

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4283

To provide funding for States to improve their unemployment insurance technology systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2020

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide funding for States to improve their unemployment insurance technology systems, 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 “Unemployment Insur-
5 ance Technology and Accessibility Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL TRANSFER FOR INFORMATION TECH-**
7 **NOLOGY FUNDING.**

8 Section 903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1103) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(j) SPECIAL TRANSFER IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR
2 IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other
4 amounts, the Secretary of Labor shall provide for
5 the making of grants to the accounts of the States
6 in the Unemployment Trust Fund, by transfer from
7 amounts in the Federal unemployment account, in
8 accordance with succeeding provisions of this sub-
9 section.

10 “(2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of
11 payment under paragraph (1) with respect to any
12 State shall, as determined by the Secretary of
13 Labor, be equal to the amount obtained by multi-
14 plying \$500,000,000 by the same ratio as would
15 apply under subsection (a)(2)(B) for purposes of de-
16 termining such State’s share of any excess amount
17 (as described in subsection (a)(1)) that would have
18 been subject to transfer to State accounts, as of Oc-
19 tober 1, 2019, under the provisions of subsection
20 (a).

21 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amount trans-
23 ferred to the account of a State by reason of
24 this section shall be used by the State agency
25 of such State to improve the information tech-

1 nology used by the State agency to administer
2 the unemployment compensation laws of the
3 State.

4 “(B) CONDITION FOR RECEIVING A
5 GRANT.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of
7 receiving a grant under this subsection, a
8 State shall certify to the Secretary of
9 Labor that, within 2 years of receiving
10 such grant—

11 “(I) the information technology
12 used by the State agency to admin-
13 ister the unemployment compensation
14 laws of the State will meet the re-
15 quirements described in clause (ii);
16 and

17 “(II) applications for unemploy-
18 ment compensation, and assistance
19 with the application process, will be
20 accessible in at least two of the fol-
21 lowing: in-person, by phone, or online.

22 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The require-
23 ments for the information technology de-
24 scribed in this clause are the following:

1 “(I) REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-
2 LINE CLAIM-FILING SYSTEM.—Any
3 online claim-filing system used by the
4 State shall—

5 “(aa) ensure that the proc-
6 ess of filing initial and continuing
7 claims for unemployment com-
8 pensation can be readily under-
9 stood and accomplished by the
10 vast majority of claimants, in-
11 cluding individuals with limited
12 English proficiency, individuals
13 with disabilities, older individ-
14 uals, and individuals with literacy
15 challenges;

16 “(bb) be available in any
17 language spoken by more than 1
18 percent of the State’s population,
19 and such translations must be
20 completed by human translators
21 rather than translation software;

22 “(cc) be accessible and opti-
23 mized for both desktop com-
24 puters and mobile devices. Any
25 features of the system (such as

1 the ability to upload documenta-
2 tion) that are available in the
3 desktop version of the online
4 claim-filing system must also be
5 available in the mobile version;

6 “(dd) allow for electronic
7 submission of documentation re-
8 quired to support a claim;

9 “(ee) be available 24 hours a
10 day, 7 days a week; and

11 “(ff) have an automated
12 password reset function that can
13 be completed online.

14 “(II) ADDITIONAL REQUIRE-
15 MENTS FOR INFORMATION TECH-
16 NOLOGY.—Any other requirements de-
17 termined appropriate by the Secretary
18 of Labor.

19 “(iii) REPAYMENT IF REQUIREMENTS
20 NOT MET.—If, at the end of the 2-year pe-
21 riod described in clause (i) with respect to
22 a State, the Secretary of Labor finds that
23 the State is not in compliance with the
24 conditions described in subclauses (I) and
25 (II) of clause (i), the State shall be re-

1 required to return the full amount of the
2 grant to the Secretary of Treasury. Such
3 repayment shall be deposited into the gen-
4 eral fund of the Treasury.

5 “(4) FUNDING.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There are appro-
7 priated from the general fund of the Treasury,
8 without fiscal year limitation, to the Federal
9 unemployment account \$500,000,000 for mak-
10 ing grants to States under this subsection. The
11 amount transferred under the preceding sen-
12 tence shall not be taken into account for pur-
13 poses of any determination under section 902,
14 910, or 1203 of the amount in the Federal un-
15 employment account as of any given time.

16 “(B) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of
17 Labor shall certify to the Secretary of the
18 Treasury for payment to each State the sum
19 payable to each State under this subsection.”.

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