

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3655

To provide enhanced disaster unemployment assistance to States affected by Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Sandy of 2012, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2012

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide enhanced disaster unemployment assistance to States affected by Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Sandy of 2012, 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 “Superstorm Sandy Un-
5 employment Relief Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT BEN-**
7 **EFIT PERIOD.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law, in the case of an individual eligible to receive

1 unemployment assistance under section 410(a) of the Rob-
2 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 5177(a)) as a result of a disaster declara-
4 tion made by reason of Hurricane Sandy after October
5 20, 2012, the President shall make such assistance avail-
6 able for 39 weeks after the date of the disaster declara-
7 tion.

8 (b) REFERENCES.—References in this Act to “Hurri-
9 cane Sandy” shall be deemed to include Tropical Storm
10 Sandy, occurring in the fall of 2012.

11 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO STATES.**

12 (a) PAYMENTS TO STATES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Payments shall be made to
14 a State in an amount equal to 100 percent of the
15 amount of unemployment compensation paid under
16 the provisions of the State law to affected individ-
17 uals in each State in which a major disaster was de-
18 clared with respect to that State or any area within
19 that State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
20 Assistance Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by
21 reason of Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

22 (2) FUNDING AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

23 (A) FUNDING.—There are appropriated,
24 out of moneys in the Treasury not otherwise ob-
25 ligated, such sums as may be necessary for pur-

poses of carrying out this section, and such sums shall not be required to be repaid.

(B) TRANSFERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the General Fund of the Treasury to—

(i) the extended unemployment compensation account (as established by section 905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1105)) such sums as the Secretary of Labor estimates to be necessary to make payments to States for the unemployment compensation identified in paragraph (1); and

(ii) the employment security administration account (as established by section 901 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1101)) such sums as the Secretary of Labor estimates to be necessary for purposes of assisting States in meeting the costs of administering this section.

(3) TERMS OF PAYMENTS.—Payments made to a State under this section shall be made by way of advance or reimbursement.

1 (4) LIMITATIONS ON PAYMENTS.—No payments
 2 shall be made to a State under this section for un-
 3 employment compensation paid by the State to an
 4 affected individual, if the State is advanced or reim-
 5 bursed for the costs of such unemployment com-
 6 pensation under other provisions of Federal law.

7 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Payments to a State under
 8 subsection (a) shall be available for unemployment com-
 9 pensation payable with respect to weeks of unemploy-
 10 ment—

11 (1) beginning on or after October 28, 2012; and
 12 (2) ending on or before July 23, 2013.

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
 14 nitions shall apply:

15 (1) STATE; STATE LAW.—The terms “State”
 16 and “State law” have the meanings given those
 17 terms in section 205 of the Federal-State Extended
 18 Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26
 19 U.S.C. 3304 note).

20 (2) AFFECTED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “af-
 21 fected individual” means an individual eligible for
 22 unemployment compensation under State law, whose
 23 unemployment is a direct result (as described in 20
 24 C.F.R. 625.5(c)) of the major disaster that was de-
 25 clared with respect to that State or any area within

1 that State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
2 Assistance Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by
3 reason of Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

4 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

5 The Secretary of Labor may prescribe any operating
6 instructions or regulations necessary to carry out this Act.

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