

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2219

To ensure that individuals who are in an authorized job training program or completing work for a degree or certificate remain eligible for regular unemployment compensation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. BERA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To ensure that individuals who are in an authorized job training program or completing work for a degree or certificate remain eligible for regular unemployment compensation.

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 “Opportunity Kindling
5 New Options for Career and Knowledge Seekers Act” or
6 the “Opportunity KNOCKS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to allow people to seek
3 the training needed in order to find a full time job that
4 allows them to go off of unemployment compensation.

5 **SEC. 3. APPROVED TRAINING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of the Internal Rev-
7 enue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 3304) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new subsection:

9 “(g) APPROVED TRAINING.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection

11 (a)(8)—

12 “(A) the term ‘training’ includes any of
13 the educational or job training programs de-
14 scribed in paragraph (2), and

15 “(B) such programs shall be treated as ap-
16 proved by the State agency.

17 “(2) EDUCATIONAL OR JOB TRAINING PRO-
18 GRAMS.—The programs described in this paragraph
19 are—

20 “(A) any program on the State’s eligible
21 training provider list developed under section
22 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;
23 or

24 “(B) for purposes of an individual who has
25 been identified as likely to exhaust regular com-

1 pensation, any coursework necessary to attain a
2 recognized postsecondary credential.

3 “(3) **RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-**
4 **TIAL.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term
5 ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a cre-
6 dential consisting of an industry-recognized certifi-
7 cate, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship,
8 or an associate or baccalaureate degree.”.

9 (b) **EXTENDED COMPENSATION.**—Section 202(a) of
10 the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation
11 Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by insert-
12 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

13 “(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of para-
14 graph (2), a State agency may elect to approve pro-
15 grams described in subsection (g)(2) of section 3304
16 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes
17 of training included under subsection (a)(8) of such
18 section.”.

19 (c) **EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**—
20 Section 4001(d)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations
21 Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note)
22 is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
24 the end; and

1 (2) by inserting at the end the following new
2 subparagraph:

3 “(C) that a State agency may elect to ap-
4 prove programs described in subsection (g)(2)
5 of section 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of
6 1986 for purposes of training included under
7 subsection (a)(8) of such section; and”.

8 (d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
9 this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION TO UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.**

12 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent feasible and prac-
13 ticable, the State agency shall provide that applications
14 for regular compensation include information regarding
15 the availability of such compensation during periods in
16 which an individual is engaged in training that has been
17 approved by the State agency, as described in section
18 3304(a)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26
19 U.S.C. 3304(a)(8)).

20 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the
21 terms “regular compensation” and “State agency” have
22 the same meanings as in section 205 of the Federal-State
23 Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970.

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