

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2952

To provide payments to States for increasing the employment, job retention,
and earnings of former TANF recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2015

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

A BILL

To provide payments to States for increasing the employment,
job retention, and earnings of former TANF recipients.

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 “Improving Employ-
5 ment Outcomes of TANF Recipients Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF TANF RE-**
7 **CIPIENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a)(4) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)) is amended to read
10 as follows:

1 “(4) INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF TANF
2 RECIPIENTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
4 make a grant under this paragraph to each
5 State, with respect to each fiscal year for which
6 the State achieves the requisite level of per-
7 formance with respect to an indicator described
8 in subparagraph (C)(ii), in the immediately suc-
9 ceeding fiscal year.

10 “(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of
12 the grant payable to a State with respect
13 to a fiscal year for which the State
14 achieves the requisite level of performance
15 with respect to an indicator described in
16 subparagraph (C)(ii) shall be the following:

17 “(I) 40 percent of the available
18 amount with respect to the State for
19 the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I).

21 “(II) 30 percent of the available
22 amount with respect to the State for
23 the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(II).

1 “(III) 30 percent of the available
2 amount with respect to the State for
3 the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(III).

5 “(ii) AVAILABLE AMOUNT DEFINED.—
6 In clause (i), the term ‘available amount’
7 means, with respect to a State and a fiscal
8 year, the amount (if any) by which—

9 “(I) the State family assistance
10 grant that would be payable to the
11 State for the fiscal year in the ab-
12 sence of this paragraph; exceeds

13 “(II) the State family assistance
14 grant actually payable to the State for
15 the fiscal year.

16 “(C) MEASURING STATE PERFORMANCE.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State, in
18 consultation with the Secretary, shall es-
19 tablish levels of performance for each indi-
20 cator described in clause (ii), for fiscal
21 year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter.

22 “(ii) INDICATORS.—The indicators de-
23 scribed in this clause are the following:

24 “(I) The percentage of former
25 adult recipients of assistance under

1 the State program funded under this
2 part or any other State program fund-
3 ed with qualified State expenditures
4 (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))
5 who, while such recipients, were re-
6 quired to be engaged in work in ac-
7 cordance with section 407, and are in
8 unsubsidized employment during the
9 2nd quarter after exiting from the
10 program.

11 “(II) The percentage of former
12 recipients of such assistance who are
13 in unsubsidized employment during
14 the 4th quarter after exiting from the
15 program.

16 “(III) The percentage change in
17 median earnings of former recipients
18 of such assistance who are in unsub-
19 sidized employment in the 4th quarter
20 after exiting from the program com-
21 pared with the median earnings of
22 former recipients who are in unsub-
23 sidized employment in the 2nd quar-
24 ter after exiting from the program.

1 “(iii) AGREEMENT ON REQUISITE
2 PERFORMANCE LEVEL FOR EACH INDICATOR.—
3

4 “(I) FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND
5 2018.—Each State shall reach agree-
6 ment with the Secretary on the req-
7 uisite level of performance for each in-
8 dicator described in clause (ii), for
9 each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

10 “(II) FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND
11 2020.—Each State shall reach agree-
12 ment with the Secretary, before fiscal
13 year 2019, on the requisite level of
14 performance with respect to each indi-
15 cator described in clause (ii), for each
16 of fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

17 “(D) REPORT ON STATE PERFORMANCE.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Oc-
19 tober 1, 2016, the Secretary shall develop
20 a template which each State shall use to
21 report on outcomes achieved under the
22 State program funded under this part.

23 “(ii) CONTENTS.—Each such report
24 shall include—

1 “(I) the number of individuals
2 who exited the program during the
3 year;

4 “(II) the characteristics of the
5 individuals who exited the program
6 during the year, including information
7 on the length of time for which the in-
8 dividual received assistance under the
9 program; and

10 “(III) information specifying the
11 levels of performance achieved with
12 respect to each indicator described in
13 subparagraph (C)(ii).

14 “(iii) PUBLICATION.—Not later than
15 September 30 of fiscal year 2019 and of
16 each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary
17 shall make available to the public electroni-
18 cally each report submitted under this sub-
19 paragraph during the fiscal year.

20 “(E) STATE FAILURE TO MEET PERFORM-
21 ANCE MEASURES.—

22 “(i) RESERVATION OF FUNDS; RE-
23 QUIRED STATE SPENDING.—If a State fails
24 to achieve the requisite level of perform-
25 ance with respect to an indicator described

1 in subparagraph (C)(ii) of this paragraph
2 and a fiscal year—

3 “(I) the Secretary shall reserve
4 the funds that would have been pay-
5 able to the State under this paragraph
6 if the State had achieved the level;
7 and

8 “(II) the level of State expendi-
9 tures otherwise required to avoid a
10 penalty under section 409(a)(7) in the
11 succeeding fiscal year shall be in-
12 creased by the amount so reserved.

13 “(ii) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—The Sec-
14 retary shall award to a State all funds re-
15 served under clause (i) for the fiscal year
16 with respect to the State, an indicator, and
17 a fiscal year, in the immediately succeeding
18 fiscal year, if, in the immediately suc-
19 ceeding fiscal year, the State—

20 “(I) achieves the requisite level of
21 performance for the State with re-
22 spect to the indicator; or

23 “(II) improves the State’s level of
24 performance with respect to the indi-
25 cator by at least half of the amount

1 by which the State’s requisite level of
 2 performance with respect to the indi-
 3 cator in the fiscal year exceeded the
 4 actual level of performance achieved
 5 by the State with respect to the indi-
 6 cator in the fiscal year.

7 “(F) FUNDING.—The following percent-
 8 ages of the amounts appropriated under para-
 9 graph (1)(C) for the following fiscal years are
 10 reserved for grants under this paragraph for
 11 the fiscal years:

12 “(i) 4 percent, in the case of fiscal
 13 year 2018.

14 “(ii) 10 percent, in the case of each of
 15 fiscal years 2019 and 2020.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 17 403(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(1)(B)) is
 18 amended by inserting “, reduced by the percentage (if
 19 any) specified in paragraph (4)(F) with respect to the fis-
 20 cal year,” before “as the amount”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

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