

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2948

To amend section 303 of the Social Security Act to require States to provide unemployment compensation benefits to Federal employees during a government shutdown, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend section 303 of the Social Security Act to require States to provide unemployment compensation benefits to Federal employees during a government shutdown, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Help Federal Employ-
5 ees During Shutdowns Act” or the “Help FEDS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULAR COMPENSATION REQUIRED FOR FED-**
2 **ERAL EMPLOYEES DURING A SHUTDOWN.**

3 Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 503) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(n)(1) For purposes of subsection (a), the unem-
6 ployment compensation law of a State must—

7 “(A) allow for excepted Federal employees to
8 apply for and receive unemployment compensation
9 for any week in which such employee is performing
10 emergency work (as such term is defined by the Of-
11 fice of Personnel Management) during a lapse in ap-
12 propriations during fiscal year 2026 or 2027;

13 “(B) in the case that an excepted Federal em-
14 ployee receives pay under section 1341(c)(2) of title
15 31, United States Code, for any period in which
16 such employee received compensation pursuant to
17 subparagraph (A), require such an excepted Federal
18 employee to repay such compensation to the State;

19 “(C) treat as an overpayment any such com-
20 pensation not repaid to the State and allow for the
21 recovery of such compensation in the same manner
22 the State recovers any overpayment paid pursuant to
23 the unemployment compensation law of the State;
24 and

1 “(D) deposit all money repaid or recovered pur-
2 suant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) in the unem-
3 ployment fund of such State.

4 “(2)(A) The Secretary of Treasury shall pay to each
5 State, for the purpose of providing unemployment com-
6 pensation to excepted Federal employees pursuant to
7 paragraph (1)(A), the amount described in subparagraph
8 (B). The Secretary of Labor shall, from time to time, cer-
9 tify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount to be
10 paid under this paragraph.

11 “(B) There shall be paid to each State an amount
12 equal to 100 percent of—

13 “(i) the total amount of unemployment com-
14 pensation provided to excepted Federal employees by
15 the State pursuant to paragraph (1)(A); and

16 “(ii) any additional administrative expenses in-
17 curred by the State in relation to such compensa-
18 tion.

19 “(C) Funds in the Unemployment Trust Fund (as
20 established by section 904(a)) shall be used to make pay-
21 ments to States pursuant to subparagraph (A).

22 “(3) In this section, the term ‘excepted Federal em-
23 ployee’ means, with respect to a lapse in appropriations,
24 a Federal employee who—

1 “(A) is an excepted employee, as defined in sec-
2 tion 1341(c)(1) of title 31, United States Code; and
3 “(B) is not being paid due to the lapse in ap-
4 propriations.”.

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