

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4532

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2021

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania) 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO SUPPORT SUB-**
2 **SIDIZED EMPLOYMENT FOR TANF RECIPI-**
3 **ENTS.**

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

6 “(d) SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION
7 PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
9 grants to States to conduct demonstration projects
10 designed to implement and evaluate strategies that
11 provide wage subsidies to enable low-income individ-
12 uals to enter into and retain employment.

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

16 “(A) Describe how wage subsidies will be
17 provided (such as whether paid directly to the
18 employer or the individual), the duration of the
19 subsidies, the amount of the subsidies, the
20 structure of the subsidies, and how employers
21 will be recruited to participate in the subsidized
22 employment program.

23 “(B) Describe how the State expects those
24 participating in subsidized employment to be
25 able to retain employment after the subsidy
26 ends.

1 “(C) Describe how the State will coordi-
2 nate subsidized employment funded under this
3 subsection with other efforts to help low-income
4 individuals enter work as conducted by the
5 State.

6 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

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

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—For purposes
18 of subparagraph (A), an eligible recipient is an
19 adult recipient of assistance under the State
20 program funded under this part or any other
21 State program funded with qualified State ex-
22 penditures (as defined in section
23 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) (or a noncustodial parent of a
24 minor child who is receiving such assistance)—

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

3 “(ii) whose income, at that time, is
4 less than 200 percent of the poverty line
5 (as defined by the Office of Management
6 and Budget, and revised annually in ac-
7 cordance with section 673(2) of the Omni-
8 bus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42
9 U.S.C. 9902(2))).

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

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

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

24 “(B) describes the structure of the State
25 activities to use the funds to subsidize employ-

1 ment, including the amount and duration of the
2 subsidies provided;

3 “(C) specifies the percentage of eligible re-
4 cipients who received a subsidy who are in un-
5 subsidized employment during the 2nd quarter
6 after the subsidy ended;

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

11 “(E) specifies the median earnings of eligi-
12 ble recipients who received a subsidy who are in
13 unsubsidized employment during the 2nd quar-
14 ter after the subsidy ended.

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

23 “(A) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The
24 Secretary may not enter into a contract with an
25 evaluator unless the evaluator has demonstrated

1 experience in conducting rigorous evaluations of
2 program effectiveness including, where available
3 and appropriate, well-implemented randomized
4 controlled trials.

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

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

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

24 “(7) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made avail-
25 able to carry out subsection (b) for fiscal year 2023,

1 the Secretary shall reserve \$100,000,000 to carry
2 out this subsection.

3 “(8) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds pro-
4 vided to a State under this subsection in a fiscal
5 year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year
6 or in the succeeding 2 fiscal years.”.

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

8 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
9 on October 1, 2022.

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