107TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 5344

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to include efforts to address barriers to employment as a work activity under the temporary assistance to needy families program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

Mr. Stark (for himself, Mr. Baca, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Bonior, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mrs. Clayton, Mr. Coyne, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Farr of California, Mr. Filner, Mr. Honda, Mr. Jefferson, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Kucinich, Ms. Lee, Mr. Matsui, Mr. McDermott, Ms. Millender-McDonald, Ms. McKinney, Mr. Menendez, Mr. George Miller of California, Ms. Norton, Mr. Owens, Mr. Payne, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Scott, Mr. Serrano, Ms. Solis, Mrs. Tauscher, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Towns, Ms. Waters, Mr. Watt of North Carolina, Mr. Waxman, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Wynn, Ms. Brown of Florida, Ms. Watson of California, Ms. Delauro, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Markey, and Mr. Underwood) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to include efforts to address barriers to employment as a work activity under the temporary assistance to needy families program, 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.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Chance to Succeed Act
3	of 2002".
4	SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO
5	EMPLOYMENT AS A WORK ACTIVITY UNDER
6	TANF.
7	Section 407 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8	607) is amended—
9	(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection
10	(c), by striking "or (12)" each place it appears and
11	inserting "(12), or (13)";
12	(2) in subsection (d)—
13	(A) in paragraph (11), by striking "and"
14	at the end;
15	(B) in paragraph (12), by striking the pe-
16	riod and inserting "; and"; and
17	(C) by adding at the end the following:
18	"(13) subject to subsection (j), 3 months of sat-
19	isfactory participation (as determined by the State)
20	in services to address barriers that are designed to
21	improve future employment opportunities, including
22	substance abuse treatment, physical rehabilitation,
23	and mental health, mental retardation and develop-
24	mental disabilities services."; and
25	(3) by adding at the end the following:

1	"(j) State Option To Extend Period for Par-
2	TICIPATION IN SERVICES TO ADDRESS BARRIERS.—
3	"(1) In general.—With respect to an indi-
4	vidual, a State may extend the 3-month period re-
5	ferred to in subsection (d)(13) for an additional 3
6	months and, if necessary, for an additional period
7	determined by the State, so long as the State peri-
8	odically reassesses the appropriateness of the activi-
9	ties referred to in such subsection for the individual.
10	"(2) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in
11	paragraph (1) or subsection (d)(13) shall be con-
12	strued to limit the amount of time an individual may
13	require, or a State may provide, services to address
14	barriers that are designed to improve future employ-
15	ment opportunities.".
16	SEC. 3. CREATION OF A SCREENING, ASSESSMENT, AND
17	SERVICES PROCESS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS
18	TO EMPLOYMENT.
19	(a) Assessments.—Section 408(b) of the Social Se-
20	curity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(b)) is amended—
21	(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
22	following:
23	"(1) Assessment provided for each indi-
24	VIDUAL WHO RECEIVES ASSISTANCE.—

1	"(A) In General.—The State agency re-
2	sponsible for administering the State program
3	funded under this part shall make an initial as-
4	sessment of each adult individual who receives
5	assistance under the program (and, in the case
6	of a State program that requires an individual
7	who is a caretaker for an individual who re-
8	ceives such assistance to engage in work, an ini-
9	tial assessment of the caretaker individual) to
10	determine whether the individual has any bar-
11	riers to employment or program compliance.
12	"(B) 2-Part process.—The assessment
13	under subparagraph (A) shall consist of the fol-
14	lowing 2 parts:
15	"(i) Initial screening.—
16	"(I) In general.—An initial
17	screening which shall evaluate an indi-
18	vidual's employability, educational ca-
19	pacity, and other related cir-
20	cumstances, such as the child support
21	status, housing needs, and transpor-
22	tation needs of the individual and the
23	individual's family.
24	"(II) REQUIRED FACTORS TO BE
25	ASSESSED.—A trained caseworker

idual for condi-
or mental im-
abuse, domestic
earning disabil-
proficiency, lim-
mary language,
a child with a
condition which
rk or other pro-
L ASSESSMENT
os.—At the op-
the State shall,
individual to a
e State program
rt, perform an
dividual's child
ntee safe, appro-
ity child care to
vho needs child
ASSESSMENT OF
At the option of
ate shall, before

assigning the individual to a work ac-

tivity under the State program funded under this part, perform an individual assessment for the preparation that is needed for the individual to obtain and maintain a job at a monthly wage that is at least 200 percent of the poverty line applicable to the family of the individual.

