

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2755

To provide relocation subsidies for the long-term unemployed, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2015

Mr. CÁRDENAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide relocation subsidies for the long-term unemployed,
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 “American Worker Mo-
5 bility Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. RELOCATION SUBSIDIES FOR THE LONG-TERM UN-**
7 **EMPLOYED.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor may
9 grant a relocation subsidy to an eligible individual who
10 meets the requirements of this section.

1 (b) MEANING OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-
2 poses of this section, an eligible individual is an individual
3 who, as of the date of the application for a relocation sub-
4 sidy under this section—

5 (1) is totally unemployed and has been totally
6 unemployed for at least 26 consecutive weeks;

7 (2) has exhausted all rights to regular com-
8 pensation under the law of a State or under Federal
9 law with respect to a benefit year (excluding any
10 benefit year ending before July 1, 2008);

11 (3) has not received a relocation subsidy under
12 this section in the 2-year period preceding such date
13 of application; and

14 (4) is able to work, available to work, and ac-
15 tively seeking work.

16 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT.—The Secretary of
17 Labor may not grant a relocation subsidy to an eligible
18 individual under this section unless the Secretary deter-
19 mines that—

20 (1) the relocation subsidy will assist such indi-
21 vidual in relocating within the United States, at
22 least 60 miles from the individual's current resi-
23 dence, for the purpose of attaining employment;

24 (2) such individual filed an application with the
25 Secretary not later than January 1, 2020; and

1 (3) such individual—

2 (A) has obtained a bona fide offer of suit-
3 able employment affording a reasonable expect-
4 ation of long-term duration in the area in
5 which the individual wishes to relocate; or

6 (B) wishes to relocate to an area that has
7 an unemployment rate that is at least 2 per-
8 centage points less than the unemployment rate
9 of the area of the individual's initial residence.

10 (d) AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY.—A relocation subsidy
11 granted to an eligible individual under this section shall
12 be equal to the lesser of \$10,000 or the amount that any
13 contribution by a potential employer of the individual to
14 the individual's relocation expenses is exceeded by the sum
15 of—

16 (1) 90 percent of the reasonable and necessary
17 expenses incurred in transporting the worker, the
18 worker's family, and household effects, plus

19 (2) a lump sum equivalent to 3 times the indi-
20 vidual's weekly benefit amount for the most recent
21 benefit year (as such terms are defined in the State
22 law), up to a maximum payment of \$1,250.

23 (e) REGULATIONS.—Prior to granting any relocation
24 subsidies under subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor

1 shall issue regulations designed to prevent fraud or abuse
2 relating to the program established under this Act.

3 (f) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
4 tional appropriations are authorized for any fiscal year to
5 carry out this Act.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

7 (1) the term “regular compensation” has the
8 meaning given the term in section 205(2) of the
9 Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensa-
10 tion Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), as in effect
11 prior to January 1, 2014; and

12 (2) the term “suitable work”—

13 (A) means suitable work as defined in the
14 applicable State law for claimants for regular
15 compensation; and

16 (B) does not include self-employment or
17 employment as an independent contractor.

18 (h) REPORTS.—Not later than March 15 of each of
19 calendar years 2016 and 2018, the Secretary of Labor
20 shall submit a report to Congress that identifies, by geo-
21 graphic region—

22 (1) the total number of relocation subsidies
23 granted to individuals under this section during the
24 calendar year preceding each such calendar year;

1 (2) the total number of relocation subsidies
2 granted to individuals pursuant to subsection
3 (c)(3)(A) during such calendar year;

4 (3) the total number of relocation subsidies
5 granted to individuals pursuant to subsection
6 (c)(3)(B) during such calendar year, and the num-
7 ber of such individuals who obtained employment
8 within 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months, respec-
9 tively, after the individual's relocation;

10 (4) the average amount of a relocation subsidy
11 granted during such calendar year;

12 (5) the average distance traveled for relocation
13 by each individual receiving a relocation subsidy dur-
14 ing such calendar year; and

15 (6) the number of individuals who received a re-
16 location subsidy under this section during such cal-
17 endar year and subsequently applied for unemploy-
18 ment benefits.

○