

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1150

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to impose a work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents who are eligible for medical assistance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2017

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to impose a work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents who are eligible for medical assistance.

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 “Medicaid Reform and
5 Personal Responsibility Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING STATES TO APPLY A WORK REQUIRE-**
 2 **MENT FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT**
 3 **DEPENDENTS UNDER MEDICAID.**

4 Section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 5 1396a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
 8 graph (82);

9 (B) by striking the period at the end of
 10 paragraph (83)(B)(ii) and inserting “; and”;
 11 and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph
 13 (83)(B)(ii) the following new paragraph:

14 “(84) comply with the requirements of sub-
 15 section (nn) (relating to a work requirement for
 16 able-bodied adults without dependents).”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 18 section:

19 “(nn) **WORK REQUIREMENT FOR ABLE-BODIED**
 20 **ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning October 1,
 22 2017, a State shall elect through a State plan
 23 amendment (or waiver of such plan) to condition
 24 medical assistance under this title to an individual
 25 who is an able-bodied adult without dependents (as
 26 defined in paragraph (2)(A)) upon such an individ-

1 ual’s satisfaction of a work requirement (as defined
2 in paragraph (2)(B)) and the requirements of para-
3 graph (3).

4 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 “(A) ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DE-
6 PENDENTS.—The term ‘able-bodied adult with-
7 out dependents’ means an individual who is
8 not—

9 “(i) under 18 or over 55 years of age;

10 “(ii) medically certified as physically
11 or mentally unfit for employment;

12 “(iii) a parent or other member of a
13 household with responsibility for a depend-
14 ent child;

15 “(iv) a pregnant woman;

16 “(v) a bona fide student enrolled at
17 least half time in any recognized school,
18 training program, or institution of higher
19 education; or

20 “(vi) a regular participant in a drug
21 addiction or alcoholic treatment and reha-
22 bilitation program.

23 “(B) WORK REQUIREMENT.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘work
25 requirement’ means participation in activ-

1 ity specified by the State as work for pur-
 2 poses of this subsection for 20 hours or
 3 more per week, averaged monthly.

4 “(ii) JOB TRAINING AND COMMUNITY
 5 SERVICE.—Such term includes—

6 “(I) on-the-job training;

7 “(II) job skills training directly
 8 related to employment; and

9 “(III) community service pro-
 10 grams.

11 “(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—An able-
 12 bodied adult without dependents shall not receive
 13 medical assistance under this title if the able-bodied
 14 adult without dependents—

15 “(A) refuses, at the time of application
 16 and every 12 months thereafter, to register as
 17 employed or as unemployed and actively looking
 18 for employment for less than 12 consecutive
 19 months, in a manner prescribed by the State;

20 “(B) refuses without good cause to satisfy
 21 an applicable work requirement;

22 “(C) refuses without good cause to accept
 23 an offer of employment, at a site or plant not
 24 subject to a strike or lockout at the time of the
 25 refusal, at a wage not less than the higher of—

1 “(i) the applicable Federal or State
2 minimum wage; or

3 “(ii) 80 percent of the wage that
4 would have governed had the minimum
5 hourly rate under section 6(a)(1) of the
6 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
7 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) been applicable to the
8 offer of employment;

9 “(D) refuses without good cause to provide
10 the State with sufficient information to allow
11 the State to determine the employment status
12 or the job availability of the able-bodied adult
13 without dependents; or

14 “(E) voluntarily and without good cause—

15 “(i) quits a job; or

16 “(ii) reduces work effort and, after
17 the reduction, the able-bodied adult with-
18 out dependents is working less than 20
19 hours per week.”.

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