"(ii) Comprehensive assessMent.—If an initial screening under
clause (i) suggests the existence of potential barriers to work or program compliance, the individual may elect to participate in a comprehensive assessment conducted by a qualified professional to confirm the existence of the barriers, determine the extent of the barriers, and develop recommendations about appropriate
services and activities for the individual.

"(C) Family members.—At the discretion of an individual who receives assistance under the State program funded under this part, a member of the individual's family also may be afforded an assessment in accordance with this paragraph.

1	"(D) Not considered a program re-
2	QUIREMENT.—Participation by an individual or
3	by a member of the individual's family in an as-
4	sessment under this paragraph shall not be con-
5	sidered a program requirement for the indi-
6	vidual or the individual's family.
7	"(E) Inclusion of Caseworkers.—
8	Nothing in subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be con-
9	strued as prohibiting a caseworker from being
10	a qualified professional for purposes of that
11	subparagraph if the caseworker satisfies the re-
12	quirements for being considered a qualified pro-
13	fessional."; and
14	(2) by striking paragraph (4).
15	(b) REVIEW AND CONCILIATION PROCESS.—Section
16	408(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is
17	amended by adding at the end the following:
18	"(12) REVIEW AND CONCILIATION PROCESS.—
19	"(A) In general.—A State to which a
20	grant is made under section 403 shall not im-
21	pose a sanction against an individual or family
22	under the State program funded under this
23	part on the basis of noncompliance by an indi-

vidual or family with a program requirement,

1	unless the State satisfies the following require-
2	ments:
3	"(i) Notice.—The State has at-
4	tempted, at least twice (using at least 2
5	different communication methods, 1 of
6	which shall be in writing) to notify the in-
7	dividual or family, in the individual's or
8	family's native language, of—
9	"(I) the impending imposition of
10	the sanction;
11	"(II) the reason for the proposed
12	sanction;
13	"(III) the amount of the sanc-
14	tion;
15	"(IV) the length of time during
16	which the proposed sanction would be
17	in effect; and
18	"(V) the steps required to come
19	into compliance or to show good cause
20	for noncompliance.
21	"(ii) Review.—The State has af-
22	forded the individual or family an oppor-
23	tunity to meet with personnel outside the
24	agency that administers the State program
25	funded under this part who the State has

1	contracted with to make a determination
2	regarding why the individual or family did
3	not comply with the program requirement,
4	that is to be the basis on which the sanc-
5	tion is to be imposed, and that includes—
6	"(I) consideration of whether cer-
7	tain barriers to compliance exist that
8	contributed to the noncompliance of
9	the individual or family, such as a
10	physical or mental impairment, in-
11	cluding a mental health or substance
12	abuse disorder or mental retardation,
13	a learning disability, domestic or sex-
14	ual violence, limited proficiency in
15	English, limited literacy, or the need
16	to care for a child with a disability or
17	health condition;
18	"(II) consideration of whether
19	the individual or family has good
20	cause for failing to meet program re-
21	quirements;
22	"(III) consideration of whether
23	an additional assessment would assist
24	in identifying reasons for noncompli-
25	ance;

1 "(IV) consideration of whether
2 support services or changes to the
3 program requirements or activities to
4 which the individual or family has
5 been assigned are necessary in order
6 for the individual or family to comply
7 with program requirements; and
8 "(V) ensuring that the State's

"(V) ensuring that the State's sanction policies have been applied properly.

