

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6199

To provide for emergency transfers for unemployment compensation administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2020

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

A BILL

To provide for emergency transfers for unemployment compensation administration, 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 “Emergency Unemploy-
5 ment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY TRANSFERS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT**
7 **COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 903 of the Social Security
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 1103) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

1 “Emergency Transfers in Fiscal Year 2020 for
2 Administration

3 “(h)(1)(A) In addition to any other amounts, the Sec-
4 retary of Labor shall provide for the making of emergency
5 administration grants in fiscal year 2020 to the accounts
6 of the States in the Unemployment Trust Fund, by trans-
7 fer from amounts reserved for that purpose in the Federal
8 unemployment account, in accordance with succeeding
9 provisions of this subsection.

10 “(B) The amount of an emergency administration
11 grant with respect to a State shall, as determined by the
12 Secretary of Labor, be equal to the amount obtained by
13 multiplying \$1,000,000,000 by the same ratio as would
14 apply under subsection (a)(2)(B) for purposes of deter-
15 mining such State’s share of any excess amount (as de-
16 scribed in subsection (a)(1)) that would have been subject
17 to transfer to State accounts, as of October 1, 2019, under
18 the provisions of subsection (a).

19 “(C) Of the emergency administration grant deter-
20 mined under subparagraph (B) with respect to a State—

21 “(i) not later than 30 days after the date of en-
22 actment of this subsection, 50 percent shall be
23 transferred to the account of such State upon a cer-
24 tification by the Secretary of Labor to the Secretary

1 of the Treasury that the State meets the require-
2 ments of paragraph (2); and

3 “(ii) only with respect to a State in which the
4 number of unemployment compensation claims has
5 increased by at least 10 percent over the previous
6 calendar year, the remainder shall be transferred to
7 the account of such State upon a certification by the
8 Secretary of Labor to the Secretary of the Treasury
9 that the State meets the requirements of paragraph
10 (3).

11 “(2) The requirements of this paragraph with respect
12 to a State are the following:

13 “(A) The State requires employers to provide
14 notification of the availability of unemployment com-
15 pensation to employees at the time of separation
16 from employment. Such notification may be based
17 on model language issued by the Secretary of Labor.

18 “(B) The State ensures that applications for
19 unemployment compensation, and assistance with
20 the application process, are accessible in at least two
21 of the following: In-person, by phone, or online.

22 “(C) The State notifies applicants when an ap-
23 plication is received and is being processed, and in
24 any case in which an application is unable to be
25 processed, provides information about steps the ap-

1 plicant can take to ensure the successful processing
2 of the application.

3 “(3) The requirements of this paragraph with respect
4 to a State are the following:

5 “(A) The State has expressed its commitment
6 to maintain and strengthen access to the unemploy-
7 ment compensation system, including through initial
8 and continued claims.

9 “(B) The State has demonstrated steps it has
10 taken or will take to ease eligibility requirements
11 and access to unemployment compensation for claim-
12 ants, including waiving work search requirements
13 and the waiting week, and directly or indirectly re-
14 lieving benefit charges for claimants and employers
15 directly impacted by COVID-19 due to an illness in
16 the workplace or direction from a public health offi-
17 cial to isolate or quarantine workers.

18 “(4) Any amount transferred to the account of a
19 State under this subsection may be used by such State
20 only for the administration of its unemployment com-
21 pensation law, including by taking such steps as may be
22 necessary to ensure adequate resources in periods of high
23 demand.

24 “(5) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, each State receiving emergency adminis-

1 tration grant funding under paragraph (1)(C)(i) shall sub-
2 mit to the Secretary of Labor, the Committee on Ways
3 and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Com-
4 mittee on Finance of the Senate, a report that includes—

5 “(A) an analysis of the reciprocity rate for un-
6 employment compensation in the State as such rate
7 has changed over time;

8 “(B) a description of steps the State intends to
9 take to increase such reciprocity rate.

10 “(6)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
11 the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the gen-
12 eral fund of the Treasury (from funds not otherwise ap-
13 propriated) to the employment security administration ac-
14 count (as established by section 901 of the Social Security
15 Act) such sums as the Secretary of Labor estimates to
16 be necessary for purposes of making the transfers de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1)(C).

18 “(B) There are appropriated from the general fund
19 of the Treasury, without fiscal year limitation, the sums
20 referred to in the preceding sentence and such sums shall
21 not be required to be repaid.”.

22 (b) EMERGENCY FLEXIBILITY.—Notwithstanding
23 any other law, if a State modifies its unemployment com-
24 pensation law and policies (including with respect to work
25 search, waiting week, good cause, and employer experience

1 rating) on an emergency temporary basis as needed to re-
2 spond to the spread of COVID-19, such modifications
3 shall be disregarded for the purposes of applying section
4 303 of the Social Security Act and section 3304 of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to such State law.

6 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor may
7 prescribe any regulations, operating instructions, or other
8 guidance necessary to carry out the amendment made by
9 subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR STATES WITH AD-**
11 **VANCES.**

12 Section 1202(b)(10)(A) of the Social Security Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 1322(b)(10)(A)) is amended by striking “be-
14 ginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph and
15 ending on December 31, 2010” and inserting “beginning
16 on the date of enactment of the Emergency Unemploy-
17 ment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 and
18 ending on December 31, 2020”.

19 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FOR**
20 **SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION PROGRAMS.**

21 The Secretary of Labor shall assist States in estab-
22 lishing, implementing, and improving the employer aware-
23 ness of short-time compensation programs (as defined in
24 section 3306(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)

1 to help avert layoffs, including by providing technical as-
2 sistance and guidance.

3 **SEC. 5. FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF EXTENDED UNEM-**
4 **PLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR A LIMITED**
5 **PERIOD.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of sharable extended
7 compensation and sharable regular compensation paid for
8 weeks of unemployment beginning after the date of the
9 enactment of this section and before December 31, 2020
10 (and only with respect to States that receive emergency
11 administration grant funding under clauses (i) and (ii) of
12 section 903(h)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1102(h)(1)(C))), section 204(a)(1) of the Federal-State
14 Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26
15 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall be applied by substituting “100
16 percent of” for “one-half of”.

17 (b) TEMPORARY FEDERAL MATCHING FOR THE
18 FIRST WEEK OF EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR STATES
19 WITH NO WAITING WEEK.—With respect to weeks of un-
20 employment beginning after the date of the enactment of
21 this Act and ending on or before December 31, 2020, sub-
22 paragraph (B) of section 204(a)(2) of the Federal-State
23 Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26
24 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply.

25 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

1 (1) the terms “sharable extended compensa-
2 tion” and “sharable regular compensation” have the
3 respective meanings given such terms under section
4 204 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment
5 Compensation Act of 1970; and

6 (2) the term “week” has the meaning given
7 such term under section 205 of the Federal-State
8 Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of
9 1970.

10 (d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor may
11 prescribe any operating instructions or regulations nec-
12 essary to carry out this section.

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