

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3055

To reform the Federal supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) so that States have the option of conducting pilot projects to require that able-bodied individuals participate in work activities as a condition of receiving benefits under such program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2013

Mr. SOUTHERLAND (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. KINGSTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To reform the Federal supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) so that States have the option of conducting pilot projects to require that able-bodied individuals participate in work activities as a condition of receiving benefits under such program.

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 “Providing Relief to
5 Individuals Desiring Employment (PRIDE) Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROJECTS TO PROMOTE WORK AND IN-**
2 **CREASE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE**
3 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Effective October 1, 2013, section 17 of the Food and
6 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(1) PILOT PROJECTS TO PROMOTE WORK AND IN-
9 CREASE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL
10 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
12 out pilot projects to develop and test methods allow-
13 ing States to run a work program with certain fea-
14 tures comparable to the State program funded under
15 part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
16 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), with the intent of increasing
17 employment and self-sufficiency through increased
18 State accountability and thereby reducing the need
19 for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

20 “(2) AGREEMENTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
22 subsection, the Secretary shall enter into coop-
23 erative agreements with States in accordance
24 with pilot projects that meet the criteria re-
25 quired under this subsection.

1 “(B) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a
2 cooperative agreement under this paragraph, a
3 State shall submit to the Secretary a plan that
4 complies with requirements of this subsection
5 beginning in fiscal year 2014. The Secretary
6 may not disapprove applications which meet the
7 requirements of this subsection as described
8 through its amended supplemental nutrition as-
9 sistance State Plan.

10 “(C) ASSURANCES.—A State shall include
11 in its plan assurances that its pilot project
12 will—

13 “(i) operate for at least three 12-
14 month periods but not more than five 12-
15 month periods;

16 “(ii) have a robust data collection sys-
17 tem for program administration that is de-
18 signed and shared with project evaluators
19 to ensure proper and timely evaluation;
20 and

21 “(iii) intend to offer a work activity
22 described in paragraph (4) to adults as-
23 signed and required to participate under
24 paragraph (3)(A) and who are not exempt
25 under paragraph (3)(F).

1 “(D) NUMBER OF PILOT PROJECTS.—Any
2 State may carry out a pilot project that meets
3 the requirements of this subsection.

4 “(E) EXTENT OF PILOT PROJECTS.—Pilot
5 projects shall cover no less than the entire
6 State.

7 “(F) OTHER PROGRAM WAIVERS.—Waivers
8 for able-bodied adults without dependents pro-
9 vided under section 6(o) are void for States cov-
10 ered by a pilot project carried out under para-
11 graph (1).

12 “(3) WORK ACTIVITY.—(A) For purposes of
13 this subsection, the term ‘work activity’ means any
14 of the following:

15 “(i) Employment in the public or private
16 sector that is not subsidized by any public pro-
17 gram.

18 “(ii) Employment in the private sector for
19 which the employer receives a subsidy from
20 public funds to offset some or all of the wages
21 and costs of employing an adult.

22 “(iii) Employment in the public sector for
23 which the employer receives a subsidy from
24 public funds to offset some or all of the wages
25 and costs of employing an adult.

1 “(iv) A work activity that—

2 “(I) is performed in return for public
3 benefits;

4 “(II) provides an adult with an oppor-
5 tunity to acquire the general skills, knowl-
6 edge, and work habits necessary to obtain
7 employment;

8 “(III) is designed to improve the em-
9 ployability of those who cannot find unsub-
10 sidized employment; and

11 “(IV) is supervised by an employer,
12 work site sponsor, or other responsible
13 party on an ongoing basis.

14 “(v) Training in the public or private sec-
15 tor that is given to a paid employee while he or
16 she is engaged in productive work and that pro-
17 vides knowledge and skills essential to the full
18 and adequate performance of the job.

19 “(vi) Job search, obtaining employment, or
20 preparation to seek or obtain employment, in-
21 cluding—

22 “(I) life skills training;

23 “(II) substance abuse treatment or
24 mental health treatment, determined to be
25 necessary and documented by a qualified

1 medical, substance abuse, or mental health
2 professional; or

3 “(III) rehabilitation activities;
4 supervised by a public agency or other respon-
5 sible party on an ongoing basis.

6 “(vii) Structured programs and embedded
7 activities—

8 “(I) in which adults perform work for
9 the direct benefit of the community under
10 the auspices of public or nonprofit organi-
11 zations;

12 “(II) that are limited to projects that
13 serve useful community purposes in fields
14 such as health, social service, environ-
15 mental protection, education, urban and
16 rural redevelopment, welfare, recreation,
17 public facilities, public safety, and child
18 care;

19 “(III) that are designed to improve
20 the employability of adults not otherwise
21 able to obtain unsubsidized employment;

22 “(IV) that are supervised on an ongo-
23 ing basis; and

24 “(V) with respect to which a State
25 agency takes into account, to the extent

1 possible, the prior training, experience, and
2 skills of a recipient in making appropriate
3 community service assignments.

