

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 161

To discourage States and local governments from providing general welfare assistance to able-bodied individuals unless such individuals are participating in workfare programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

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

A BILL

To discourage States and local governments from providing general welfare assistance to able-bodied individuals unless such individuals are participating in workfare programs.

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 “Workfare Incentive
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.**

2 Section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
3 603) is amended by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection:

5 “(c)(1)(A) If the Secretary determines—

6 “(i) that a State is operating a general welfare
7 assistance program described in paragraph (3) dur-
8 ing a calendar quarter, or

9 “(ii) that more than 20 percent of the local gov-
10 ernments within a State that provide general welfare
11 assistance are operating programs described in para-
12 graph (3) during a calendar quarter,

13 the Secretary shall reduce by 50 percent the amount that
14 such State would otherwise receive under subsection (a)
15 or (l) with respect to expenditures made by such State
16 during such quarter for the administration of the aid to
17 families with dependent children program under this part.

18 “(B) If a State receives a reduced payment in a cal-
19 endar quarter as a result of a determination by the Sec-
20 retary under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

21 “(i) such State shall reduce for such quarter
22 the payments made to each State office administer-
23 ing the aid to families with dependent children pro-
24 gram which is located within the jurisdiction of the
25 local governments described in subparagraph (A)(ii)
26 by an amount equal to 50 percent of the Federal

1 share of the administrative expenses of such office;
2 and

3 “(ii) such State shall not, as a result of such
4 reduced payment, reduce for such quarter the pay-
5 ments made to any State office administering the
6 aid to families with dependent children program
7 which is not located within the jurisdiction of the
8 local governments described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

9 “(2) If the Secretary determines that any local gov-
10 ernment within a State that is not described in paragraph
11 (1)(A) is operating a general welfare assistance program
12 described in paragraph (3) during a calendar quarter, the
13 State shall reduce for such quarter the payments made
14 to any State office administering the aid to families with
15 dependent children program which is located within the
16 jurisdiction of such local government by an amount equal
17 to 50 percent of the Federal share of the administrative
18 expenses of such office and such amount shall be paid by
19 the State to the Secretary.

20 “(3) A general welfare assistance program described
21 in this paragraph is a general welfare assistance program
22 that—

23 “(A) provides benefits to able-bodied individuals
24 (as determined by the Secretary) who have attained
25 age 18 and who have no dependents (hereafter re-

1 ferred to in this subsection as ‘able-bodied individ-
2 uals’);

3 “(B) does not have a workfare program that
4 meets the participation rate requirements of para-
5 graph (4); and

6 “(C) does not meet any other requirements set
7 forth in regulations issued by the Secretary.

8 “(4)(A) The participation rate requirements of this
9 paragraph are as follows:

10 “(i) In the case of a workfare program which
11 is first implemented after the date of the enactment
12 of this subsection, the participation rate for such
13 program shall be—

14 “(I) for the second year that the program
15 is operated, 10 percent; and

16 “(II) for any succeeding year that the pro-
17 gram is operated, the program’s participation
18 rate for the preceding year plus 2 percent.

19 “(ii) In the case of a workfare program which
20 is operating on the date of the enactment of this
21 subsection, the participation rate for such program
22 shall be—

23 “(I) for 1995—

1 “(aa) in the case of a program with a
2 participation rate below 10 percent for
3 1994, 10 percent; and

4 “(bb) in the case of a program with a
5 participation rate between 10 percent and
6 50 percent for 1994, the program’s partici-
7 pation rate for 1994 plus 2 percent; and

8 “(II) for any succeeding year that the pro-
9 gram is operated, the program’s participation
10 rate for the preceding year plus 2 percent.

11 “(B) The participation rates required under clauses
12 (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 50 per-
13 cent.

14 “(C) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘par-
15 ticipation rate’ means the percentage of able-bodied indi-
16 viduals receiving general welfare assistance who are par-
17 ticipating in a workfare program.

18 “(5) Within 5 years after the date of the enactment
19 of this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct a review
20 of State and local participation rates and submit to Con-
21 gress a report containing any of the Secretary’s rec-
22 ommendations with respect to the participation rate re-
23 quirements of paragraph (4).”.

1 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.**

2 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the amend-
3 ment made by section 2 shall apply to calendar quarters
4 beginning on or after July 1, 1995.

5 (b) In the case of a State which the Secretary deter-
6 mines requires State legislation (other than legislation au-
7 thorizing or appropriating funds) in order to comply with
8 the amendments made by section 2, the State shall not
9 be regarded as failing to comply with such amendments
10 solely on the basis of its failure to meet the requirements
11 of such amendments before the first day of the first cal-
12 endar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular
13 session of the State legislature that begins after the date
14 of the enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preced-
15 ing sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legis-
16 lative session, each year of such session shall be deemed
17 to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

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