

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1161

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2005

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

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. ENCOURAGING THE PREPARATION OF TANF**
4 **RECIPIENTS FOR HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-DEMAND**
5 **JOBS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(c)(2)(D) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)(D)) is amended to read
8 as follows:

1 “(D) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PER-
2 SONS WHO MAY BE TREATED AS ENGAGED IN
3 WORK BY REASON OF PARTICIPATION IN EDU-
4 CATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
6 vided in clause (ii), for purposes of para-
7 graphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B) of subsection
8 (b), not more than 30 percent of the num-
9 ber of individuals in all families in a State
10 who are treated as engaged in work for a
11 month may consist of individuals who
12 are—

13 “(I) determined to be engaged in
14 work for the month by reason of par-
15 ticipation in vocational educational
16 training (but only with respect to such
17 training that does not exceed 12
18 months with respect to any indi-
19 vidual); or

20 “(II) deemed to be engaged in
21 work for the month by reason of sub-
22 paragraph (C) of this paragraph.

23 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR EDUCATION IN
24 PREPARATION FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC,

1 HIGH-SKILL OCCUPATIONS TO MEET EM-
2 PLOYER DEMAND.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
4 standing clause (i) and subsection
5 (d)(8), for purposes of determining
6 monthly participation rates under
7 paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B) of
8 subsection (b) with respect to an indi-
9 vidual who is enrolled, in preparation
10 for a sector-specific, high-skill occupa-
11 tion to meet employer demand (as de-
12 fined in subclause (II)), in a postsec-
13 ondary 2- or 4-year degree program
14 or in vocational educational training—

15 “(aa) the State may count
16 the number of hours per week
17 that the individual attends such
18 program or training for purposes
19 of determining the number of
20 hours for which a family is en-
21 gaged in work for the month
22 without regard to the 30 percent
23 limitation under clause (i); and

24 “(bb) the individual shall be
25 permitted to complete the re-

1 requirements of the degree pro-
2 gram or vocational educational
3 training within the normal time
4 frame for full-time students seek-
5 ing the particular degree or com-
6 pleting such vocational edu-
7 cational training.

8 “(II) SECTOR-SPECIFIC, HIGH-
9 SKILL OCCUPATION TO MEET EM-
10 PLOYER DEMAND DEFINED.—In sub-
11 clause (I), the term ‘sector-specific,
12 high-demand, high-skill occupation to
13 meet employer demand’ means an oc-
14 cupation—

15 “(aa) that has been identi-
16 fied by the State workforce in-
17 vestment board established under
18 section 111 of the Workforce In-
19 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
20 2821) as within the needs of the
21 State with regard to current and
22 projected employment opportuni-
23 ties in specific industry sectors or
24 that has been defined by the
25 State agency administering the

1 State program funded under this
2 part as within the needs of the
3 State with regard to current and
4 projected employment opportuni-
5 ties in specific industry sectors
6 and is consistent with high de-
7 mand jobs identified in the State
8 plan in accordance with section
9 402(a)(1)(A)(vii);

10 “(bb) that requires occupa-
11 tional training; and

12 “(cc) that provides a wage
13 of at least 75 percent of the
14 State median hourly wage, as cal-
15 culated by the Bureau of Labor
16 Statistics on the basis of the
17 most recent Occupational Em-
18 ployment and Wage Survey.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—Sec-
20 tion 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 602(a)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(vii) The document shall describe
24 any strategies and programs the State
25 plans to use to address employment place-

1 ment, retention, and advancement for re-
2 cipients of assistance under the program,
3 including placement into high-demand jobs
4 and whether such jobs are identified using
5 labor market information.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section take effect on October 1, 2005.

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