,  
4 or \$200 (subject to reduction under clause (ii)) if  
5 the institution furnishes the information after 30  
6 days after such date but within 90 days after such  
7 date.

8 “(ii) The dollar amounts specified in clause (i)(II)  
9 shall be reduced by 50 percent if the Commissioner is also  
10 required to make a payment to the institution with respect  
11 to the same individual under an agreement entered into  
12 under section 1611(e)(1)(I).

13 “(iii) The provisions of section 552a of title 5, United  
14 States Code, shall not apply to any agreement entered into  
15 under clause (i) or to information exchanged pursuant to  
16 such agreement.

17 “(iv) There is authorized to be transferred from the  
18 Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and  
19 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, as appro-  
20 priate, such sums as may be necessary to enable the Com-  
21 missioner to make payments to institutions required by  
22 clause (i)(II).

23 “(v) The Commissioner is authorized to provide, on  
24 a reimbursable basis, information obtained pursuant to  
25 agreements entered into under clause (i) to any agency

1 administering a Federal or federally assisted cash, food,  
2 or medical assistance program for eligibility purposes.”.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
4 by this subsection shall apply to individuals whose  
5 period of confinement in an institution commences  
6 on or after the first day of the fourth month begin-  
7 ning after the month in which this Act is enacted.

8 (b) ELIMINATION OF TITLE II REQUIREMENT THAT  
9 CONFINEMENT STEM FROM CRIME PUNISHABLE BY IM-  
10 PRISONMENT FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(x)(1)(A) of the  
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(x)(1)(A)) is  
13 amended—

14 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
15 striking “during” and inserting “throughout”;

16 (B) in clause (i), by striking “an offense  
17 punishable by imprisonment for more than 1  
18 year (regardless of the actual sentence im-  
19 posed)” and inserting “a criminal offense”; and

20 (C) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “an of-  
21 fense punishable by imprisonment for more  
22 than 1 year” and inserting “a criminal of-  
23 fense”.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
25 by this subsection shall apply to individuals whose

1 period of confinement in an institution commences  
2 on or after the first day of the fourth month begin-  
3 ning after the month in which this Act is enacted.

4 (c) CONFORMING TITLE XVI AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) FIFTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN TITLE XVI  
6 PAYMENT IN CASE INVOLVING COMPARABLE TITLE II  
7 PAYMENT.—Section 1611(e)(1)(I) of the Social Se-  
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(I)) is amended—

9 (A) in clause (i)(II), by inserting “(subject  
10 to reduction under clause (ii))” after “\$400”  
11 and after “\$200”;

12 (B) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii)  
13 as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

14 (C) by inserting after clause (i) the follow-  
15 ing:

16 “(ii) The dollar amounts specified in clause (i)(II)  
17 shall be reduced by 50 percent if the Commissioner is also  
18 required to make a payment to the institution with respect  
19 to the same individual under an agreement entered into  
20 under section 202(x)(3)(B).”.

21 (2) EXPANSION OF CATEGORIES OF INSTITU-  
22 TIONS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH  
23 THE COMMISSIONER.—Section 1611(e)(1)(I)(i) of  
24 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(I)(i))  
25 is amended in the matter preceding subclause (I) by

1 striking “institution” and all that follows through  
 2 “section 202(x)(1)(A),” and inserting “institution  
 3 comprising a jail, prison, penal institution, or correc-  
 4 tional facility, or with any other interested State or  
 5 local institution a purpose of which is to confine in-  
 6 dividuals as described in section 202(x)(1)(A)(ii),”.

7 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
 8 by this subsection shall take effect as if included in  
 9 the enactment of section 203(a) of the Personal Re-  
 10 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation  
 11 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–193; 110 Stat. 2186).  
 12 The reference to section 202(x)(1)(A)(ii) of the So-  
 13 cial Security Act in section 1611(e)(1)(I)(i) of the  
 14 Social Security Act as amended by paragraph (2)  
 15 shall be deemed a reference to such section  
 16 202(x)(1)(A)(ii) as amended by subsection (b)(1)(C).