"(B) Sanction Limitations.—

"(i) Ban on imposition of sanc-TION IF NEEDED SCREENING, ASSESS-MENT. OR SERVICES WERE UNAVAIL-ABLE.—A State may not impose a sanction against an individual or family under the State program funded under this part on the basis of noncompliance by an individual or family with a program requirement if the individual whose conduct is the basis of the sanction is in the process of being screened or assessed for a mental health problem, disability, substance abuse problem, or sexual or domestic violence situation but the screening or assessment has

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

2

3

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

not been completed, or if services outlined in the service plan developed for the individual or family were not offered, available, and accessible to the individual or family at the time of the noncompliance.

"(ii) No ban on sanction if indi-VIDUAL OR FAMILY FAILS TO TAKE ADVAN-TAGE OF ASSESSMENT OR SERVICES AND DOES NOT COMPLY WITH WORK REQUIRE-MENTS.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as prohibiting a State that has complied with the requirements of this paragraph and section 408(b)(1) from imposing a sanction for noncompliance with work requirements against an individual or family who opts to not take full advantage of the opportunity for assessment or the services and supports made available to ensure that the individual or family can comply with program requirements if such an individual or family is not complying with the State's work requirements.

"(C) SANCTION FOLLOW-UP REQUIRE-MENTS.—

1	"(i) In general.—If a State imposes
2	a sanction on an individual or family for
3	failing to comply with program require-
4	ments, the State shall—
5	"(I) provide, at the time the
6	sanction is imposed and periodically
7	thereafter for at least 6 months, no-
8	tice (in at least 2 different forms) to
9	the individual or family of the reason
10	for the sanction and the steps the in-
11	dividual or family must take to end
12	the sanction;
13	"(II) reinstate the individual's or
14	family's full benefits if the individual
15	or family member who failed to meet
16	the program requirements that led to
17	the sanction complies with program
18	requirements for a reasonable period
19	of time and the individual or family is
20	otherwise eligible; and
21	"(III) if the sanction is time-lim-
22	ited, notify the individual or family at
23	least 10 days before the expiration of
24	the sanction of the date when the in-
25	dividual or family will no longer be in

sanction status and inform the individual or family how assistance will be reinstated.

> "(ii) Outreach to individuals and FAMILIES SANCTIONED WHO HAVE NOT RESUMED RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE.— If, during the 5-year period that ended on the date of enactment of the Chance to Succeed Act of 2002, a State imposed a sanction against an individual or family that resulted in the individual or family losing all cash assistance under the State program funded under this part, and the individual or family did not resume receiving cash assistance at the end of the sanction period, the State shall make reasonable efforts to identify such individuals and families and notify them, using at least 2 methods of communication, 1 of which is written, of the assistance, services, and support they may be eligible to receive.

"(D) Confidentiality.—The State, and any individuals or entities acting as agents of the State, shall not disclose any identifying information obtained through any process or pro-

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1	cedure instituted pursuant to this paragraph
2	unless required or permitted to do so by law.
3	"(E) Development of Standards, Pro-
4	CEDURES, TRAINING, AND SCREENING TOOLS.—
5	States and local governments shall, in consulta-
6	tion with Federal, State, tribal, or local experts
7	in the different barriers to employment, develop
8	standards, procedures, training, and screening
9	tools for use in carrying out this paragraph.".
10	(c) Plan Requirements for Individual Respon-
11	SIBILITY PLANS.—Section 408(b)(2)(A) of the Social Se-
12	curity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(b)(2)(A)) is amended to read
13	as follows:
14	"(A) Requirements.—
15	"(i) In general.—From the assess-
16	ment described in paragraph (1), the
17	State, in consultation with the individual
18	who is the subject of the assessment, shall
19	develop a personal responsibility plan,
20	that—
21	"(I) sets forth an employment
22	goal to move the individual into stable
23	employment;
24	"(II) sets forth the obligations of
25	the individual that will help the indi-

