

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2755

To provide funding for summer youth jobs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2008

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide funding for summer youth jobs.

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 “Summer Jobs Stimulus
5 Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUMMER YOUTH JOBS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) a temporary \$1,000,000,000 investment in
9 summer employment for youth, through the summer
10 youth jobs program supported under this section,
11 will create up to 1,000,000 jobs for economically dis-
12 advantaged youth and stimulate local economies;

1 (2) research from Northwestern University has
2 shown that every \$1 a youth earns has an accel-
3 erator effect of \$3 on the local economy;

4 (3) there is a serious and growing need for em-
5 ployment opportunities for economically disadvan-
6 tagged youth, as demonstrated by statistics from the
7 Bureau of Labor Statistics stating that, in Decem-
8 ber 2007—

9 (A) the unemployment rate increased to 5
10 percent, as compared to 4.4 percent in Decem-
11 ber 2006;

12 (B) the unemployment rate for 16- to 19-
13 year-olds rose to 17 percent, as compared to 13
14 percent in December 2006; and

15 (C) the unemployment rate for African-
16 American 16- to 19-year-olds increased 5 per-
17 cent in 1 month, jumping to 34.7 percent, as
18 compared to 20 percent in December 2006;

19 (4) summer youth jobs help supplement the in-
20 come of families living in poverty;

21 (5) summer youth jobs provide valuable work
22 experience to economically disadvantaged youth;

23 (6) often, the summer jobs provided through
24 the program are an economically disadvantaged
25 youth's introduction to the world of work;

1 (7) according to the Center for Labor Market
2 Studies at Northeastern University, early work expe-
3 rience is a very powerful predictor of success and
4 earnings in the labor market, and early work experi-
5 ences raises earnings over a lifetime by 10 to 20 per-
6 cent;

7 (8) participation in a summer youth jobs pro-
8 gram can contribute to a reduction in criminal and
9 high-risk behavior for youth; and

10 (9)(A) summer youth job programs benefit both
11 youth and communities when designed around prin-
12 ciples that promote mutually beneficial programs;

13 (B) youth benefit from summer youth jobs that
14 provide them with work readiness skills and that
15 help them make the connection between responsi-
16 bility on the job and success in adulthood; and

17 (C) communities benefit when youth are en-
18 gaged productively during the summer, providing
19 much-needed services that meet real community
20 needs.

21 (b) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the
22 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and in addition to
23 any funds appropriated under any provision of Federal law
24 other than this section, there is appropriated to the Sec-
25 retary of Labor for youth activities under the Workforce

1 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.),
 2 \$1,000,000,000, which shall be available for the period of
 3 April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, under the con-
 4 ditions described in subsection (c).

5 (c) CONDITIONS.—

6 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—The funds appropriated
 7 under subsection (b) shall be used for summer em-
 8 ployment opportunities referred to in section
 9 129(c)(2)(C) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2854(c)(2)(C)).

10 (2) LIMITATION.—Such funds shall be distrib-
 11 uted in accordance with sections 127 and 128 of
 12 such Act (29 U.S.C. 2852, 2853), except that no
 13 portion of such funds shall be reserved to carry out
 14 128(a) or 169 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2853(a),
 15 2914).

16 (3) MEASURE OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The effec-
 17 tiveness of the activities carried out with such funds
 18 shall be measured, under section 136 of such Act
 19 (29 U.S.C. 2871), only with performance measures
 20 based on the core indicators of performance de-
 21 scribed in section 136(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of such Act (29
 22 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)).

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