

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2991

To encourage States to engage more TANF recipients in activities leading to employment and self-sufficiency, and to simplify State administration of TANF work requirements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To encourage States to engage more TANF recipients in activities leading to employment and self-sufficiency, and to simplify State administration of TANF work requirements.

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 “Preparing More Wel-
5 fare Recipients for Work Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING COUNTING OF REQUIRED HOURS OF**
2 **PARTICIPATION IN WORK ACTIVITIES.**

3 (a) **ELIMINATION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN CORE**
4 **AND NON-CORE WORK ACTIVITIES.**—Section
5 407(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 607(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “, not fewer than
7 20 hours per week of which are attributable to an activity
8 described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8),
9 or (12) of subsection (d)”.

10 (b) **ALLOWING STATES TO RECEIVE PARTIAL CRED-**
11 **IT FOR PARTIAL ENGAGEMENT.**—Section 407(c)(1)(B) of
12 such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(1)(B)) is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 “(B) **PARTIAL CREDIT FOR FAMILIES PAR-**
15 **TICIPATING FOR LESS THAN THE MINIMUM**
16 **HOURS REQUIRED.**—If a family receiving assist-
17 ance under the State program funded under
18 this part includes an adult or minor child head
19 of household receiving the assistance who has
20 participated in work activities for an average of
21 15 hours (or 10 hours, in the case of a single
22 parent specified in paragraph (2)(B)) per week
23 during a month, the family shall count as 0.5
24 of a family for purposes of calculating the num-
25 ber described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) for the
26 month.”.

1 (c) STATE OPTION TO REQUEST ALTERNATE WORK
2 PARTICIPATION RATE CALCULATION.—Section 407(a) of
3 such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(a)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(3) STATE OPTION TO REQUEST ALTERNATE
6 WORK PARTICIPATION RATE CALCULATION.—

7 “(A) APPLICATION.—A State may apply to
8 the Secretary to apply subparagraph (C) with
9 respect to the State.

10 “(B) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The
11 Secretary may approve the application if the
12 State demonstrates to the Secretary (in accord-
13 ance with such guidelines as the Secretary shall
14 establish) that the State has systems and mech-
15 anisms in place to accurately record individual
16 hours of participation in work activities that ac-
17 curately reflects the number of hours of partici-
18 pation of the individuals required to participate
19 in the activities.

20 “(C) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—A
21 State whose application under this paragraph is
22 approved by the Secretary shall be considered
23 to be in compliance with this subsection for a
24 month in a fiscal year if the sum of the total
25 number of hours during which the recipients of

1 assistance under the State program funded
2 under this part who are required to be partici-
3 pating in work activities during the month have
4 participated in the activities is not less than the
5 percentage equal to the minimum participation
6 rate in effect under paragraph (1) for the fiscal
7 year, multiplied by the sum of—

8 “(i) 30 times the number of the re-
9 cipients who are so required to participate
10 for an average of at least 30 hours per
11 week in the month (as determined by the
12 State); and

13 “(ii) 20 times the number of the re-
14 cipients who are so required to participate
15 for an average of at least 20 hours per
16 week in the month (as so determined).”.

17 (d) MODIFICATIONS TO COUNTING JOB SEARCH AS
18 WORK.—Section 407(c)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
19 607(c)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(A) COUNTING OF JOB SEARCH AS
21 WORK.—After the participation of an individual
22 in an activity described in subsection (d)(6) of
23 this section of a State program funded under
24 this part or any other State program funded
25 with qualified State expenditures (as defined in

1 section 409(a)(7)(B)(i) has been counted for 3
2 months as participation in a work activity, par-
3 ticipation by the individual in such an activity
4 shall count towards not more than half of the
5 hours of participation in work activities by the
6 individual.”.

7 (e) MODIFICATION OF RULE PROVIDING FOR PAR-
8 TICIPATION BY REASON OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AT-
9 TENDANCE.—Section 407(c)(2)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
10 607(c)(2)(C)) is amended—

11 (1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking
12 “SINGLE TEEN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD OR MARRIED
13 TEEN” and inserting “INDIVIDUAL”;

14 (2) by striking “is married or a head of house-
15 hold and” and

16 (3) by striking “20 years” and inserting “26
17 years”.

18 (f) REQUIREMENT THAT STATE MEET WITH INDI-
19 VIDUAL INVOLVED IN JOB READINESS ACTIVITIES FOR
20 MORE THAN 3 MONTHS.—Section 407(c)(2) of such Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(E) PERIODIC MEETING WITH INDIVID-
24 UALS PARTICIPATING IN JOB READINESS AS-
25 SISTANCE.—After an individual has participated

1 for 3 months in an activity described in sub-
2 section (d)(12) of this section of a State pro-
3 gram funded under this part or any other State
4 program funded with qualified State expendi-
5 tures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)),
6 the individual shall not be considered to be en-
7 gaged in work by reason of participation in
8 such an activity until the State has met with
9 the individual, and certified that continued par-
10 ticipation in such an activity is necessary to
11 help prepare the individual for, or support the
12 individual in, employment.”.

13 (g) PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE TO COM-
14 MUNITY SERVICE PARTICIPANT REPLACED BY JOB READ-
15 INESS ASSISTANCE AS SEPARATE WORK ACTIVITY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(d)(12) of such
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 607(d)) is amended to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(12) job readiness assistance.”.

20 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
21 407(d)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(d)) is amend-
22 ed by striking “and job readiness assistance”.

23 (h) DOUBLING OF LIMIT ON COUNTING VOCATION
24 EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AS WORK.—Section 407(d)(8)

1 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(d)(8)) is amended by striking
2 “12” and inserting “24”.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
5 on October 1, 2015.

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