

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3479

To incentivize American workers to seek and accept jobs, to aid the economic recovery by converting Federal pandemic emergency unemployment compensation into back to work bonuses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

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

A BILL

To incentivize American workers to seek and accept jobs, to aid the economic recovery by converting Federal pandemic emergency unemployment compensation into back to work bonuses, 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 Bonus
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BACK TO WORK BONUSES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(b) of the CARES
8 Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(b)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
2 graph (5); and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(4) BACK-TO-WORK BONUSES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement under
7 this section may also provide that the State
8 agency of the State may make a lump sum pay-
9 ment to each individual who—

10 “(i) was eligible for Federal Pandemic
11 Unemployment Compensation under para-
12 graph (1) for—

13 “(I) any week beginning after the
14 date of enactment of the Back to
15 Work Bonus Act; and

16 “(II) at least 4 weeks imme-
17 diately preceding the week under
18 clause (I);

19 “(ii) is no longer eligible for Federal
20 Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
21 under paragraph (1) (as determined by the
22 State), as a result of earnings due to com-
23 mencing employment with an employer by
24 whom the individual has not been em-
25 ployed during the preceding 6 months; and

1 “(iii) as verified by the individual’s
2 employer pursuant to subparagraph (E)—

3 “(I) has been employed by a non-
4 governmental employer throughout
5 the qualifying period; and

6 “(II) remains employed with an
7 intent to continue such employment.

8 “(B) AMOUNT.—A payment made to an
9 individual under this paragraph shall be paid in
10 a lump sum \$900.

11 “(C) QUALIFYING PERIOD.—For purposes
12 of this paragraph, the term ‘qualifying period’
13 means, with respect to an individual, a period—

14 “(i) beginning on the date the indi-
15 vidual commenced employment as de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

17 “(ii) extending at least 4 consecutive
18 weeks from such date.

19 “(D) DURATION.—A lump-sum payment
20 may not be made to any individual under this
21 paragraph with respect to a qualifying period
22 beginning on or after August 14, 2021.

23 “(E) EMPLOYER VERIFICATION REQUIRED
24 FOR LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—Before making a
25 lump-sum payment to an individual pursuant to

1 this paragraph, a State agency shall require
2 verification from the individual’s employer—

3 “(i) of the individual’s employment
4 status;

5 “(ii) of the wages paid to the indi-
6 vidual during the applicable qualifying pe-
7 riod; and

8 “(iii) of the hours worked by the indi-
9 vidual during the qualifying period.

10 “(F) LIMITATION.—A State may not pro-
11 vide more than 1 lump-sum payment under this
12 paragraph to an individual.

13 “(G) SPECIAL RULE.—A payment made
14 pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph
15 shall not be considered to violate the withdrawal
16 requirements of section 303(a)(5) or section
17 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of
18 1986.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of
20 the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023) is amended—

21 (1) in subsections (d) and (f), by inserting “,
22 payments under subsection (b)(4)” after “Federal
23 Pandemic Unemployment Compensation” each place
24 it appears; and

25 (2) in subsection (g)—

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

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) the purposes of the preceding provisions of
7 this section, as such provisions apply with respect to
8 payments under subsection (b)(4), shall be applied
9 with respect to unemployment benefits described in
10 subsection (i)(2) to the same extent and in the same
11 manner as if those benefits were regular compensa-
12 tion.”.

13 **SEC. 3. SUNSETTING FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT**
14 **COMPENSATION.**

15 Section 2104(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the CARES Act (15
16 U.S.C. 9023(b)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “Sep-
17 tember 6, 2021” and inserting “the date of enactment of
18 the Back to Work Bonus Act”.

19 **SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS.**

20 (a) **MODIFYING PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSIST-**
21 **ANCE.**—Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the CARES Act
22 (15 U.S.C. 9021(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I)) is amended by striking
23 items (aa) through (kk) and inserting the following:

24 “(aa) the individual has an
25 active infection with COVID–19;

1 “(bb) the individual received
2 an order from a physician to
3 quarantine due to exposure to
4 COVID–19; or

5 “(cc) the individual is caring
6 for a family member or a mem-
7 ber of the individual’s household
8 described in items (aa) or (bb);
9 or”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2102(c)
11 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(c)) is amended by—

12 (1) inserting at the end of paragraph (6) the
13 following: “A State shall require proof of active in-
14 fection or quarantine order required by subsection
15 (a)(3)(A)(ii)(I).”; and

16 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as
17 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

18 (c) MODIFYING PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOY-
19 MENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2107(a)(7) of the
20 CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(a)(7)) is amended by strik-
21 ing subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

22 “(B) FLEXIBILITY.—

23 “(i) Notwithstanding the requirements
24 under subparagraph (A) and paragraph
25 (2)(D), a State may provide flexibility in

1 meeting such requirements in case of indi-
2 viduals unable to search for work be-
3 cause—

4 “(I) the individual has an active
5 infection with COVID–19;

6 “(II) the individual received an
7 order from a physician to quarantine
8 due to exposure to COVID–19; or

9 “(III) the individual is caring for
10 a family member or a member of the
11 individual’s household described in
12 subclause (I) or (II).

13 “(ii) Prior to providing flexibility
14 under this subparagraph, a State shall re-
15 quire proof of active infection or quar-
16 antine order required by subclause (I) or
17 (II).”.

○