

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2731

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide for demonstration projects designed to expedite the reemployment of unemployed workers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2011

Mr. BERG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide for demonstration projects designed to expedite the reemployment of unemployed workers.

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 “Helping Innovation
5 of Re-Employment Services in States Act” or the “HIRES
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE FLEXIBILITY TO PROMOTE THE REEMPLOY-**
2 **MENT OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Social Security
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 501 and following) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 “DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

7 “SEC. 305. (a) The Secretary of Labor may enter
8 into agreements, with States submitting an application de-
9 scribed in subsection (b), for the purpose of allowing such
10 States to conduct demonstration projects to test and
11 evaluate measures designed—

12 “(1) to expedite the reemployment of individ-
13 uals who establish initial eligibility for unemploy-
14 ment compensation under the State law of such
15 State; or

16 “(2) to improve the effectiveness of a State in
17 carrying out its State law with respect to reemploy-
18 ment.

19 “(b) The Governor of any State desiring to conduct
20 a demonstration project under this section shall submit
21 an application to the Secretary of Labor. Any such appli-
22 cation shall, at a minimum, include—

23 “(1) a general description of the proposed dem-
24 onstration project, including the authority (under
25 the laws of the State) for the measures to be tested,

1 as well as the period of time during which such dem-
2 onstration project would be conducted;

3 “(2) if a waiver under subsection (c) is re-
4 quested, the specific aspects of the project to which
5 the waiver would apply and the reasons why such
6 waiver is needed;

7 “(3) a description of the goals and the expected
8 programmatic outcomes of the demonstration
9 project, including how the project would contribute
10 to the objective described in subsection (a)(1), sub-
11 section (a)(2), or both;

12 “(4) assurances (accompanied by supporting
13 analysis) that the demonstration project would not
14 result in any increased net costs to the State’s ac-
15 count in the Unemployment Trust Fund;

16 “(5) a description of the manner in which the
17 State—

18 “(A) will conduct an impact evaluation,
19 using a control or comparison group or other
20 valid methodology, of the demonstration project;
21 and

22 “(B) will determine the extent to which the
23 goals and outcomes described in paragraph (3)
24 were achieved; and

1 “(6) assurances that the State will provide any
2 reports relating to the demonstration project, after
3 its approval, as the Secretary of Labor may require.

4 “(c) The Secretary of Labor may waive any of the
5 requirements of section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Rev-
6 enue Code of 1986 or of paragraph (1) or (5) of section
7 303(a), to the extent and for the period the Secretary of
8 Labor considers necessary to enable the State to carry out
9 a demonstration project under this section.

10 “(d) A demonstration project under this section—

11 “(1) may be commenced any time after the date
12 of the enactment of this section; and

13 “(2) may not be approved for a period of time
14 greater than 3 years, subject to extension upon re-
15 quest of the Governor of the State involved for such
16 additional period as the Secretary of Labor may
17 agree to, except that in no event may a demonstra-
18 tion project under this section be conducted after
19 the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date
20 of the enactment of this section.

21 “(e) The Secretary of Labor shall, in the case of any
22 State for which an application is submitted under sub-
23 section (b)—

1 “(1) notify the State as to whether such appli-
2 cation has been approved or denied within 30 days
3 after receipt of a complete application; and

4 “(2) provide public notice of the decision within
5 10 days after providing notification to the State in
6 accordance with paragraph (1).

7 Public notice under paragraph (2) may be provided
8 through the Internet or other appropriate means. Any ap-
9 plication under this section that has not been denied with-
10 in such 30 days shall be deemed approved.

11 “(f) The Secretary of Labor may terminate a dem-
12 onstrations project under this section if the Secretary
13 makes a final determination that the State has violated
14 the substantive terms or conditions of the project.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
16 this section shall apply to weeks beginning after Sep-
17 tember 30, 2011.

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