

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in grants for reemployment services and eligibility assessments.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in grants for reemployment services and eligibility assessments.

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 “Expedited Access to
5 Reemployment Learning Yields Benefits for Workers Act”
6 or the “EARLY Benefits for Workers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY IN GRANTS FOR REEMPLOYMENT**
2 **SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a) of the Social Secu-
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(j) AUTHORITY FOR EARLY INTERVENTIONS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a State
8 program of reemployment services and eligibility as-
9 sessments using grant funds awarded to the State
10 under this section, a State may use up to the lessor
11 of 20 percent of such grant funds or \$3,000,000 to
12 provide reemployment services and eligibility assess-
13 ment services and tools to claimants for regular
14 compensation as soon as a claimant files an initial
15 claim for regular compensation.

16 “(2) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—In ad-
17 judicating an initial claim for regular compensation
18 with respect to a claimant, a State shall not make
19 a determination that such claimant is ineligible for
20 such regular compensation based solely on such
21 claimant’s failure to participate in the early inter-
22 ventions under paragraph (1) during the period be-
23 tween such initial claim and such claimant’s first
24 week of such regular compensation that is based on
25 such initial claim.

1 “(3) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF INELI-
2 GIBILITY.—In the case where a claimant is provided
3 reemployment services and eligibility assessment
4 services and tools by a State pursuant to the early
5 interventions under paragraph (1) but is subse-
6 quently determined by the State to be ineligible for
7 regular compensation, the following shall apply:

8 “(A) Such claimant shall be ineligible to
9 continue to be provided such reemployment
10 services and eligibility assessment services and
11 tools unless such services and tools are funded
12 by another source or are generally available to
13 members of the public.

14 “(B) Such State—

15 “(i) shall not be considered to be out
16 of compliance with the terms and condi-
17 tions of the grant program by reason of
18 the provision of such reemployment serv-
19 ices and eligibility assessment services and
20 tools to such claimant prior to such deter-
21 mination; and

22 “(ii) shall not be required to return
23 any grant funds used in providing such re-
24 employment services and eligibility assess-

1 ment services and tools to such claimant
2 prior to such determination.

3 “(4) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this sub-
4 section shall preclude amounts expended by a State
5 on the early interventions under paragraph (1) from
6 being used to meet the threshold requirement under
7 subsection (c)(2) if the expenditures otherwise meet
8 the requirements for interventions under such sub-
9 section.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment
12 of this Act.