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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for TANF recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DOLD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for TANF recipients.

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 “Accelerating Individ-
5 uals into the Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO SUPPORT SUB-**
2 **SIDIZED EMPLOYMENT FOR TANF RECIPI-**
3 **ENTS.**

4 Section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(c) **SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION**
7 **PROJECTS.**—

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make
9 grants to States to conduct demonstration projects
10 designed to implement and evaluate strategies that
11 provide wage subsidies to enable low-income individ-
12 uals to enter into and retain employment.

13 “(2) **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The Sec-
14 retary shall require each State that applies for a
15 grant under this subsection to do the following:

16 “(A) Describe how wage subsidies will be
17 provided (such as whether paid directly to the
18 employer or the individual), the duration of the
19 subsidies, the amount of the subsidies, the
20 structure of the subsidies, and how employers
21 will be recruited to participate in the subsidized
22 employment program.

23 “(B) Describe how the State expects those
24 participating in subsidized employment to be
25 able to retain employment after the subsidy
26 ends.

1 “(C) Describe how the State will coordi-
2 nate subsidized employment funded under this
3 subsection with other efforts to help low-income
4 individuals enter work as conducted by the
5 State.

6 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a
8 grant is made under this subsection may use
9 the grant to subsidize the wages of an eligible
10 recipient for a period not exceeding 12 months,
11 and only to the extent that the total of the
12 funds paid under this project and any other
13 Federal funds so used with respect to the re-
14 cipient does not exceed 50 percent of the
15 amount of the wages received by the recipient
16 during the period.

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—For purposes
18 of subparagraph (A), an eligible recipient is—

19 “(i)(I) a recipient of assistance under
20 the State program funded under this part;

21 “(II) an adult with children;

22 “(III) a noncustodial parent; or

23 “(IV) an individual who has attained
24 16 years of age but not 26 years of age;

1 “(ii) who, at the time the subsidy be-
2 gins, is unemployed; and

3 “(iii) whose income, at that time, is
4 less than 200 percent of the poverty line
5 (as defined by the Office of Management
6 and Budget, and revised annually in ac-
7 cordance with section 673(2) of the Omni-
8 bus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42
9 U.S.C. 9902(2))).

10 “(4) REPORTS.—As a condition of receiving
11 funds under this subsection for a fiscal year, a State
12 shall submit to the Secretary, within 6 months after
13 the end of the fiscal year, a report that—

14 “(A) specifies, for each month of the fiscal
15 year, the number of individuals whose employ-
16 ment is subsidized with these funds;

17 “(B) specifies, for each month of the fiscal
18 year, the number of the individuals who re-
19 mained employed by the same employer in an
20 unsubsidized position in the month immediately
21 succeeding the month in which the last subsidy
22 payment was made with respect to the employ-
23 ment; and

24 “(C) describes the structure of the State
25 activities to use the funds to subsidize employ-

1 ment, including the amount and duration of the
2 subsidies provided.

3 “(5) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in consulta-
4 tion with each State conducting a demonstration
5 project, shall conduct a high-quality evaluation of
6 the demonstration project, and may reserve funds
7 made available under this subsection to conduct the
8 evaluation in accordance with the following:

9 “(A) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The
10 Secretary may not enter into a contract with an
11 evaluator unless the evaluator has demonstrated
12 experience in conducting rigorous evaluations of
13 program effectiveness including, where available
14 and appropriate, well-implemented randomized
15 controlled trials.

16 “(B) METHODOLOGIES TO BE USED.—The
17 evaluation of a demonstration project shall use
18 experimental designs using random assignment
19 or other reliable, evidence-based research meth-
20 odologies that allow for the strongest possible
21 causal inferences when random assignment is
22 not feasible.

23 “(C) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary
24 shall publish the results of the evaluation on the
25 website of the Department of Health and

1 Human Services in a location easily accessible
2 by the public.

3 “(6) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—The
4 Secretary shall submit recommendations to the Con-
5 gress on how to increase the employment, retention,
6 and advancement of individuals currently or for-
7 merly receiving assistance under a State program
8 funded under this part or any other State program
9 funded with qualified state expenditures (as defined
10 in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)).

11 “(7) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made avail-
12 able to carry out subsection (b) for fiscal year 2016
13 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall
14 reserve \$100,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

15 “(8) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds pro-
16 vided to a State under this subsection for a fiscal
17 year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year
18 or in the succeeding fiscal year.”.

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

20 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
21 on October 1, 2015.