

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6207

To provide for unemployment benefits to workers affected by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2020

Mr. KILMER (for himself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. RUTHERFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for unemployment benefits to workers affected by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

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 “Coronavirus Worker
5 Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS OR DISASTER DEC-** 7 **LARATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the definitions in
9 section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
10 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) shall apply.

1 (b) EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS OR DISASTER DEC-
2 LARATIONS FOR 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.—If the
3 President issues an emergency declaration or disaster dec-
4 laration for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus for a State or
5 Indian Tribe under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford
6 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
7 5191), the emergency declaration or disaster declaration
8 shall be deemed to be a major disaster declared by the
9 President for the purpose of carrying out section 410 of
10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 5177).

11 (c) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In addi-
12 tion to the eligibility criteria for individuals established
13 under section 410 of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177), individ-
15 uals in an area for which an emergency declaration or dis-
16 aster declaration for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus de-
17 scribed in subsection (b) is declared shall be eligible for
18 unemployment assistance under such section 410 if—

19 (1) the individual has experienced a week of un-
20 employment in the area with an active emergency
21 declaration or disaster declaration for the 2019
22 Novel Coronavirus, and as a result of the 2019
23 Novel Coronavirus;

24 (2) the individual has good cause to voluntarily
25 reduce regular work hours or refuse a bona fide

1 offer of employment, or, in the case of an unem-
2 ployed self-employed individual, refuse to resume or
3 commence suitable self-employment, for a reason
4 such as illness or incapacity, family crises, or
5 changed individual or family circumstances in the
6 area for which the emergency declaration or disaster
7 declaration was issued, and as a result of the 2019
8 Novel Coronavirus; or

9 (3) the individual is unable to work due to the
10 result of the immediate Federal, State, Tribal, or
11 local government response to the 2019 Novel
12 Coronavirus, such as—

13 (A) the inaccessibility of the place of em-
14 ployment in the area for which the emergency
15 declaration or disaster declaration was issued
16 due to closure of the place of employment by or
17 at the request of the Federal, State, Tribal, or
18 local government as a result of the 2019 Novel
19 Coronavirus; or

20 (B) the employer of the individual, or the
21 business in the case of a unemployed self-em-
22 ployed individual, prior to the emergency dec-
23 laration or disaster declaration being issued, re-
24 ceived at least a significant amount of the rev-

1 enue or income of the employer or business, as
2 the case may be, from entities that—

3 (i) are located in the area for which
4 the emergency declaration or disaster dec-
5 laration was issued; and

6 (ii) were closed by the Federal, State,
7 Tribal, or local government in immediate
8 response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

9 (d) MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The assist-
10 ance authorized under this section for a week of unemploy-
11 ment shall be not less than the weekly amount authorized
12 under the unemployment compensation law of the State
13 for which the emergency declaration or disaster declara-
14 tion was issued.

15 (e) WAIVER OF STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwith-
16 standing State law, for purposes of assistance authorized
17 under this section—

18 (1) the requirement that an individual be able
19 to work, available to work, and actively seeking work
20 shall not apply; and

21 (2) compensation under section 410 of Robert
22 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
23 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177) shall be made to an indi-

- 1 vidual otherwise eligible for such compensation with-
- 2 out any waiting period.

