

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3749

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to expand the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to expand the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

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 “Expanding Opportuni-
5 ties for Older Americans Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The downturn in the national economy has
9 adversely affected millions of workers in all age

1 groups, but it has disproportionately burdened work-
2 ers age 55 and older.

3 (2) During the period from 2005 through 2007,
4 more than 900,000 workers age 55 and older lost
5 jobs they had held for the preceding 3 years or
6 longer. Such older workers constitute a quarter of
7 long-tenured workers who lost their jobs during this
8 period.

9 (3) Older workers experience substantially
10 longer periods of unemployment than younger work-
11 ers and are more likely to exhaust their unemploy-
12 ment insurance benefits.

13 (4) Older workers are comparatively less suc-
14 cessful than younger workers in finding new jobs.
15 Only 55 percent of workers age 55 and over who
16 had been long-tenured before losing their jobs during
17 the period from 2005 through 2007 were reemployed
18 in January 2008, compared to 72.6 percent of work-
19 ers ages 25 to 54.

20 (5) Unemployed older workers who succeed in
21 obtaining new employment are more likely than
22 younger workers to be underemployed, holding part-
23 time jobs that pay lower wages.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EM-**
2 **PLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) REDUCTION OF AGE OF ELIGIBILITY TO AGE
4 52.—Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
5 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) is amended by striking “age 55” each
6 place it appears and inserting “age 52”.

7 (b) ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ELIGIBLE
8 INDIVIDUAL BE UNEMPLOYED.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Section
10 502(a)(1) of such title (42 U.S.C. 3056(a)(1)) is
11 amended by striking “unemployed”.

12 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Section 503(a)(2)(C)
13 of such title (42 U.S.C. 3056a(a)(2)(C)) is amended
14 by striking “unemployed”.

15 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
16 518(a) of such title (42 U.S.C. 3056p(a)) is amend-
17 ed by striking paragraph (8).

18 (c) INCREASE IN INCOME LIMITATION FOR ELIGIBLE
19 INDIVIDUALS.—Section 518(a)(3)(A) of such title (42
20 U.S.C. 3056p(a)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “125 per-
21 cent of the poverty line” and inserting “200 percent of
22 the poverty line”.

23 (d) INCOME DEFINED.—Section 518(a)(4) of such
24 title (42 U.S.C. 3056p(a)(4)) is amended—

25 (1) by inserting “by an eligible individual” after
26 “received”;

1 (2) by striking “an eligible individual submits”
2 and inserting “such eligible individual submits”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following: “Such
4 term does not include income received by a member
5 of such eligible individual’s household other than
6 such eligible individual.”.

7 (e) HOURS PER WEEK GRANTEE MAY PERMIT PAR-
8 TICIPANT TO WORK.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(b) of such title
10 (42 U.S.C. 3056(b)) is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new paragraph:

12 “(4) HOURS PER WEEK GRANTEE MAY PERMIT
13 PARTICIPANT TO WORK.—No limit of fewer than 40
14 hours per week may be placed on the number of
15 hours per week a recipient of a grant under this title
16 may permit a participant to work in a job assisted
17 by this title.”.

18 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
19 518(a)(2) of such title (42 U.S.C. 3056p(a)(2)) is
20 amended by striking “part-time,”.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 517(a) of such Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 3056o(a)) is amended by striking “2007,
24 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011” and inserting “2012,
25 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017”.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Section 517 of such
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 3056o) is amended by adding at the
3 end the following new subsection:

4 “(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that such sums as may be necessary should be ap-
6 propriated to carry out this title in each of fiscal years
7 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.”.

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