116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3619

To amend title II of division A of the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2020

Mr. REED introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title II of division A of the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Unemployment Insurance for Coronavirus Impacted Workers and Students Act”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(b) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended to read as follows:
“(b) Assistance for Unemployment as a Result of COVID–19.—Subject to subsection (e), the Secretary shall provide pandemic unemployment assistance—

“(1) to any covered individual while such individual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work for the weeks of such unemployment with respect to which the individual is not entitled to any other unemployment compensation (as that term is defined in section 85(b) of title 26, United States Code) or waiting period credit; and

“(2) to any other individual for weeks with respect to which the individual would be a covered individual but for the individual’s lack of a recent attachment to the labor force.”.

(b) Amount of Assistance for New Job Entrants.—

(1) In general.—Section 2102(d) of such Act is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The assistance authorized under subsection (b)” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), the assistance authorized under subsection (b)(1)”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and
(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR NEW JOB ENTRANTS.—The assistance authorized under subsection (b)(2) for an individual described in such subsection for a week shall be an amount equal to $300.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2102(d)(2) of such Act is amended by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”.

(c) RELATIONSHIP WITH FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2104(i)(2)(C) of such Act is amended by striking “section 2102” and inserting “section 2102 (other than assistance provided under subsection (b)(2) of such section)”.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL PANDEMIC SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION.

Section 2104(b) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) FEDERAL PANDEMIC SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION.—Any agreement under this section shall provide that, in the case of a State that pro-
vides under the State law for the payment of short-
time compensation under a short-time compensation
program (as defined in section 3306(v) of the Inter-
nal Revenue Code of 1986), the State agency of the
State will make payments of compensation (as de-
finied in subsection (h) of such section) to employees
participating in such program in amounts and to the
extent that they would be determined under such
program if the State law of the State were applied,
with respect to any week for which the individual is
(disregarding this section) otherwise eligible under
the program under the State law to receive such
compensation, as if such State law had been modi-
fied in a manner such that the amount of compensa-
tion payable for any week shall be equal to the
amount determined under the State law (before the
application of this paragraph) plus $600 (in this sec-
tion referred to as ‘Federal Pandemic Short-Time
Compensation’).”.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOY-
MENT COMPENSATION.

Section 2104(e) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–
136) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) APPLICABILITY.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—An agreement entered into under this section shall apply to weeks of unemploy-
ment—

“(A) beginning on or after March 13, 2020; and

“(B) ending on or before January 1, 2021.

“(2) TRANSITION RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS RE-
MAINING ENTITLED TO REGULAR COMPENSATION AS
OF JANUARY 1, 2021.—In the case of any individual who, as of the date specified in paragraph (1)(B),
has not yet exhausted all rights to regular com-
pensation under the State law of a State with re-
spect to a benefit year that began before such date
(or short-time compensation in the case of a State
described in subsection (b)(1)(B)), Federal Pan-
demic Unemployment Compensation or Federal Pan-
demic Short-Time Compensation (as the case may
be) shall continue to be payable to such individual
for any week beginning on or after such date for
which the individual is otherwise eligible for regular
compensation (or short-time compensation) with re-
spect to such benefit year.

“(3) TERMINATION.—Notwithstanding any
other provision of this subsection, no Federal Pan-
demic Unemployment Compensation or Federal Pan-
demic Short-Time Compensation shall be payable for any week beginning after June 30, 2021.”.

SEC. 5. DISREGARD OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION FOR MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS.

(a) Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.—Section 2104(h) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) Payment To Be Disregarded for Purposes of All Federal and Federally Assisted Programs.—A Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or Federal Pandemic Short-Time Compensation payment shall not be regarded as income and shall not be regarded as a resource for the month of receipt and the following 9 months, for purposes of determining the eligibility of the recipient (or the recipient’s spouse or family) for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.”.

(b) Enhanced Benefits Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.—Section 2(a)(5) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(a)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) A recovery benefit payable under subparagraph (A) shall not be regarded as income and shall not be re-
garded as a resource for the month of receipt and the fol-
lowing 9 months, for purposes of determining the eligi-
bility of the recipient (or the recipient’s spouse or family)
for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of bene-
fits or assistance, under any Federal program or under
any State or local program financed in whole or in part
with Federal funds.”.

SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF EX-
TENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

Section 4105 of the Families First Coronavirus Re-
sponse Act (Public Law 116–127) is amended by striking
“December 31, 2020” each place it appears and inserting
“June 30, 2021”.