

Calendar No. 215

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1718

To provide special rules for disaster relief employment under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To provide special rules for disaster relief employment under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

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 “Hurricane Katrina
5 Employment and Training Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY**
2 **GRANTS RELATED TO HURRICANE KATRINA.**

3 (a) **USE OF GRANTS FOR PROJECTS OUTSIDE DIS-**
4 **ASTER AREA.**—Funds provided to States that submit ap-
5 plications for assistance described in section 173(a)(2) of
6 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
7 2918(a)(2)) to address the effects of Hurricane Katrina
8 may be used to provide disaster relief employment and
9 other assistance under section 173(d)(1) of such Act (29
10 U.S.C. 2918(d)(1)) on projects that provide assistance in
11 areas outside of the disaster area (as such term is defined
12 in section 173(a)(2) of such Act).

13 (b) **EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR DISASTER RELIEF**
14 **EMPLOYMENT.**—Funds provided to States that submit ap-
15 plications for assistance described in section 173(a)(2) of
16 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to address the ef-
17 fects of Hurricane Katrina may be used to provide disaster
18 relief employment and other assistance under section
19 173(d)(1) of such Act, or public sector employment au-
20 thorized under subsection (c) of this Act, to individuals
21 who were unemployed at the time of the emergency or
22 major disaster involved and to individuals who are without
23 employment history, in addition to individuals described
24 in section 173(d)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of
25 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(d)(2)).

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR GENERAL PUBLIC SECTOR
2 EMPLOYMENT.—Funds provided to States that submit ap-
3 plications for assistance described in section 173(a)(2) of
4 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to address the ef-
5 fects of Hurricane Katrina may be used to provide to eligi-
6 ble individuals temporary employment by public sector en-
7 tities for a period not to exceed 6 months in addition to
8 disaster relief employment described in section 173(d)(1)
9 of such Act.

10 (d) EXTENSION OF THE DURATION OF DISASTER
11 RELIEF EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretary of Labor may ex-
12 tend the 6-month maximum duration of employment
13 under this Act and under section 173(d) of the Workforce
14 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(d)) for not more
15 than an additional 6 months due to extraordinary cir-
16 cumstances.

17 (e) PRIORITY FOR DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT
18 FUNDS.—In awarding national emergency grants to
19 States under section 173(a)(2) of the Workforce Invest-
20 ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)) to address the
21 effects of Hurricane Katrina by providing disaster relief
22 employment, the Secretary of Labor shall—

23 (1) first, give priority to States in which areas
24 that have suffered major disasters (as defined in sec-
25 tion 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

1 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122))
2 are located; and

3 (2) second, give priority to the remaining States
4 that have been most heavily impacted by the demand
5 for services by workers affected by Hurricane
6 Katrina.

7 (f) DOCUMENTATION.—In providing disaster relief
8 employment under section 173(a)(2) of the Workforce In-
9 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2)), an entity
10 shall not deny such employment to a worker affected by
11 Hurricane Katrina because of the worker’s inability, due
12 to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, to provide at the time
13 of application appropriate documentation of eligibility
14 under section 173(d)(2) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
15 2918(d)(2)).

16 (g) ELIGIBILITY FOR NEEDS-RELATED PAY-
17 MENTS.—Funds provided to States that submit applica-
18 tions for assistance described in section 173(a)(2) of the
19 Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(a)(2))
20 to address the effects of Hurricane Katrina may be used
21 to provide needs-related payments (described in section
22 134(e)(3) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(e)(3))) to individ-
23 uals described in subsection (b) who do not qualify for (or
24 have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensation,
25 and who are not employed on a project described under

1 section 173(d) of such Act, for the purpose of enabling
2 such individuals to participate in activities described in
3 paragraphs (2), (3), or (4) of section 134(d) of such Act.

4 (h) USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.—With the approval
5 of the Secretary of Labor, any State may use funds that
6 remain available for expenditure under any grants award-
7 ed to the State under section 173 of the Workforce Invest-
8 ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918) or under this section,
9 to provide any assistance authorized under such section
10 173 or this section, or personal protective equipment not
11 otherwise available through public funds or private con-
12 tributions, to assist workers affected by Hurricane
13 Katrina, including workers who have relocated from areas
14 for which an emergency or major disaster (as defined in
15 section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
16 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) was de-
17 clared, due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

18 (i) EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND
19 TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding national emer-
21 gency grants under section 173(a)(1) of the Work-
22 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
23 2918(a)(1)), the Secretary may award such a grant
24 to an entity to provide employment and training as-
25 sistance available under section 173(a)(1) of such

1 Act to workers affected by Hurricane Katrina, in-
2 cluding workers who have relocated from areas for
3 which an emergency or major disaster (as defined in
4 section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122))
6 was declared, due to the effects of Hurricane
7 Katrina.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the
9 term “entity” means a State, a local board (as de-
10 fined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment
11 Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)), or an entity de-
12 scribed in section 166(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
13 2911(c)), that submits an application for assistance
14 described in section 173(a)(1) of the Workforce In-
15 vestment Act of 1998 to address the effects of Hur-
16 ricane Katrina.

17 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

18 (a) MOBILE ONE-STOP CENTERS.—It is the sense of
19 Congress that States that operate mobile one-stop centers,
20 established as part of one-stop delivery systems authorized
21 under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment
22 Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.) should, where pos-
23 sible, make such centers available for use in the areas af-
24 fected by Hurricane Katrina, and areas where large num-

1 bers of workers affected by Hurricane Katrina have been
2 relocated.

3 (b) EXPANDED OPERATIONAL HOURS.—It is the
4 sense of Congress that one-stop operators (as such term
5 is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act
6 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801) should increase access for work-
7 ers affected by Hurricane Katrina to the one-stop delivery
8 systems authorized under subtitle B of title I of such Act,
9 including through the implementation of expanded oper-
10 ational hours at one-stop centers and on-site services for
11 individuals in temporary housing locations.

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