

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3434

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require a State to deny assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to a parent, caretaker relative, or legal guardian of a child who is not attending enough school, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2013

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require a State to deny assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to a parent, caretaker relative, or legal guardian of a child who is not attending enough school, 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 “Parental Account-
5 ability for Reducing Child Poverty Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DENIAL OF TANF ASSISTANCE TO PARENT, CARE-**
2 **TAKER RELATIVE, OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF**
3 **CHILD NOT ATTENDING ENOUGH SCHOOL.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 408(a) of the Social Se-
5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is amended by adding at
6 the end the following:

7 “(13) NO ASSISTANCE FOR PARENT, CARE-
8 TAKER RELATIVE, OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF CHILD
9 NOT ATTENDING ENOUGH SCHOOL.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a
11 grant is made under section 403 shall not use
12 any part of the grant to provide assistance to
13 an individual who is a parent, caretaker rel-
14 ative, or legal guardian of a child who has at-
15 tained 6 years of age but has not attained 19
16 years of age, unless, in the most recently com-
17 pleted school year—

18 “(i) in the case of a child not referred
19 to in clause (ii), the child attended school
20 for at least the number of days that con-
21 stituted the minimum school attendance
22 then required under applicable State law
23 for children who were then within the
24 State’s compulsory school attendance age
25 range (regardless of whether the age of the
26 child was within that age range); or

1 “(ii) in the case of a child who at-
2 tended a school that was treated as a home
3 school under State law, the child met all
4 applicable State requirements with respect
5 to such a school.

6 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may elect to
7 not apply subparagraph (A) to a child—

8 “(i) who is enrolled, and making satis-
9 factory progress, in a vocational education
10 institution or an institution of higher edu-
11 cation (as defined in section 101(a) of the
12 Higher Education Act of 1965); or

13 “(ii) whose failure to attend school for
14 at least the number of days referred to in
15 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph in a
16 school year is attributable to—

17 “(I) medical reasons (including
18 quarantine), as certified by the ad-
19 ministrator of the school attended by
20 the child; or

21 “(II) a natural disaster in the
22 United States, or a major disaster or
23 emergency designated by the Presi-
24 dent under the Robert T. Stafford

1 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
2 ance Act.”.

3 (b) PENALTY.—Section 409(a) of such Act (42
4 U.S.C. 609(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(17) FAILURE OF STATE TO DENY ASSISTANCE
7 TO PARENT, CARETAKER RELATIVE, OR LEGAL
8 GUARDIAN OF CHILD NOT ATTENDING ENOUGH
9 SCHOOL.—The Secretary shall reduce the grant pay-
10 able to a State under section 403(a)(1) for a fiscal
11 year by the amount of any assistance paid by the
12 State in violation of section 408(a)(13) in the pre-
13 ceding fiscal year.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2015, and shall
16 apply to attendance in school years beginning on or after
17 August 1, 2014.

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