

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2952

To provide payments to States for increasing the employment, job retention,  
and earnings of former TANF recipients.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2015

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

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## A BILL

To provide payments to States for increasing the employ-  
ment, job retention, and earnings of former TANF re-  
cipients.

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 “Improving Employ-  
5 ment Outcomes of TANF Recipients Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF TANF RE-**  
7 **CIPIENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a)(4) of the Social  
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)) is amended to read  
10 as follows:

1           “(4) INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF TANF  
2 RECIPIENTS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
4 make a grant under this paragraph to each  
5 State, with respect to each fiscal year for which  
6 the State achieves the requisite level of per-  
7 formance with respect to an indicator described  
8 in subparagraph (C)(ii), in the immediately suc-  
9 ceeding fiscal year.

10           “(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

11           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of  
12 the grant payable to a State with respect  
13 to a fiscal year for which the State  
14 achieves the requisite level of performance  
15 with respect to an indicator described in  
16 subparagraph (C)(ii) shall be the following:

17           “(I) 40 percent of the available  
18 amount with respect to the State for  
19 the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I).

21           “(II) 30 percent of the available  
22 amount with respect to the State for  
23 the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-  
24 scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(II).

1           “(III) 30 percent of the available  
2           amount with respect to the State for  
3           the fiscal year, if the indicator is de-  
4           scribed in subparagraph (C)(ii)(III).

5           “(ii) AVAILABLE AMOUNT DEFINED.—  
6           In clause (i), the term ‘available amount’  
7           means, with respect to a State and a fiscal  
8           year, the amount (if any) by which—

9                   “(I) the State family assistance  
10                  grant that would be payable to the  
11                  State for the fiscal year in the ab-  
12                  sence of this paragraph; exceeds

13                   “(II) the State family assistance  
14                  grant actually payable to the State for  
15                  the fiscal year.

16           “(C) MEASURING STATE PERFORMANCE.—

17                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State, in  
18                  consultation with the Secretary, shall es-  
19                  tablish levels of performance for each indi-  
20                  cator described in clause (ii), for fiscal  
21                  year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter.

22                   “(ii) INDICATORS.—The indicators de-  
23                  scribed in this clause are the following:

24                           “(I) The percentage of former  
25                          adult recipients of assistance under

1 the State program funded under this  
2 part or any other State program fund-  
3 ed with qualified State expenditures  
4 (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))  
5 who, while such recipients, were re-  
6 quired to be engaged in work in ac-  
7 cordance with section 407, and are in  
8 unsubsidized employment during the  
9 2nd quarter after exiting from the  
10 program.

11 “(II) The percentage of former  
12 recipients of such assistance who are  
13 in unsubsidized employment during  
14 the 4th quarter after exiting from the  
15 program.

16 “(III) The percentage change in  
17 median earnings of former recipients  
18 of such assistance who are in unsub-  
19 sidized employment in the 4th quarter  
20 after exiting from the program com-  
21 pared with the median earnings of  
22 former recipients who are in unsub-  
23 sidized employment in the 2nd quar-  
24 ter after exiting from the program.

1           “(iii) AGREEMENT ON REQUISITE  
2 PERFORMANCE LEVEL FOR EACH INDI-  
3 CATOR.—

4           “(I) FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND  
5 2018.—Each State shall reach agree-  
6 ment with the Secretary on the req-  
7 uisite level of performance for each in-  
8 dicator described in clause (ii), for  
9 each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

10          “(II) FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND  
11 2020.—Each State shall reach agree-  
12 ment with the Secretary, before fiscal  
13 year 2019, on the requisite level of  
14 performance with respect to each indi-  
15 cator described in clause (ii), for each  
16 of fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

17          “(D) REPORT ON STATE PERFORMANCE.—

18           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Oc-  
19 tober 1, 2016, the Secretary shall develop  
20 a template which each State shall use to  
21 report on outcomes achieved under the  
22 State program funded under this part.

23           “(ii) CONTENTS.—Each such report  
24 shall include—

1                   “(I) the number of individuals  
2                   who exited the program during the  
3                   year;

4                   “(II) the characteristics of the  
5                   individuals who exited the program  
6                   during the year, including information  
7                   on the length of time for which the in-  
8                   dividual received assistance under the  
9                   program; and

10                   “(III) information specifying the  
11                   levels of performance achieved with  
12                   respect to each indicator described in  
13                   subparagraph (C)(ii).

14                   “(iii) PUBLICATION.—Not later than  
15                   September 30 of fiscal year 2019 and of  
16                   each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary  
17                   shall make available to the public electroni-  
18                   cally each report submitted under this sub-  
19                   paragraph during the fiscal year.

20                   “(E) STATE FAILURE TO MEET PERFORM-  
21                   ANCE MEASURES.—

22                   “(i) RESERVATION OF FUNDS; RE-  
23                   QUIRED STATE SPENDING.—If a State fails  
24                   to achieve the requisite level of perform-  
25                   ance with respect to an indicator described

1 in subparagraph (C)(ii) of this paragraph  
2 and a fiscal year—

3 “(I) the Secretary shall reserve  
4 the funds that would have been pay-  
5 able to the State under this paragraph  
6 if the State had achieved the level;  
7 and

8 “(II) the level of State expendi-  
9 tures otherwise required to avoid a  
10 penalty under section 409(a)(7) in the  
11 succeeding fiscal year shall be in-  
12 creased by the amount so reserved.

13 “(ii) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—The Sec-  
14 retary shall award to a State all funds re-  
15 served under clause (i) for the fiscal year  
16 with respect to the State, an indicator, and  
17 a fiscal year, in the immediately succeeding  
18 fiscal year, if, in the immediately suc-  
19 ceeding fiscal year, the State—

20 “(I) achieves the requisite level of  
21 performance for the State with re-  
22 spect to the indicator; or

23 “(II) improves the State’s level of  
24 performance with respect to the indi-  
25 cator by at least half of the amount

1 by which the State’s requisite level of  
2 performance with respect to the indi-  
3 cator in the fiscal year exceeded the  
4 actual level of performance achieved  
5 by the State with respect to the indi-  
6 cator in the fiscal year.

7 “(F) FUNDING.—The following percent-  
8 ages of the amounts appropriated under para-  
9 graph (1)(C) for the following fiscal years are  
10 reserved for grants under this paragraph for  
11 the fiscal years:

12 “(i) 4 percent, in the case of fiscal  
13 year 2018.

14 “(ii) 10 percent, in the case of each of  
15 fiscal years 2019 and 2020.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
17 403(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(1)(B)) is  
18 amended by inserting “, reduced by the percentage (if  
19 any) specified in paragraph (4)(F) with respect to the fis-  
20 cal year,” before “as the amount”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
22 this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

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