1	vidual become and remain employed
2	in the private sector;
3	"(III) describes the individual's
4	long-term career goals and the specific
5	work experience, education, or train-
6	ing needed to reach them; and
7	"(IV) identifies the services the
8	State will offer the individual's family
9	based upon the assessment and eval-
10	uation described in this section.
11	"(ii) Modification.—If the State is
12	unable to provide needed services to the in-
13	dividual or the individual's family, the
14	State shall modify the personal responsi-
15	bility plan to be consistent with the needs
16	of the individual, the family, and the ca-
17	pacity of the State.".
18	(d) Technical Assistance.—The Secretary shall
19	coordinate with Federal, State, and tribal experts and
20	qualified professionals to determine, develop, and dissemi-
21	nate to States, and provide technical assistance with re-
22	spect to, model practices, standards, and procedures for
23	screening, assessment, addressing barriers, including mul-
24	tiple barriers, in a comprehensive manner, and moving in-

- 1 dividuals and families with barriers into employment, as
- 2 well as model training materials for caseworkers.
- 3 (e) State Plan Requirement.—Section
- 4 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
- 5 602(a)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
- 6 lowing:
- 7 "(vii) Identify and serve individuals
- 8 and families with barriers to employment
- 9 as described in section 408(b)(1).".
- 10 (f) Coordinating Exemptions From Work Re-
- 11 QUIREMENTS.—Section 408(a)(7)(C) of the Social Secu-
- 12 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(7)(C)) is amended by adding
- 13 at the end the following:
- 14 "(iv) Families exempted from
- WORK REQUIREMENTS BY REASON OF BAR-
- 16 RIER TO WORK BY FAMILY MEMBER.—The
- 17 State shall exempt a family from the appli-
- cation of subparagraph (A) of this para-
- graph if the State permits a member of the
- family (or, in the case of a State that re-
- 21 quires a caretaker for an individual who
- receives assistance to engage in work, a
- caretaker) to engage in activities to ad-
- 24 dress barriers, pursuant to section
- 407(d)(13), so long as the State deter-

1	mines that the individual is satisfactorily
2	participating in such activities.".
3	(g) Advisory Panel To Improve State Policies
4	AND PROCEDURES FOR ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS AND
5	Families With Barriers To Work.—
6	(1) Membership; Chair.—
7	(A) Membership.—Each State that re-
8	ceives a State family assistance grant under
9	section 403(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
10	U.S.C. 603(a)(1)) shall establish an advisory
11	panel consisting of representatives of the fol-
12	lowing:
13	(i) The State agency responsible for
14	administering the temporary assistance to
15	needy families program established under
16	part A of title IV of the Social Security
17	Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) (in this sub-
18	section referred to as the "TANF pro-
19	gram'').
20	(ii) Professionals from other State
21	agencies with expertise in barriers that
22	interfere with an individual's or family's
23	ability to work, such as physical or mental
24	impairments, substance abuse, domestic or
25	sexual violence, learning disabilities, lim-

1	ited English proficiency, limited literacy in
2	a primary language, and need to care for
3	a child with a disability or health condi-
4	tion.
5	(iii) Organizations representing indi-
6	viduals and families with such barriers.
7	(iv) Professionals with expertise in de-
8	signing and implementing policies and pro-
9	grams to successfully serve individuals and
10	families with such barriers.
11	(v) Individuals and families with such
12	barriers who are recipients of cash assist-
13	ance or support services under the TANF
14	program.
15	(B) Chair.—The chief executive officer of
16	the State shall appoint an individual who is not
17	a State employee to serve as chair of the advi-
18	sory panel.
19	(2) Duties.—
20	(A) In General.—The advisory panel
21	shall review the efficacy of each program de-
22	scribed in subparagraph (B) to determine—
23	(i) the amount of funds spent on serv-
24	ices under the program;

