

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2349

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to improve access to dependable, affordable automobiles by low-income families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to improve access to dependable, affordable automobiles by low-income families.

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 “Creating Access to
5 Rides Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME CAR OWNERSHIP PRO-**
 2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a) of the Social Secu-
 4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)) is amended by adding at the
 5 end the following:

6 “(6) GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME CAR OWNER-
 7 SHIP PROGRAMS.—

8 “(A) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this
 9 paragraph are to—

10 “(i) assist low-income families obtain
 11 dependable, affordable automobiles to im-
 12 prove their employment opportunities and
 13 access to training; and

14 “(ii) provide incentives to States, In-
 15 dian tribes or tribal organizations, local-
 16 ities, and nonprofit entities to develop and
 17 administer programs that provide assist-
 18 ance with automobile ownership for low-in-
 19 come families.

20 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

21 “(i) LOCALITY.—The term ‘locality’
 22 means a municipality that does not admin-
 23 ister a State program funded under this
 24 part.

25 “(ii) LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.—The
 26 term ‘low-income families’ means families

1 with total income of not more than 200
2 percent of the poverty line (as defined in
3 section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget
4 Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any
5 revision required by such section applicable
6 to a family of the size involved).

7 “(iii) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term
8 ‘nonprofit entity’ means a school, local
9 agency, organization, or institution owned
10 and operated by 1 or more nonprofit cor-
11 porations or associations, no part of the
12 net earnings of which inures, or may law-
13 fully inure, to the benefit of any private
14 shareholder or individual.

15 “(C) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—
16 The Secretary may award grants to States,
17 counties, localities, Indian tribes or tribal orga-
18 nizations, and nonprofit entities to promote im-
19 proving access to dependable, affordable auto-
20 mobiles by low-income families.

21 “(D) GRANT APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The
22 Secretary shall establish criteria for approval of
23 an application for a grant under this paragraph
24 that include consideration of—

1 “(i) the extent to which the proposal,
2 if funded, is likely to improve access to
3 training and employment opportunities and
4 child care services by low-income families
5 by means of car ownership;

6 “(ii) the level of innovation in the ap-
7 plicant’s grant proposal; and

8 “(iii) any partnerships between the
9 public and private sector in the applicant’s
10 grant proposal.

11 “(E) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded
13 under this paragraph shall be used to ad-
14 minister programs that assist low-income
15 families with dependable automobile owner-
16 ship, and maintenance of, or insurance for,
17 the purchased automobile.

18 “(ii) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—
19 Funds provided to a State, Indian tribe or
20 tribal organization, county, or locality
21 under a grant awarded under this para-
22 graph shall be used to supplement and not
23 supplant other State, county, or local pub-
24 lic funds expended for car ownership pro-
25 grams.

1 “(iii) GENERAL RULES GOVERNING
2 USE OF FUNDS.—The rules of section 404,
3 other than subsection (b) of that section,
4 shall not apply to a grant made under this
5 paragraph.

6 “(iv) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—
7 For purposes of any requirement, limita-
8 tion, or prohibition imposed on an indi-
9 vidual or family by or pursuant to this
10 part, assistance provided to a low-income
11 family pursuant to a program referred to
12 in clause (i) shall not be considered assist-
13 ance under a State program funded under
14 this part.

15 “(F) APPLICATION.—Each applicant desir-
16 ing a grant under this paragraph shall submit
17 an application to the Secretary at such time, in
18 such manner, and accompanied by such infor-
19 mation as the Secretary may reasonably re-
20 quire.

21 “(G) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Any funds
22 paid from to a grant made under this para-
23 graph that are not expended within 3 years
24 after the date the grant is awarded shall be
25 available for redistribution among other grant-

ees in such manner and amount as the Secretary may determine, unless the Secretary extends by regulation the time period to expend the funds.

“(H) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE SECRETARY.—Not more than an amount equal to 5 percent of the funds appropriated to make grants under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be expended for administrative costs of the Secretary in carrying out this paragraph.

“(I) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, by grant, contract, or interagency agreement, conduct an evaluation of the programs administered with grants awarded under this paragraph.

“(J) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for grants under this paragraph \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

(b) AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS IN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS FOR CAR OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND INSURANCE.—

1 (1) ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TANF
2 PROGRAM.—

3 (A) ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED PURPOSE FOR
4 USE OF FUNDS.—Section 404(h)(2)(B) of the
5 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(h)(2)(B)) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(iv) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EX-
8 PENDITURES.—Qualified automotive ex-
9 penditures paid from an individual develop-
10 ment account directly to the persons to
11 whom the amounts are due.”.

12 (B) DEFINITION.—Section 404(h)(5) of
13 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(h)(5))
14 is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(J) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EXPENDI-
16 TURES.—The term ‘qualified automotive ex-
17 penditures’ means expenditures for the pur-
18 chase or maintenance of an automobile, or for
19 insurance for an automobile.”.

20 (2) ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AS-
21 SETS FOR INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.—Section
22 404(8) of the Assets for Independence Act (42
23 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following:

1 “(E) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EXPENDI-
2 TURES.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Qualified auto-
4 motive expenditures paid from an indi-
5 vidual development account directly to the
6 persons to whom the amounts are due.

7 “(ii) DEFINITION.—In clause (i), the
8 term ‘qualified automotive expenditures’
9 means expenditures for the purchase or
10 maintenance of an automobile, or for in-
11 surance for an automobile.”.

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