

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3761

To provide special rules for disaster relief employment under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. McKEON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide special rules for disaster relief employment under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Flexibility for Dis-
5 placed Workers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY**
7 **GRANTS RELATED TO HURRICANE KATRINA.**

8 (a) USE OF GRANTS FOR PROJECTS OUTSIDE DIS-
9 ASTER AREA.—Funds provided to States under section

1 173(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
2 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)) to address the effects of Hurricane
3 Katrina may be used to provide disaster relief employment
4 under section 173(d)(1) of such Act on projects that pro-
5 vide assistance in areas outside of the disaster area (as
6 such term is defined in section 173(a)(2) of such Act).

7 (b) EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR DISASTER RELIEF
8 EMPLOYMENT.—Funds provided to States under section
9 173(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
10 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)) to address the effects of Hurricane
11 Katrina may be used to provide disaster relief employment
12 and other assistance under section 173(d)(1) of such Act,
13 or public sector employment authorized under subsection
14 (c) of this Act, to individuals affected by Hurricane
15 Katrina, including those who have relocated from States
16 in which a major disaster was declared under section 102
17 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
18 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) due to the effects of Hur-
19 ricane Katrina, who were unemployed at the time of the
20 disaster or who are without employment history, in addi-
21 tion to individuals who are eligible for such employment
22 under section 173(d)(2) of Workforce Investment Act of
23 1998.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR GENERAL PUBLIC SECTOR
25 EMPLOYMENT.—Funds provided to States under section

1 173(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
2 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)) to address the effects of Hurricane
3 Katrina may be used to provide temporary employment
4 to eligible individuals in public sector entities for a period
5 not to exceed 6 months in addition to disaster relief em-
6 ployment described in section 173(d)(1) of such Act.

7 (d) EXTENSION OF THE DURATION OF DISASTER
8 RELIEF EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretary of Labor may ex-
9 tend the duration of employment under this Act and under
10 section 173(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
11 (29 U.S.C. 2918(d)) for up to an additional 6 months due
12 to extraordinary circumstances.

13 (e) ELIGIBILITY FOR NEEDS-RELATED PAY-
14 MENTS.—Funds provided to States under section
15 173(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
16 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)) to address the effects of Hurricane
17 Katrina may be used to provide needs-related payments
18 (described in section 134(e)(3) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
19 2864(e)(3))) to eligible individuals who do not qualify for
20 (or have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensa-
21 tion, and who are not employed on a project described
22 under section 173(d) of such Act, for the purpose of ena-
23 bling such individuals to participate in activities under
24 paragraphs (2), (3), or (4) of section 134(d) of such Act.

1 (f) **USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.**—With the approval
2 of the Secretary of Labor, any State may use funds that
3 remain available for expenditure under any grants award-
4 ed to the State under section 173 of the Workforce Invest-
5 ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918) to provide any assist-
6 ance authorized under such section or under this section
7 to assist workers affected by Hurricane Katrina, including
8 workers who have relocated from States in which an emer-
9 gency or major disaster was declared under section 102
10 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
11 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) due to the effects of Hur-
12 ricane Katrina.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14 (a) **MOBILE ONE-STOP CENTERS.**—It is the sense of
15 Congress that States that operate mobile one-stop centers,
16 established as part of the one-stop delivery system author-
17 ized under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act
18 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841), should, where possible, make
19 such centers available for use in the areas affected by Hur-
20 ricane Katrina, and areas where large numbers of victims
21 of Hurricane Katrina have been relocated.

22 (b) **EXPANDED OPERATIONAL HOURS.**—It is the
23 sense of Congress that one-stop operators (as such term
24 is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act
25 of 1998) should increase access for individuals affected by

1 Hurricane Katrina to the one-stop delivery system author-
2 ized under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), in-
3 cluding through the implementation of expanded oper-
4 ational hours at one-stop centers and on-site services for
5 individuals in temporary housing locations.

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