

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4998

To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to receive Federal matching payments for mandatory work activity programs for noncustodial parents, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to receive Federal matching payments for mandatory work activity programs for noncustodial parents, 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 “Child Support Works
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE OPTION FOR MANDATORY WORK ACTIVITY**
2 **PROGRAMS FOR NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.**

3 (a) STATE PLAN OPTION.—Section 454(13) of the
4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654(13)) is amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(13)”;

6 (2) by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

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

8 “(B) provide, at the option of the State and
9 subject to subsection (g) of section 455, mandatory
10 work activity programs for noncustodial parents de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2) of that subsection who are
12 ordered to participate in work activities in accord-
13 ance with procedures required under section
14 466(a)(15);”.

15 (b) PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 455 of such
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 655) is amended by adding at the end the
17 following new subsection:

18 “(g) In the case of a State that elects under section
19 454(13)(B) to provide mandatory work activity programs
20 for noncustodial parents in cases subject to enforcement
21 under the State plan who are ordered to participate in
22 work activities in accordance with procedures required
23 under section 466(a)(15), amounts expended by the State
24 for such programs shall be included in the total amounts
25 expended by the State during a quarter for purposes of

1 payments under subsection (a)(1)(A) subject to the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(1) The total amount paid under subsection
 4 (a)(1) to a State for amounts expended on such pro-
 5 grams in any quarter shall not exceed an amount
 6 equal to 2 percent of the total amount expended by
 7 the State during the quarter for the operation of the
 8 plan approved under section 454 (excluding any
 9 amounts expended on such programs).

10 “(2) The programs are provided only for non-
 11 custodial parents who—

12 “(A) have a current child support order;

13 “(B) are unemployed, underemployed, or
 14 not making regular child support payments;
 15 and

16 “(C) meet such other eligibility criteria as
 17 the State may establish.”.

18 (c) OPTION TO REQUIRE TANF OR SNAP WORK
 19 ACTIVITIES.—Section 466(a)(15) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 20 666(a)(15)) is amended—

21 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
 22 by inserting “(and, if the State has elected under
 23 section 454(13)(B) to provide mandatory work activ-
 24 ity programs for noncustodial parents described in
 25 section 455(g)(2), in any case subject to enforce-

ment under the State plan that involves such a non-custodial parent)”after “with respect to a child receiving assistance under a State program funded under part A”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “(or, in the case of a noncustodial parent described in section 455(g)(2), to participate in such work activities (as so defined) or in activities that would satisfy the work requirements that would apply to the noncustodial parent under subsection (d) or (o) of section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act if the noncustodial parent were eligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under that Act and were required to satisfy such work requirements)” after “(as defined in section 407(d))”.

SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAMS FOR NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 613) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g), the following:

1 “(h) EVALUATION OF WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAMS
2 FOR NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
4 duct research to determine the effects of work activ-
5 ity programs for noncustodial parents funded under
6 section 455(g) and required in accordance with sec-
7 tion 466(a)(15) on child support payments, employ-
8 ment, earnings, and other factors, as determined by
9 the Secretary.

10 “(2) METHODOLOGY.—The research conducted
11 under paragraph (1) shall employ random assign-
12 ment when feasible, or, when random assignment is
13 not feasible, other research methods that allow for
14 the strongest possible causal inferences.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 403(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42
17 U.S.C. 603(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking
18 “413(h)(1)” and inserting “413(i)(1)”.

19 (2) Paragraph (3) of subsection (i) of section
20 413 of such Act (as redesignated by paragraph
21 (1)(A)) is amended by striking “section 413(h) of
22 this Act” and inserting “this subsection”.

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