

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4535

To amend title IV–A of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2021

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HERN, and Mrs. WALORSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title IV–A of the Social Security Act, 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 “Helping Americans
5 Succeed by Measuring Outcomes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY BY MEASURING**
7 **WORK OUTCOMES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407 of the Social Security
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 607), as amended by subsection (c) of this

1 section, is amended by inserting before subsection (b) the
2 following:

3 “(a) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORK
4 OUTCOMES.—

5 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
6 is to provide for the establishment of performance
7 accountability measures to assess the effectiveness of
8 States in increasing employment, retention, and ad-
9 vancement among families receiving assistance under
10 the State program funded under this part or any
11 other State program funded with qualified State ex-
12 penditures.

13 “(2) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a grant
14 is made under section 403 for a fiscal year shall
15 achieve the requisite level of performance on an indi-
16 cator described in paragraph (3)(B) of this sub-
17 section for the fiscal year.

18 “(3) MEASURING STATE PERFORMANCE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State, in con-
20 sultation with the Secretary, shall collect and
21 submit to the Secretary the information nec-
22 essary to measure the level of performance of
23 the State for each indicator described in sub-
24 paragraph (B), for fiscal year 2023 and each
25 fiscal year thereafter, and the Secretary shall

1 use the information collected for fiscal year
2 2023 to establish the baseline level of perform-
3 ance for each State for each such indicator.

4 “(B) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—
5 The indicators described in this subparagraph,
6 for a fiscal year, are the following:

7 “(i) The percentage of individuals who
8 were work-eligible individuals as of the
9 time of exit from the program, who are in
10 unsubsidized employment during the 2nd
11 quarter after the exit.

12 “(ii) The percentage of individuals
13 who were work-eligible individuals as of the
14 time of exit from the program, who are in
15 unsubsidized employment during the 2nd
16 and 4th quarters after the exit.

17 “(iii) The median earnings of individ-
18 uals who were work-eligible individuals as
19 of the time of exit from the program, who
20 are in unsubsidized employment during the
21 2nd quarter after the exit.

22 “(iv) The percentage of individuals
23 who have not attained 24 years of age, are
24 attending high school or enrolled in an
25 equivalency program, and are work-eligible

1 individuals or were work-eligible individ-
2 uals as of the time of exit from the pro-
3 gram, who obtain a high school degree or
4 its recognized equivalent while receiving as-
5 sistance under the State program funded
6 under this part or within 1 year after the
7 exit.

8 “(C) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For each State
10 submitting a State plan pursuant to sec-
11 tion 402(a), there shall be established, in
12 accordance with this subparagraph, levels
13 of performance for each of the indicators
14 described in subparagraph (B) of this
15 paragraph.

16 “(ii) WEIGHT.—The weight assigned
17 to such an indicator shall be the following:

18 “(I) 40 percent, in the case of
19 the indicator described in subpara-
20 graph (B)(i).

21 “(II) 25 percent, in the case of
22 the indicator described in subpara-
23 graph (B)(ii)(II).

1 “(III) 25 percent, in the case of
2 the indicator described in subpara-
3 graph (B)(iii).

4 “(IV) 10 percent, in the case of
5 the indicator described in subpara-
6 graph (B)(iv).

7 “(iii) AGREEMENT ON REQUISITE
8 PERFORMANCE LEVEL FOR EACH INDIC-
9 CATOR.—

10 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
11 retary and the State shall jointly es-
12 tablish the requisite level of perform-
13 ance for the State with respect to
14 each indicator described in clause (ii)
15 beginning with fiscal year 2024, and
16 shall do so before the beginning of the
17 fiscal year involved.

18 “(II) REQUIREMENTS IN ESTAB-
19 LISHING PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—In
20 establishing the requisite levels of per-
21 formance, the State and the Secretary
22 shall—

23 “(aa) take into account how
24 levels involved compare with the

1 levels established for other
2 States;

3 “(bb) ensure the levels in-
4 volved are adjusted, using the ob-
5 jective statistical model referred
6 to in clause (v), based on—

7 “(AA) the differences
8 among States in economic
9 conditions, including dif-
10 ferences in unemployment
11 rates or employment losses
12 or gains in particular indus-
13 tries; and

14 “(BB) the characteris-
15 tics of participants on entry
16 into the program, including
17 indicators of prior work his-
18 tory, lack of educational or
19 occupational skills attain-
20 ment, or other factors that
21 may affect employment and
22 earnings; and

23 “(cc) take into account the
24 extent to which the levels in-
25 volved promote continuous im-

1 provement in performance by
2 each State.

3 “(iv) REVISIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC
4 CONDITIONS AND INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING
5 ASSISTANCE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.—
6 The Secretary shall, in accordance with the
7 objective statistical model referred to in
8 clause (v), revise the requisite levels of per-
9 formance for a State and a fiscal year to
10 reflect the economic conditions and charac-
11 teristics of the relevant individuals in the
12 State during the fiscal year.

13 “(v) STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENT
14 MODEL.—The Secretary shall use an objec-
15 tive statistical model to make adjustments
16 to the requisite levels of performance for
17 the economic conditions and characteristics
18 of the relevant individuals, and shall con-
19 sult with the Secretary of Labor to develop
20 a model that is the same as or similar to
21 the model described in section
22 116(b)(3)(A)(viii) of the Workforce Inno-
23 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
24 3141(b)(3)(A)(viii)).

1 “(vi) DEFINITION OF EXIT.—In this
 2 subsection, the term ‘exit’ means, with re-
 3 spect to a State program funded under
 4 this part, ceases to receive assistance
 5 under the program.

6 “(D) REGULATIONS.—In order to ensure
 7 nationwide comparability of data, the Secretary,
 8 after consultation with the Secretary of Labor
 9 and with States, shall issue regulations gov-
 10 erning the establishment of the performance ac-
 11 countability system under this subsection and a
 12 template for performance reports to be used by
 13 all States.”.

14 **SEC. 3. TRANSITIONAL PHASE-OUT OF BENEFITS FOR FAMI-**
 15 **LIES TO SUPPORT SUCCESS IN WORK.**

16 Section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
 17 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end
 18 the following:

19 “(vi) The document shall include a de-
 20 scription of how the State allows for a
 21 transitional period of benefits, such as
 22 through temporary earned income dis-
 23 regards or a gradual reduction in the
 24 monthly benefit amount, for an individual
 25 receiving assistance who obtains employ-

1 ment and becomes ineligible due to an in-
2 crease in income obtained through the em-
3 ployment or through an increase in
4 wages.”.

5 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
7 on October 1, 2022.

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