4 “(viii) Career and technical training pro-
5 grams (not to exceed 12 months with respect to
6 any adult) that are directly related to the prep-
7 aration of adults for employment in current or
8 emerging occupations and that are supervised
9 on an ongoing basis.

10 “(ix) Training or education for job skills
11 that are required by an employer to provide an
12 adult with the ability to obtain employment or
13 to advance or adapt to the changing demands
14 of the workplace and that are supervised on an
15 ongoing basis.

16 “(x) Education that is related to a specific
17 occupation, job, or job offer and that is super-
18 vised on an ongoing basis.

19 “(xi) In the case of an adult who has not
20 completed secondary school or received such a
21 certificate of general equivalence, regular at-
22 tendance—

23 “(I) in accordance with the require-
24 ments of the secondary school or course of

1 study, at a secondary school or in a course
2 of study leading to such certificate; and

3 “(II) supervised on an ongoing basis.

4 “(xii) Providing child care to enable an-
5 other recipient of public benefits to participate
6 in a community service program that—

7 “(I) does not provide compensation
8 for such community service;

9 “(II) is a structured program de-
10 signed to improve the employability of
11 adults who participate in such program;
12 and

13 “(III) is supervised on an ongoing
14 basis.

15 “(B) PROTECTIONS.—Work activities under
16 this subsection shall be subject to all applicable
17 health and safety standards. Except as described in
18 clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A), the
19 term ‘work activity’ shall be considered work prepa-
20 ration and not defined as employment for purposes
21 of other law.

22 “(4) PILOT PROJECTS.—Pilot projects carried
23 out under paragraph (1) shall include interventions
24 to which adults are assigned that are designed to re-
25 duce unnecessary dependence, promote self suffi-

1 ciency, increase work levels, increase earned income,
2 and reduce supplemental nutrition assistance benefit
3 expenditures among households eligible for, applying
4 for, or participating in the supplemental nutrition
5 assistance program.

6 “(A) Adults assigned to interventions by
7 the State shall—

8 “(i) be subject to mandatory partici-
9 pation in work activities specified in para-
10 graph (4), except those with 1 or more de-
11 pendent children under 1 year of age;

12 “(ii) participate in work activities
13 specified in paragraph (4) for a minimum
14 of 20 hours per week per household;

15 “(iii) be a maximum age of not less
16 than 50 and not more than 60, as defined
17 by the State;

18 “(iv) be subject to penalties during a
19 period of nonparticipation without good
20 cause ranging from, at State option, a
21 minimum of the removal of the adults from
22 the household benefit amount, up to a
23 maximum of the discontinuance of the en-
24 tire household benefit amount; and

1 “(v) not be penalized for nonparticipa-
2 tion if child care is not available for 1 or
3 more children under 6 years of age.

4 “(B) The State shall allow certain individ-
5 uals to be exempt from work requirements—

6 “(i) those participating in work pro-
7 grams under a State program funded
8 under part A of title IV of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) for an
10 equal or greater number of hours;

11 “(ii) 1 adult family member per
12 household who is needed in the home to
13 care for a disabled family member;

14 “(iii) an adult who is receiving tem-
15 porary or permanent disability benefits
16 issued by governmental sources; and

17 “(iv) those with a good cause reason
18 for nonparticipation, such as victims of do-
19 mestic violence, as defined by the State.

20 “(5) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—

21 “(A) EVALUATION.—

22 “(i) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—

23 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
24 retary shall provide for each State
25 that enters into an agreement under

1 paragraph (2) an independent, longi-
2 tudinal evaluation of its pilot project
3 under this subsection to determine
4 total program savings over the entire
5 course of the pilot project with results
6 reported in consecutive 12-month in-
7 crements.

8 “(II) PURPOSE.—The purpose of
9 the evaluation is to measure the im-
10 pact of interventions provided by the
11 State under the pilot project on the
12 ability of adults in households eligible
13 for, applying for, or participating in
14 the supplemental nutrition assistance
15 program to find and retain employ-
16 ment that leads to increased house-
17 hold income and reduced dependency.

18 “(III) REQUIREMENT.—The
19 independent evaluation under sub-
20 clause (I) shall use valid statistical
21 methods which can determine the dif-
22 ference between supplemental nutri-
23 tion assistance benefit expenditures, if
24 any, as a result of the interventions as
25 compared to a control group that—

1 “(aa) is not subject to the
2 interventions provided by the
3 State under the pilot project
4 under this subsection; and

5 “(bb) maintains services
6 provided under 16(h) in the year
7 prior to the start of the pilot
8 project under this subsection.

9 “(IV) OPTION.—States shall
10 have the option to evaluate pilot
11 projects by matched counties or
12 matched geographical areas using a
13 constructed control group design to
14 isolate the effects of the intervention
15 of the pilot project.

