

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2982

To make trade adjustment assistance available to workers whose jobs are eliminated through automation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To make trade adjustment assistance available to workers whose jobs are eliminated through automation, 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 “TAA for Automation
5 Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF WORKERS WHOSE JOBS ARE ELIMI-**
 2 **NATED THROUGH AUTOMATION FOR TRADE**
 3 **ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 222(a)(2) of the Trade
 5 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2272(a)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking “; or”
 7 and inserting a semicolon;

8 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking the pe-
 9 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(C)(i) there has been a shift in production of
 12 articles or supply of services by such workers’ firm
 13 from utilizing the workers to methods or systems
 14 primarily utilizing automation; and

15 “(ii) the shift described in clause (i) contributed
 16 importantly to such workers’ separation or threat of
 17 separation.”.

18 (b) AUTOMATION DEFINED.—Section 222(c) of the
 19 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2272(c)) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
 21 (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively; and

22 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redes-
 23 igned by paragraph (1), the following:

24 “(1) AUTOMATION.—The term ‘automation’
 25 means using technology to produce a good or service
 26 previously produced by human work.”.

1 (c) SPECIFICATION OF BASIS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

2 Section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2272)

3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(f) SPECIFICATION OF BASIS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

5 When the Secretary certifies a group of workers under this

6 section as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance, the

7 Secretary shall specify in the certification the basis for the

8 eligibility of the group under subsection (a).”.

9 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsections (b)

10 and (c) of section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19

11 U.S.C. 2272) are amended by striking “subsection (a)”

12 each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph (A) or

13 (B) of subsection (a)(2)”.

14 (e) REGULATIONS; RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later

15 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,

16 the Secretary of Labor shall—

17 (1) prescribe regulations to carry out the

18 amendments made by this section; and

19 (2) submit to Congress a report that includes

20 recommendations for any changes to law necessary

21 to carry out the amendments made by this section,

22 including any changes to section 236(a)(2)(A) of the

23 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(2)(A)).

24 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by

25 this section shall—

1 (1) take effect on the date that is 2 years after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act; and

3 (2) apply with respect to petitions for certifi-
4 cations of eligibility filed under section 221 of the
5 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271) on or after the
6 date described in paragraph (1).

7 **SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT ADVISORY COMMISSION ON LABOR**
8 **AUTOMATION.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall
10 establish an independent advisory commission on labor au-
11 tomation to advise the Secretary on matters relating to
12 jobs and occupations at risk of elimination as a result of
13 automation.

14 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall ensure that
15 membership on the advisory commission established under
16 subsection (a) includes individuals with expertise in labor,
17 individuals with expertise in technology, and individuals
18 with expertise in business.

19 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than an-
20 nually, the advisory commission established under sub-
21 section (a) shall submit to the Secretary and make avail-
22 able to the public a report describing jobs and occupations
23 at risk of elimination as a result of automation that in-
24 cludes—

1 (1) an identification of the States most affected
2 by that risk; and

3 (2) recommendations for collaboration with
4 State workforce agencies to identify and address
5 that risk.

6 (d) **AUTOMATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the
7 term “automation” means using technology to produce a
8 good or service previously produced by human work.

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