H. R. 2188

To provide relief to workers impacted by COVID–19 and support for reopening businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

Mr. BRADY (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ESTES, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. SMUCKER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide relief to workers impacted by COVID–19 and support for reopening businesses, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Reopening America by Supporting Workers and Businesses Act of 2021”.

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SEC. 2. TIME-LIMITED BACK-TO-WORK BONUSES.

(a) In general.—Section 2104(b) of the Cares Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) BACK-TO-WORK BONUSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement under this section may also provide that the State agency of the State may make a one-time lump sum payment to each individual who—

“(i) was eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation under paragraph (1) for any week beginning after the date of enactment of the Reopening America by Supporting Workers and Businesses Act of 2021;

“(ii) is no longer so eligible (as determined by the State), as a result of earnings due to commencing employment; and

“(iii) as verified by the individual’s employer pursuant to subparagraph (E)—

“(I) has been employed by a non-governmental employer throughout the individual’s qualifying period;
“(II) is employed for wages equivalent to an annual salary of not more than $75,000; and

“(III) remains employed with an intent to continue such employment.

“(B) AMOUNT.—A payment made to an individual under this paragraph shall be paid in a lump sum amount of—

“(i) $1,200 in the case of an individual who on average is working at least 30 hours or more per week during the qualifying period; or

“(ii) $600 in the case of an individual who on average is working at least 20 hours or more per week, but less than 30 hours, during the qualifying period.

“(C) QUALIFYING PERIOD.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualifying period’ means, with respect to an individual, a period—

“(i) beginning on the date the individual commenced employment as described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

“(ii) extending at least 4 consecutive weeks from such date.
“(D) DURATION.—No lump sum payment may be made to any individual under this para-
graph with respect to a qualifying period begin-
ing on or after July 1, 2021.

“(E) EMPLOYER VERIFICATION.—Before making a lump sum payment to an individual pursuant to this paragraph, a State agency shall require verification from the individual’s employer—

“(i) of the individual’s employment status;

“(ii) of the wages paid to the indi-
vidual during the qualifying period; and

“(iii) of the hours worked by the indi-
vidual during the qualifying period.

“(F) LIMITATION.—A State may not pro-
vide more than one payment under this para-
graph to an individual.

“(G) SPECIAL RULE.—Payments made pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph shall not be considered to violate the withdrawal requirements of section 303(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)(5)) or section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of such Act is amended—

(1) in subsections (d) and (f), by inserting ‘‘, payments under subsection (b)(4),’’ after ‘‘Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation’’ each place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(3) the purposes of the preceding provisions of this section, as such provisions apply with respect to payments under subsection (b)(4), shall be applied with respect to unemployment benefits described in subsection (i)(2) to the same extent and in the same manner as if those benefits were regular compensation.’’.

SEC. 3. ACCELERATED FUNDING INCREASE FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS.

Section 314(g)(1)(D) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645(g)(1)(D)) is amended by—
(1) in clause (i), by striking “$133,000,000” and inserting “$433,000,000”; and
(2) in clause (ii), by striking “$258,000,000” and inserting “$433,000,000”.

SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

(a) CARES ACT.—

(1) PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—
Section 2102 of the Cares Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(i) ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.— Pandemic unemployment assistance under this section shall be treated as unemployment compensation for the purposes of section 306 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 506).”.

(2) PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2107 of the Cares Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(h) ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.— Pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under this section shall be treated as unemployment compensation for the purposes of section 306 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 506).”.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 306(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended—
(1) by striking “individuals referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j)” and inserting “claimants for unemployment compensation, including claimants referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j),”; and

(2) by striking “such individuals” and inserting “such claimants”.

SEC. 5. REINSTATING FEDERAL WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “work search,” after “with respect to”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.