

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3112

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a national emergency grant program to respond to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2001

Mr. BOEHNER (for himself, Mr. McKEON, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a national emergency grant program to respond to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, 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 “Back to Work Act of
5 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANTS TO RESPOND TO**
2 **THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11,**
3 **2001.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 173(a) of the Workforce
5 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(a)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) to the Governor of any State who applies
13 for assistance under subsection (f) to provide em-
14 ployment and training assistance to workers affected
15 by major economic dislocations, such as plant clo-
16 sures, mass layoffs, or multiple layoffs, caused by
17 the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.”.

18 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 173 of the Workforce
19 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918) is amended by
20 adding at the end the following:

21 “(f) RELIEF FOR DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY THE
22 TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.—

23 “(1) GRANT RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY.—To be
24 eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a)(4), a
25 Governor shall submit an application to the Sec-
26 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing

1 such information as the Secretary may require. Such
2 application shall contain a certification by the Gov-
3 ernor that the terrorist attacks of September 11,
4 2001, contributed importantly to plant closures,
5 mass layoffs of workers, multiple layoffs of workers,
6 or other major economic dislocations in the State.

7 “(2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—The Governor
8 may designate one or more local workforce invest-
9 ment boards or other entities with the capability to
10 respond to the circumstances relating to the par-
11 ticular closure, layoff, or other dislocation to admin-
12 ister the grant under subsection (a)(4).

13 “(3) PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual shall be
15 eligible to receive assistance described in sub-
16 paragraph (B) under a grant awarded under
17 subsection (a)(4) if such individual is a dis-
18 located worker and the Governor has certified
19 that the terrorist attacks of September 11,
20 2001, contributed importantly to the disloca-
21 tion.

22 “(B) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance
23 described in this subparagraph is—

1 “(i) employment and training assist-
2 ance, including employment and training
3 activities described in section 134; and

4 “(ii) temporary health care coverage
5 assistance described in paragraph (4).

6 “(4) TEMPORARY HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AS-
7 SISTANCE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Temporary health
9 care coverage assistance described in this para-
10 graph consists of health care coverage premium
11 assistance provided to qualified individuals
12 under this paragraph.

13 “(B) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—For pur-
14 poses of this paragraph, a qualified individual is
15 an individual who—

16 “(i) is a dislocated worker referred to
17 in paragraph (3)(A) with respect to whom
18 the Governor has made the certification re-
19 garding the dislocation as required under
20 such paragraph, and

21 “(ii) has enrolled in a program for
22 health care coverage premium assistance
23 established by the Governor for purposes
24 of this paragraph.

1 “(C) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Health
2 care coverage premium assistance provided
3 under the program established by the Governor
4 for purposes of this paragraph—

5 “(i) shall be not in excess of 75 per-
6 cent of the full amount of the premium for
7 the health care coverage,

8 “(ii) shall be provided with respect to
9 not more than the first 10 months of the
10 period of dislocation of the qualified indi-
11 vidual, and

12 “(iii) shall be credited against the pre-
13 mium otherwise owed with respect to the
14 qualified individual.

15 “(D) LIMITATION ON ENTITLEMENT.—
16 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as
17 establishing any entitlement of qualified individ-
18 uals to premium assistance under this sub-
19 section.

20 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
21 paragraph—

22 “(i) HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.—The
23 term ‘health care coverage’ means health
24 insurance coverage other than coverage
25 under—

1 “(I) title XVIII of the Social Se-
2 curity Act,

3 “(II) title XIX of the Social Se-
4 curity Act (other than section 1928),

5 “(III) title XXI of the Social Se-
6 curity Act,

7 “(IV) chapter 55 of title 10,
8 United States Code,

9 “(V) chapter 17 of title 38,
10 United States Code,

11 “(VI) chapter 89 of title 5,
12 United States Code (other than cov-
13 erage which is comparable to continu-
14 ation coverage under section 4980B of
15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986),

16 or

17 “(VII) the Indian Health Care
18 Improvement Act.

19 Such term also does not include coverage
20 under a qualified long-term care insurance
21 contract and health insurance coverage in
22 the individual market.

23 “(ii) PREMIUM.—The term ‘premium’
24 means, in connection with health care cov-
25 erage, the premium which would (but for

1 this section) be charged for the cost of cov-
2 erage.

3 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
5 be appropriated \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year
6 2002 for the award of grants under subsection
7 (a)(4) in accordance with this subsection.

8 “(B) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
9 priated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
10 priations under subparagraph (A)—

11 “(i) are in addition to amounts made
12 available under section 132(a)(2)(A) or
13 any other provision of law to carry out this
14 section; and

15 “(ii) are authorized to remain avail-
16 able until 18 months after the date of the
17 enactment of this subsection.”.

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS TO PROMOTE SERVICES**
19 **UNDER THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT**
20 **OF 1998.**

21 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

22 (1) In the wake of the terrorist attacks against
23 the United States on September 11, 2001, many
24 workers and their families are dealing with job loss
25 and other effects of an economic slowdown.

1 (2) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 was
2 enacted to create the Nation’s coordinated workforce
3 development system, under which assistance is pro-
4 vided for workers who have been laid off, including
5 job training assistance.

6 (3) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 pro-
7 vides services such as—

8 (A) one-stop career centers, which provide
9 integrated resources for job seekers and busi-
10 nesses, including job search, job placement serv-
11 ices and job referrals to employers;

12 (B) individual training accounts, which are
13 job training vouchers established by local areas
14 and given to individuals to allow them to choose
15 where they would like to receive their job train-
16 ing; and

17 (C) rapid response services, under which
18 States establish on-site offices at affected busi-
19 nesses to make immediate contact with employ-
20 ees and employers to provide assistance in the
21 areas of job search and training activities.

22 (4) The Nation’s workforce development system
23 is designed to help individual dislocated workers and
24 provide rapid response services in times of mass lay-
25 offs or dislocations.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that the Secretary of Labor should continue efforts
3 to encourage Americans to take advantage of existing
4 services under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in
5 order to assist workers during these times of unemploy-
6 ment.

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