

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3619

To amend title II of division A of the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2020

Mr. REED introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title II of division A of the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to unemployment compensation, 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 “Strengthening Unem-
5 ployment Insurance for Coronavirus Impacted Workers
6 and Students Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT AS-**
8 **SISTANCE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(b) of the CARES
10 Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(b) ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AS A RE-
 2 SULT OF COVID–19.—Subject to subsection (c), the Sec-
 3 retary shall provide pandemic unemployment assistance—

4 “(1) to any covered individual while such indi-
 5 vidual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or un-
 6 able to work for the weeks of such unemployment
 7 with respect to which the individual is not entitled
 8 to any other unemployment compensation (as that
 9 term is defined in section 85(b) of title 26, United
 10 States Code) or waiting period credit; and

11 “(2) to any other individual for weeks with re-
 12 spect to which the individual would be a covered in-
 13 dividual but for the individual’s lack of a recent at-
 14 tachment to the labor force.”.

15 (b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR NEW JOB EN-
 16 TRANTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(d) of such Act
 18 is amended—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The as-
 20 sistance authorized under subsection (b)” and
 21 inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2),
 22 the assistance authorized under subsection
 23 (b)(1)”;

24 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 25 paragraph (4); and

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
 2 following:

3 “(3) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR NEW JOB
 4 ENTRANTS.—The assistance authorized under sub-
 5 section (b)(2) for an individual described in such
 6 subsection for a week shall be an amount equal to
 7 \$300.”.

8 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 9 2102(d)(2) of such Act is amended by striking “sub-
 10 section (b)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”.

11 (c) RELATIONSHIP WITH FEDERAL PANDEMIC UN-
 12 EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2104(i)(2)(C) of
 13 such Act is amended by striking “section 2102” and in-
 14 serting “section 2102 (other than assistance provided
 15 under subsection (b)(2) of such section)”.

16 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL PANDEMIC SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION.**

17 Section 2104(b) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–
 18 136) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 20 graph (3); and

21 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(2) FEDERAL PANDEMIC SHORT-TIME COM-
 24 PENSATION.—Any agreement under this section
 25 shall provide that, in the case of a State that pro-

1 vides under the State law for the payment of short-
 2 time compensation under a short-time compensation
 3 program (as defined in section 3306(v) of the Inter-
 4 nal Revenue Code of 1986), the State agency of the
 5 State will make payments of compensation (as de-
 6 fined in subsection (h) of such section) to employees
 7 participating in such program in amounts and to the
 8 extent that they would be determined under such
 9 program if the State law of the State were applied,
 10 with respect to any week for which the individual is
 11 (disregarding this section) otherwise eligible under
 12 the program under the State law to receive such
 13 compensation, as if such State law had been modi-
 14 fied in a manner such that the amount of compensa-
 15 tion payable for any week shall be equal to the
 16 amount determined under the State law (before the
 17 application of this paragraph) plus \$600 (in this sec-
 18 tion referred to as ‘Federal Pandemic Short-Time
 19 Compensation’).”.

20 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOY-**
 21 **MENT COMPENSATION.**

22 Section 2104(e) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–
 23 136) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(e) APPLICABILITY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An agreement entered into
2 under this section shall apply to weeks of unemploy-
3 ment—

4 “(A) beginning on or after March 13,
5 2020; and

6 “(B) ending on or before January 1, 2021.

7 “(2) TRANSITION RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS RE-
8 MAINING ENTITLED TO REGULAR COMPENSATION AS
9 OF JANUARY 1, 2021.—In the case of any individual
10 who, as of the date specified in paragraph (1)(B),
11 has not yet exhausted all rights to regular com-
12 pensation under the State law of a State with re-
13 spect to a benefit year that began before such date
14 (or short-time compensation in the case of a State
15 described in subsection (b)(1)(B)), Federal Pan-
16 demic Unemployment Compensation or Federal Pan-
17 demic Short-Time Compensation (as the case may
18 be) shall continue to be payable to such individual
19 for any week beginning on or after such date for
20 which the individual is otherwise eligible for regular
21 compensation (or short-time compensation) with re-
22 spect to such benefit year.

23 “(3) TERMINATION.—Notwithstanding any
24 other provision of this subsection, no Federal Pan-
25 demic Unemployment Compensation or Federal Pan-

1 demic Short-Time Compensation shall be payable for
 2 any week beginning after June 30, 2021.”.

3 **SEC. 5. DISREGARD OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION FOR**
 4 **MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COM-
 6 PENSATION.—Section 2104(h) of the CARES Act (Public
 7 Law 116–136) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(h) PAYMENT TO BE DISREGARDED FOR PURPOSES
 9 OF ALL FEDERAL AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED PRO-
 10 GRAMS.—A Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-
 11 tion or Federal Pandemic Short-Time Compensation pay-
 12 ment shall not be regarded as income and shall not be
 13 regarded as a resource for the month of receipt and the
 14 following 9 months, for purposes of determining the eligi-
 15 bility of the recipient (or the recipient’s spouse or family)
 16 for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of bene-
 17 fits or assistance, under any Federal program or under
 18 any State or local program financed in whole or in part
 19 with Federal funds.”.

20 (b) ENHANCED BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD
 21 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.—Section 2(a)(5) of
 22 the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C.
 23 352(a)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(C) A recovery benefit payable under subparagraph
 25 (A) shall not be regarded as income and shall not be re-

1 garded as a resource for the month of receipt and the fol-
2 lowing 9 months, for purposes of determining the eligi-
3 bility of the recipient (or the recipient's spouse or family)
4 for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of bene-
5 fits or assistance, under any Federal program or under
6 any State or local program financed in whole or in part
7 with Federal funds.''.
8

8 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF EX-**
9 **TENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**

10 Section 4105 of the Families First Coronavirus Re-
11 sponse Act (Public Law 116–127) is amended by striking
12 “December 31, 2020” each place it appears and inserting
13 “June 30, 2021”.

○