

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6561

To increase funding of the block grant to States for social services, to provide for the increased funding to be used to provide a gasoline subsidy to certain low-income individuals, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2008

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

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## A BILL

To increase funding of the block grant to States for social services, to provide for the increased funding to be used to provide a gasoline subsidy to certain low-income individuals, 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 “Emergency Gasoline  
5       Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY GASOLINE STAMPS FOR VULNERABLE**  
2 **FAMILIES.**

3 (a) INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL SERV-  
4 ICES BLOCK GRANT.—For purposes of subsections (a)  
5 and (b) of section 2003 of the Social Security Act, the  
6 amount specified in subsection (c) of such section for each  
7 of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 is deemed to be the amount  
8 that otherwise applies for purposes of such subsection plus  
9 \$2,500,000,000.

10 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—To the extent that an amount  
11 is paid to a State under section 2002 of the Social Secu-  
12 rity Act by reason of subsection (a) of this section, the  
13 State shall use the amount only to provide a subsidy to  
14 assist individuals who operate motor vehicles and are  
15 members of families with incomes that do not exceed 300  
16 percent of the Federal poverty line to purchase gasoline,  
17 and shall target the subsidy to individuals in families that  
18 demonstrate the greatest need for the subsidy, which  
19 should be used primarily to purchase gasoline for trans-  
20 portation related to employment (including transportation  
21 to child care facilities).

22 (c) ELIGIBILITY OF STATES FOR INCREASED FUND-  
23 ING.—The Secretary may not make a payment to a State  
24 under section 2002 of the Social Security Act by reason  
25 of subsection (a), unless the State has submitted to the  
26 Secretary a plan which—

1           (1) details the criteria the State will use to de-  
2           termine eligibility for the subsidy referred to in sub-  
3           section (b);

4           (2) ensures that the subsidy is provided to indi-  
5           viduals with the greatest need for the subsidy;

6           (3) describes the procedures which the States  
7           will use to reduce fraud or abuse in the provision of  
8           the subsidy;

9           (4) prescribes the minimum and maximum  
10          amount of the subsidy;

11          (5) describes how and when the subsidy will be  
12          provided to eligible individuals; and

13          (6) the identity of the State agency which will  
14          administer the program under which the subsidy is  
15          to be provided.

16          (d) TREATMENT OF SUBSIDY.—A subsidy provided  
17          to an individual pursuant to subsection (b) shall not be  
18          considered to be income or a resource for purposes of any  
19          Federal or federally assisted program the eligibility for  
20          which, or the amount or type of benefits or services pro-  
21          vided under which, is based, in whole or in part, on need,  
22          shall not be included in gross income for purposes of the  
23          Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and shall not be consid-  
24          ered assistance provided under a State program funded  
25          under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.

1           (e) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall provide guid-  
2   ance to assist States with developing the plan required by  
3   subsection (c), and shall suggest best practices which the  
4   States should use in administering the program under  
5   which the subsidy referred to in subsection (b) is to be  
6   provided.

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