

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3214

To amend the Assets for Independence Act (Title IV of the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998) to enhance program flexibility, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Assets for Independence Act (Title IV of the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998) to enhance program flexibility, 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 That this Act may be cited as the “Assets for Inde-  
5 pendence Act Amendments of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS UNAVAILABLE FOR**  
2 **EMERGENCY WITHDRAWALS.**

3 Section 404(5)(A)(v) of the Assets for Independence  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by striking “, or  
5 enabling the eligible individual to make an emergency  
6 withdrawal”.

7 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED ENTITIES.**

8 Section 404(7)(A) of the Assets for Independence Act  
9 (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended—

10 (1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end  
11 thereof;

12 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the  
13 end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
15 clause:

16 “(iii) an entity that—

17 “(I) is—

18 “(aa) a credit union des-  
19 igned as a low-income credit  
20 union by the National Credit  
21 Union Administration (NCUA);  
22 or

23 “(bb) an organization des-  
24 igned as a community develop-  
25 ment financial institution by the  
26 Secretary of the Treasury (or the

1 Community Development Finan-  
2 cial Institutions Fund); and

3 “(II) can demonstrate a collabo-  
4 rative relationship with a local com-  
5 munity-based organization whose ac-  
6 tivities are designed to address pov-  
7 erty in the community and the needs  
8 of community members for economic  
9 independence and stability.”.

10 **SEC. 4. HOME PURCHASE COSTS.**

11 Section 404(8)(B)(i) of the Assets for Independence  
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by striking “100”  
13 and inserting “120”.

14 **SEC. 5. INCREASED SET-ASIDE FOR ECONOMIC LITERACY**  
15 **TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

16 Section 407(c)(3) of the Assets for Independence Act  
17 (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “9.5” and inserting “15”; and

19 (2) by inserting after the first sentence the fol-  
20 lowing: “Of the total amount specified in this para-  
21 graph, not more than 7.5 percent shall be used for  
22 administrative functions under paragraph (1)(C), in-  
23 cluding program management, reporting require-  
24 ments, recruitment and enrollment of individuals,  
25 and monitoring. The remainder of the total amount

1 specified in this paragraph (not including the  
2 amount specified for use for the purposes described  
3 in paragraph (1)(D)) shall be used for nonadminis-  
4 trative functions described in paragraph (1)(A), in-  
5 cluding case management, budgeting, economic lit-  
6 eracy, and credit counseling. If the cost of non-  
7 administrative functions described in paragraph  
8 (1)(A) is less than 5.5 percent of the total amount  
9 specified in this paragraph, such excess funds may  
10 be used for administrative functions.”.

11 **SEC. 6. ALTERNATIVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**

12 Section 408(a)(1) of the Assets for Independence Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by striking “does not  
14 exceed” and inserting “is equal to or less than 200 percent  
15 of the poverty line (as determined by the Office of Man-  
16 agement and Budget) or”.

17 **SEC. 7. REVISED ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT DEADLINE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412(c) of the Assets for  
19 Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by  
20 striking “calendar” and inserting “project”.

21 (b) TRANSITIONAL DEADLINE.—Notwithstanding the  
22 amendment made by subsection (a), the submission of the  
23 initial report of a qualified entity under section 412(c)  
24 shall not be required prior to the date that is 90 days  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. REVISED INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT DEAD-**  
2 **LINE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(d)(1) of the Assets  
4 for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended  
5 by striking “calendar” and inserting “project”.

6 (b) TRANSITIONAL DEADLINE.—Notwithstanding the  
7 amendment made by subsection (a), the submission of the  
8 initial interim report of the Secretary under section 412(c)  
9 shall not be required prior to the date that is 90 days  
10 after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 9. INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR EVALUATION**  
12 **EXPENSES.**

13 Subsection (e) of section 414 of the Assets for Inde-  
14 pendence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 “(e) EVALUATION EXPENSES.—Of the amount ap-  
17 propriated under section 416 for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
18 retary may expend not more than \$500,000 for such fiscal  
19 year to carry out the objectives of this section.”.

20 **SEC. 10. NO REDUCTION IN BENEFITS.**

21 Section 415 of the Assets for Independence Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended to read as follows:

23 **“SEC. 415. NO REDUCTION IN BENEFITS.**

24 “Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law  
25 (other than the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that re-  
26 quires consideration of 1 or more financial circumstances

1 of an individual, for the purpose of determining eligibility  
2 to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefit au-  
3 thorized by such law to be provided to or for the benefit  
4 of such individual, funds (including interest accruing) in  
5 an individual development account under this Act shall be  
6 disregarded for such purpose with respect to any period  
7 during which such individual maintains or makes contribu-  
8 tions into such an account.”.

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