

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4571

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for TANF recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Mrs. MILLER (for herself, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. ESTES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for 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 “Accelerating Individ-
5 uals into the Workforce Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO SUPPORT SUB-**
7 **SIDIZED EMPLOYMENT FOR TANF RECIPI-**
8 **ENTS.**

9 Section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION
2 PROJECTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
4 grants to States to conduct demonstration projects
5 designed to implement and evaluate strategies that
6 provide wage subsidies to enable low-income individ-
7 uals to enter into and retain employment.

8 “(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall require each State that applies for a
10 grant under this subsection to do the following:

11 “(A) Describe how wage subsidies will be
12 provided (such as whether paid directly to the
13 employer or the individual), the duration of the
14 subsidies, the amount of the subsidies, the
15 structure of the subsidies, and how employers
16 will be recruited to participate in the subsidized
17 employment program.

18 “(B) Describe how the State expects those
19 participating in subsidized employment to be
20 able to retain employment after the subsidy
21 ends.

22 “(C) Describe how the State will coordi-
23 nate subsidized employment funded under this
24 subsection with other efforts to help low-income

1 individuals enter work as conducted by the
2 State.

3 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a
5 grant is made under this subsection may use
6 the grant to subsidize the wages of an eligible
7 recipient for a period not exceeding 12 months,
8 and only to the extent that the total of the
9 funds paid under this project and any other
10 Federal funds so used with respect to the re-
11 cipient does not exceed 50 percent of the
12 amount of the wages received by the recipient
13 during the period.

14 “(B) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—For purposes
15 of subparagraph (A), an eligible recipient is an
16 adult recipient of assistance under the State
17 program funded under this part or any other
18 State program funded with qualified State ex-
19 penditures (as defined in section
20 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) (or a noncustodial parent of a
21 minor child who is receiving such assistance)—

22 “(i) who, at the time the subsidy be-
23 gins, is unemployed; or

24 “(ii) whose income, at that time, is
25 less than 200 percent of the poverty line

1 (as defined by the Office of Management
2 and Budget, and revised annually in ac-
3 cordance with section 673(2) of the Omni-
4 bus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42
5 U.S.C. 9902(2))).

6 “(4) NONDISPLACEMENT.—A State to which a
7 grant is made under this subsection shall ensure
8 that no participant in a subsidized employment pro-
9 gram funded in whole or in part under this sub-
10 section is employed or assigned to a job under the
11 program when any other individual is on layoff from
12 the same or any substantially equivalent job.

13 “(5) REPORTS.—As a condition of receiving
14 funds under this subsection for a fiscal year, a State
15 shall submit to the Secretary, within 12 months
16 after the end of the fiscal year, a report that—

17 “(A) specifies, for each month of the fiscal
18 year, the number of individuals whose employ-
19 ment is subsidized with these funds;

20 “(B) describes the structure of the State
21 activities to use the funds to subsidize employ-
22 ment, including the amount and duration of the
23 subsidies provided;

24 “(C) specifies the percentage of eligible re-
25 cipients who received a subsidy who are in un-

1 subsidized employment during the 2nd quarter
2 after the subsidy ended;

3 “(D) specifies the percentage of eligible re-
4 cipients who received a subsidy who are in un-
5 subsidized employment during the 4th quarter
6 after the subsidy ended; and

7 “(E) specifies the median earnings of eligi-
8 ble recipients who received a subsidy who are in
9 unsubsidized employment during the 2nd quar-
10 ter after the subsidy ended.

11 “(6) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in consulta-
12 tion with each State conducting a demonstration
13 project, shall conduct a high-quality impact evalua-
14 tion to determine the effects of the demonstration
15 project, including on individual skill levels and earn-
16 ings and employment retention, and may reserve
17 funds made available under this subsection to con-
18 duct the evaluation in accordance with the following:

19 “(A) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The
20 Secretary may not enter into a contract with an
21 evaluator unless the evaluator has demonstrated
22 experience in conducting rigorous evaluations of
23 program effectiveness including, where available
24 and appropriate, well-implemented randomized
25 controlled trials.

1 “(B) METHODOLOGIES TO BE USED.—The
2 evaluation of a demonstration project shall use
3 experimental designs using random assignment
4 or other reliable, evidence-based research meth-
5 odologies that allow for the strongest possible
6 causal inferences when random assignment is
7 not feasible.

8 “(C) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The evaluation
9 of a demonstration project shall include rec-
10 ommendations relating to updated goals for the
11 advancement and improvement of the program
12 and a description of specific challenges encoun-
13 tered in the program and recommended solu-
14 tions.

15 “(D) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The Sec-
16 retary shall publish the results of the evaluation
17 on the website of the Department of Health and
18 Human Services in a location easily accessible
19 by the public.

20 “(7) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made avail-
21 able to carry out subsection (b) for fiscal year 2021,
22 the Secretary shall reserve \$100,000,000 to carry
23 out this subsection.

24 “(8) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds pro-
25 vided to a State under this subsection in a fiscal

1 year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year
2 or in the succeeding 2 fiscal years.”.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
5 on October 1, 2020.