16 “(V) DEFINITION.—Constructed
17 control group means there is no ran-
18 dom assignment, and instead program
19 participants (those subject to inter-
20 ventions) and non-participants (con-
21 trol) are equated using matching or
22 statistical procedures on characteris-
23 tics that may be associated with pro-
24 gram outcomes.

1 “(B) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the end of fiscal year 2014 and of each
3 fiscal year thereafter, until the completion of
4 the last evaluation under subparagraph (A), the
5 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
6 riculture of the House of Representatives and
7 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
8 Forestry of the Senate, a report that includes
9 a description of—

10 “(i) the status of each pilot project
11 carried out under paragraph (1);

12 “(ii) the results of the evaluation com-
13 pleted during the previous fiscal year; and

14 “(iii) to the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable—

16 “(I) baseline information relevant
17 to the stated goals and desired out-
18 comes of the pilot project;

19 “(II) the impact of the interven-
20 tions on appropriate employment, in-
21 come, and public benefit receipt out-
22 comes among households participating
23 in the pilot project;

1 “(III) equivalent information
2 about similar or identical measures
3 among control or comparison groups;

4 “(IV) the planned dissemination
5 of the report findings to State agen-
6 cies; and

7 “(V) the steps and funding nec-
8 essary to incorporate into State em-
9 ployment and training programs the
10 components of pilot projects that dem-
11 onstrate increased employment and
12 earnings.

13 “(C) PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.—In addi-
14 tion to the reporting requirements under sub-
15 paragraph (B), evaluation results shall be
16 shared broadly to inform policy makers, service
17 providers, other partners, and the public in
18 order to promote wide use of successful strate-
19 gies, including by posting evaluation results on
20 the Internet website of the Department of Agri-
21 culture.

22 “(6) FUNDING.—

23 “(A) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—From amounts
24 made available under section 18(a)(1), the Sec-
25 retary shall make available—

1 “(i) up to \$1,000,000 for each of the
2 fiscal years 2014 through 2017 for evalua-
3 tions described in paragraph (5) to carry
4 out this subsection, with such amounts to
5 remain available until expended; and

6 “(ii) amounts equal to one-half of the
7 accumulated supplemental nutrition assist-
8 ance benefit dollars saved over each con-
9 secutive 12-month period according to the
10 evaluation under paragraph (5) for bonus
11 grants to States under paragraph (7)(B).

12 “(B) LIMITATION.—A State operating a
13 pilot project under this subsection shall not re-
14 ceive more funding under section 16(h) than
15 the State received the year prior to commencing
16 a project under this subsection and shall not
17 claim funds under 16(a) for expenses that are
18 unique to the pilot project under this sub-
19 section.

20 “(C) OTHER FUNDS.—Any additional
21 funds required by a State to carry out a pilot
22 project under this subsection may be provided
23 by the State from funds made available to the
24 State for such purpose and in accordance with

1 State and other Federal laws, including the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(i) Section 403 of the Social Security
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 603).

5 “(ii) The Workforce Investment Act
6 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.).

7 “(iii) The Child Care and Develop-
8 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C
9 9858 et seq.) and section 418 of the Social
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618).

11 “(iv) The social services block grant
12 under subtitle A of title XX of the Social
13 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.).

14 “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 “(A) SPECIFIC USES.—Funds provided
16 under this subsection for evaluation of pilot
17 projects shall be used only for—

18 “(i) pilot projects that comply with
19 this subsection;

20 “(ii) the costs incurred in gathering
21 and providing information and data used
22 to conduct the independent evaluation
23 under paragraph (5); and

24 “(iii) the costs of the evaluation under
25 paragraph (5).

1 “(B) LIMITATION.—Funds provided for
2 bonus grants to States for pilot projects under
3 this subsection shall be used only for—

4 “(i) pilot projects that comply with
5 this subsection;

6 “(ii) amounts equal to one-half of the
7 accumulated supplemental nutrition assist-
8 ance benefit dollars saved over each con-
9 secutive 12-month period according to the
10 evaluation under paragraph (5); and

11 “(iii) any State purpose, not to be re-
12 stricted to the supplemental nutrition as-
13 sistance program or its beneficiary popu-
14 lation.”.

15 **SEC. 3. IMPROVED WAGE VERIFICATION USING THE NA-**
16 **TIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.**

17 Effective October 1, 2013, section 11(e) of the Food
18 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in paragraph (3) by inserting “and after
21 compliance with the requirement specified in para-
22 graph (24)” after “section 16(e) of this Act”,

23 (2) in paragraph (22) by striking “and” at the
24 end,

1 (3) in paragraph (23 by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”, and

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

4 “(24) that the State agency shall request wage
5 data directly from the National Directory of New
6 Hires established under section 453(i) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(i)) relevant to deter-
8 mining eligibility to receive supplemental nutrition
9 assistance program benefits and determining the
10 correct amount of such benefits.”.

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