1	(ii) the referral process for participa-
2	tion in the program, including whether in-
3	dividuals and families received referrals
4	and services;
5	(iii) the effect services provided under
6	the program had on an individual's and
7	family's economic status; and
8	(iv) ways in which the State can im-
9	prove the effectiveness of its policies and
10	procedures to serve individuals and fami-
11	lies with barriers to work or program com-
12	pliance.
13	(B) Programs described.—For pur-
14	poses of subparagraph (A), a program described
15	in this subparagraph, is a program that—
16	(i) is funded under the TANF pro-
17	gram;
18	(ii) receives funding from amounts
19	made available under the State family as-
20	sistance grant made under section
21	403(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
22	U.S.C. $603(a)(1)$; or
23	(iii) is funded with qualified State ex-
24	penditures (as defined in section

1	409(a)(7)(B)(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
2	609(a)(7)(B)(i)).
3	(C) DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISM FOR
4	REVIEW AND REPORTS BY LOCAL UNITS OF
5	GOVERNMENT.—In the case of a State in which
6	significant policy or spending decisions are
7	made in the State with respect to a program
8	described in subparagraph (B) at the county or
9	other local unit of government, then the advi-
10	sory panel shall develop a mechanism that re-
11	quires each county or other local unit of govern-
12	ment to—
13	(i) review its policies and procedures
14	with respect to that program and file a
15	written report with the advisory panel re-
16	garding how the policies and procedures
17	for the program are designed to assist in-
18	dividuals and families with barriers to
19	work; and
20	(ii) respond to any other requests for
21	information from the advisory panel re-
22	garding the TANF program.
23	(D) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—In order to
24	carry out the duties described in this para-
25	graph, the advisory panel may hold such meet-

ings (in addition to the regular meetings required under paragraph (3)(C)) and such public hearings, hire such staff, enter into the contract required under paragraph (4)(B), and travel to such locations of programs described in subparagraph (B), as the panel determines to be appropriate.

(3) Duration; meetings.—

- (A) DURATION.—An advisory panel established in accordance with this subsection shall remain in effect for at least 3 years from the date of the initial meeting of the panel.
- (B) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL MEETING.—
 Not later than the end of the first Federal fiscal year quarter that begins on or after the date
 of enactment of this Act, the advisory panel
 shall meet for its initial meeting.
- (C) REGULAR MEETINGS.—The advisory panel shall meet on a regular basis.

(4) Reports.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory panel established in accordance with this subsection shall file the following reports with the Secretary of Health and Human Services:

- initial meeting of the advisory panel, an interim report identifying areas where improvement is needed with respect to State policies and procedures to serve individuals with barriers to work and the steps the State is taking or plans to take to make those improvements.
 - (ii) Not later than 24 months after such initial meeting, a progress report on how the improvements identified in the report required under clause (i) are being made, whether additional improvements are needed, including plans to make those improvements, and that includes the report of the independent evaluation entity required under subparagraph (B).
 - (iii) Not later than 36 months after such initial meeting, a final report that describes how the programs described in subparagraph (B) have been improved to assist individuals and families with barriers to work and identifies ongoing work that will be needed to maintain the improvements made.

- (B) Requirements for progress report required under subparagraph (A)(ii), the advisory panel shall hire an independent evaluation entity to assess the State's progress in meeting the goals set forth by the advisory panel. In States described in paragraph (2)(C), the independent evaluation entity shall also assess the progress being made at the county level or appropriate other unit of local government.
 - (C) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall compile the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) and shall submit such compilations to Congress as part of any annual report to Congress on the TANF program.

(5) Public access.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—All materials collected by or provided to the advisory panel and all reports submitted by the advisory panel to the State or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be publicly available.
- (B) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COM-MENT.—The advisory panel shall create opportunities to secure public comments on a draft of

- each report to be submitted to the State or the
 Secretary of Health and Human Services and
 shall submit a summary of such comments with
 the final draft of the report.
 - (6) Funding.—Out of funds made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall pay each State that establishes an advisory panel in accordance with this subsection, \$1,500,000, for the period of fiscal years 2003 through 2005.
 - (7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as authorizing an advisory review panel established under this paragraph to resolve complaints filed by individuals or entities related to possible violations of laws protecting civil rights.
 - (8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out this subsection, such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

 \bigcirc