17 (d) CONTINUED DENIAL OF BENEFITS TO SEX OF-  
 18 FENDERS REMAINING CONFINED TO PUBLIC INSTITU-  
 19 TIONS UPON COMPLETION OF PRISON TERM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(x)(1)(A) of the  
 21 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(x)(1)(A)) is  
 22 amended—

23 (A) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the  
 24 end;

1 (B) in clause (ii)(IV), by striking the pe-  
 2 riod and inserting “, or”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(iii) immediately upon completion of confine-  
 5 ment as described in clause (i) pursuant to convic-  
 6 tion of a criminal offense an element of which is sex-  
 7 ual activity, is confined by court order in an institu-  
 8 tion at public expense pursuant to a finding that the  
 9 individual is a sexually dangerous person or a sexual  
 10 predator or a similar finding.”.

11 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
 12 202(x)(1)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42  
 13 U.S.C. 402(x)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking  
 14 “clause (ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii)”.

15 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
 16 by this subsection shall apply with respect to bene-  
 17 fits for months ending after the date of enactment  
 18 of this Act.

19 **SEC 403. REVOCATION BY MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY OF**  
 20 **EXEMPTION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY COV-**  
 21 **ERAGE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section  
 23 1402(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any ex-  
 24 emption which has been received under section 1402(e)(1)  
 25 of such Code by a duly ordained, commissioned, or li-

1 censed minister of a church, a member of a religious order,  
2 or a Christian Science practitioner, and which is effective  
3 for the taxable year in which this Act is enacted, may be  
4 revoked by filing an application therefore (in such form  
5 and manner, and with such official, as may be prescribed  
6 in regulations made under chapter 2 of such Code), if such  
7 application is filed no later than the due date of the Fed-  
8 eral income tax return (including any extension thereof)  
9 for the applicant's second taxable year beginning after De-  
10 cember 31, 1999. Any such revocation shall be effective  
11 (for purposes of chapter 2 of the Internal Revenue Code  
12 of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act), as speci-  
13 fied in the application, either with respect to the appli-  
14 cant's first taxable year beginning after December 31,  
15 1999, or with respect to the applicant's second taxable  
16 year beginning after such date, and for all succeeding tax-  
17 able years; and the applicant for any such revocation may  
18 not thereafter again file application for an exemption  
19 under such section 1402(e)(1). If the application is filed  
20 after the due date of the applicant's Federal income tax  
21 return for a taxable year and is effective with respect to  
22 that taxable year, it shall include or be accompanied by  
23 payment in full of an amount equal to the total of the  
24 taxes that would have been imposed by section 1401 of  
25 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to all of

1 the applicant's income derived in that taxable year which  
2 would have constituted net earnings from self-employment  
3 for purposes of chapter 2 of such Code (notwithstanding  
4 paragraph (4) or (5) of section 1402(c) of such Code) ex-  
5 cept for the exemption under section 1402(e)(1) of such  
6 Code.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply  
8 with respect to service performed (to the extent specified  
9 in such subsection) in taxable years beginning after De-  
10 cember 31, 1999, and with respect to monthly insurance  
11 benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act  
12 on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of  
13 any individual for months in or after the calendar year  
14 in which such individual's application for revocation (as  
15 described in such subsection) is effective (and lump-sum  
16 death payments payable under such title on the basis of  
17 such wages and self-employment income in the case of  
18 deaths occurring in or after such calendar year).

19 **SEC. 404. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING**  
20 **TO COOPERATIVE RESEARCH OR DEM-**  
21 **ONSTRATION PROJECTS UNDER TITLES II**  
22 **AND XVI.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1110(a)(3) of the Social  
24 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1310(a)(3)) is amended by strik-  
25 ing “title XVI” and inserting “title II or XVI”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-  
3 ment of the Social Security Independence and Program  
4 Improvements Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–296; 108  
5 Stat. 1464).

6 **SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION FOR STATE TO PERMIT ANNUAL**  
7 **WAGE REPORTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1137(a)(3) of the Social  
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–7(a)(3)) is amended by  
10 inserting before the semicolon the following: “, and except  
11 that in the case of wage reports with respect to domestic  
12 service employment, a State may permit employers (as so  
13 defined) that make returns with respect to such employ-  
14 ment on a calendar year basis pursuant to section 3510  
15 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make such re-  
16 ports on an annual basis”.

17 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 1137(a)(3)  
18 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–7(a)(3)) is  
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “(as defined in section  
21 453A(a)(2)(B)(iii))”; and

22 (2) by inserting “(as defined in section  
23 453A(a)(2)(B))” after “employers” .

1           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply to wage reports required to be sub-  
3 mitted on and after the date of enactment of this Act.

○