

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2870

To amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to provide unemployed workers with the information, skills, and relationships they need for reemployment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to provide unemployed workers with the information, skills, and relationships they need for reemployment.

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 “On the Job Training
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO PROMOTE REEMPLOY-**
 2 **MENT THROUGH DEMONSTRATION**
 3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) MODIFICATION OF NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—

5 Subsection (a) of section 305 of the Social Security Act
 6 (42 U.S.C. 505) is amended by inserting “per year” after
 7 “10 States”.

8 (b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIRE-
 9 MENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section 305 is amended—

10 (1) by inserting “or his or her designee” after
 11 “The Governor of any State”; and

12 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
 13 following:

14 “(2) for any waiver requested under subsection
 15 (c), a statement describing—

16 “(A) the specific provision or provisions of
 17 law for which such waiver is requested; and

18 “(B) the specific aspects of the project to
 19 which such waiver would apply and the reasons
 20 why it is needed;”.

21 (c) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBLE TIME PERIOD.—Sub-
 22 section (d) of such section 305 is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may” and all
 24 that follows through the semicolon and inserting
 25 “must be commenced not later than December 31,
 26 2017; and”;

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking “may not be approved” and
3 inserting “may not be conducted”; and

4 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
5 riod; and

6 (3) by striking paragraph (3).

7 (d) CLARIFICATION OF DEMONSTRATION ACTIVI-
8 TIES.—Subsection (e) of such section 305 is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for employer-
10 provided training, such as” and inserting “to em-
11 ployers or claimants for employer-provided training
12 or”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, not to ex-
14 ceed the weekly benefit amount for each such indi-
15 vidual, to pay part of the cost of wages that exceed
16 the unemployed individual’s prior benefit level” and
17 inserting “that include disbursements promoting re-
18 tention”.

19 (e) SELECTION OF QUALIFYING APPLICATIONS ON A
20 FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS AND REVIEW OF
21 COST NEUTRALITY.—Subsection (f) of such section 305
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 “(f) The Secretary of Labor shall, in the case of any
24 State for which an application is submitted under sub-
25 section (b)—

1 “(1) approve completed applications in the
2 order of receipt;

3 “(2) before approving an application, determine
4 whether the assurances that the demonstration
5 project would not result in any increased costs to the
6 State’s account in the Unemployment Trust Fund
7 required under subsection (b)(4) are credible and
8 disapprove any application that includes assurances
9 that are determined to not be credible;

10 “(3) notify the State as to whether such appli-
11 cation has been approved or denied within 30 days
12 after receipt of a complete application; and

13 “(4) provide public notice of the decision within
14 10 days after providing notification to the State in
15 accordance with paragraph (3).

16 Public notice under paragraph (3) may be provided
17 through the Internet or other appropriate means. Any ap-
18 plication under this section that has not been denied with-
19 in the 30-day period described in paragraph (3) shall be
20 deemed approved, and public notice of any approval under
21 this sentence shall be provided within 10 days thereafter.”.

22 (f) TERMINATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—
23 Subsection (g) of such section 305 is amended to read as
24 follows:

1 “(g) The Secretary of Labor may terminate a dem-
 2 onstration project under this section if the Secretary—

3 “(1) determines that the State has violated the
 4 substantive terms or conditions of the project;

5 “(2) notifies the State in writing with sufficient
 6 detail describing the violation; and

7 “(3) determines that the State has not taken
 8 action to correct the violation within 90 days after
 9 the notification.”.

10 (g) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Such
 11 section 305 is amended by adding at the end the following
 12 new subsection:

13 “(i) In addition to the amounts described in sub-
 14 section (h), during the period of fiscal years 2015 through
 15 2020 there is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000
 16 to the Secretary of Labor for purposes of making pay-
 17 ments to States that have entered into agreements with
 18 the Secretary to conduct demonstration projects under
 19 this section. A payment to a State under this subsection—

20 “(1) shall be used by the State to administer a
 21 demonstration project approved under this section;

22 “(2) shall remain available until expended; and

23 “(3) shall not exceed \$200,000 for any fiscal
 24 year.”.

25 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION RULE.—

1 (1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
2 by this section shall take effect on the date of the
3 enactment of this Act.

4 (2) TRANSITION RULE.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act
6 shall be considered to terminate or otherwise af-
7 fect any demonstration project approved under
8 section 305 of the Social Security Act before
9 the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (B) ORIGINAL CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO
11 APPLY.—A demonstration project described in
12 subparagraph (A) shall be conducted in the
13 same manner as if subsections (a) through (f)
14 had not been enacted.

15 **SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 305 of the Social Security
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 505) is amended by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(i) The Secretary of Labor shall conduct an impact
20 evaluation of each demonstration project conducted under
21 this section, using existing data sources to the extent pos-
22 sible and methodology appropriate to determine the effects
23 of the demonstration project, including on individual skill
24 levels, earnings, and employment retention.”.

1 (b) COOPERATION BY STATE.—Section 305(b) of the
2 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 505(b)) (as amended by
3 section 2(b) of this Act) is further amended by striking
4 paragraphs (5) and (6) and inserting the following:

5 “(5) a description of the manner in which the
6 State will determine the extent to which the goals
7 and outcomes described in paragraph (3) were
8 achieved;

9 “(6) assurances that the State will cooperate, in
10 a timely manner, with the Secretary of Labor with
11 respect to the impact evaluation conducted under
12 subsection (i); and”.

13 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 end of fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter,
15 until the completion of the last evaluation under section
16 305(i) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary shall sub-
17 mit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
19 Senate, a report that includes a description of—

20 (1) the status of each demonstration project
21 being carried out under this section;

22 (2) the results of the evaluation completed dur-
23 ing the previous fiscal year; and

24 (3) the Secretary’s plan for—

1 (A) disseminating the findings of the re-
2 port to appropriate State agencies; and

3 (B) incorporating the components of suc-
4 cessful demonstration projects that reduced
5 benefit duration and increased employment into
6 Federal unemployment law.

7 (d) PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.—In addition to the re-
8 porting requirements under subparagraph (c), evaluation
9 results shall be shared broadly to inform policymakers,
10 service providers, other partners, and the public in order
11 to promote wide use of successful strategies, including by
12 posting evaluation results on the Internet website of the
13 Department of Labor.

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