

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3479

To incentivize American workers to seek and accept jobs, to aid the economic recovery by converting Federal pandemic emergency unemployment compensation into back to work bonuses, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

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

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## A BILL

To incentivize American workers to seek and accept jobs, to aid the economic recovery by converting Federal pandemic emergency unemployment compensation into back to work bonuses, 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 “Back to Work Bonus  
5        Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. BACK TO WORK BONUSES.**

7        (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(b) of the CARES  
8        Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(b)) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
2 graph (5); and

3           (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5           “(4) BACK-TO-WORK BONUSES.—

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement under  
7 this section may also provide that the State  
8 agency of the State may make a lump sum pay-  
9 ment to each individual who—

10                   “(i) was eligible for Federal Pandemic  
11 Unemployment Compensation under para-  
12 graph (1) for—

13                           “(I) any week beginning after the  
14 date of enactment of the Back to  
15 Work Bonus Act; and

16                           “(II) at least 4 weeks imme-  
17 diately preceding the week under  
18 clause (I);

19                   “(ii) is no longer eligible for Federal  
20 Pandemic Unemployment Compensation  
21 under paragraph (1) (as determined by the  
22 State), as a result of earnings due to com-  
23 mencing employment with an employer by  
24 whom the individual has not been em-  
25 ployed during the preceding 6 months; and

1 “(iii) as verified by the individual’s  
2 employer pursuant to subparagraph (E)—

3 “(I) has been employed by a non-  
4 governmental employer throughout  
5 the qualifying period; and

6 “(II) remains employed with an  
7 intent to continue such employment.

8 “(B) AMOUNT.—A payment made to an  
9 individual under this paragraph shall be paid in  
10 a lump sum \$900.

11 “(C) QUALIFYING PERIOD.—For purposes  
12 of this paragraph, the term ‘qualifying period’  
13 means, with respect to an individual, a period—

14 “(i) beginning on the date the indi-  
15 vidual commenced employment as de-  
16 scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

17 “(ii) extending at least 4 consecutive  
18 weeks from such date.

19 “(D) DURATION.—A lump-sum payment  
20 may not be made to any individual under this  
21 paragraph with respect to a qualifying period  
22 beginning on or after August 14, 2021.

23 “(E) EMPLOYER VERIFICATION REQUIRED  
24 FOR LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—Before making a  
25 lump-sum payment to an individual pursuant to

1           this paragraph, a State agency shall require  
2           verification from the individual’s employer—

3                   “(i) of the individual’s employment  
4                   status;

5                   “(ii) of the wages paid to the indi-  
6                   vidual during the applicable qualifying pe-  
7                   riod; and

8                   “(iii) of the hours worked by the indi-  
9                   vidual during the qualifying period.

10                  “(F) LIMITATION.—A State may not pro-  
11                  vide more than 1 lump-sum payment under this  
12                  paragraph to an individual.

13                  “(G) SPECIAL RULE.—A payment made  
14                  pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph  
15                  shall not be considered to violate the withdrawal  
16                  requirements of section 303(a)(5) or section  
17                  3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
18                  1986.”.

19                  (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of  
20                  the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023) is amended—

21                   (1) in subsections (d) and (f), by inserting “,  
22                   payments under subsection (b)(4)” after “Federal  
23                   Pandemic Unemployment Compensation” each place  
24                   it appears; and

25                   (2) in subsection (g)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) the purposes of the preceding provisions of  
7 this section, as such provisions apply with respect to  
8 payments under subsection (b)(4), shall be applied  
9 with respect to unemployment benefits described in  
10 subsection (i)(2) to the same extent and in the same  
11 manner as if those benefits were regular compensa-  
12 tion.”.

13 **SEC. 3. SUNSETTING FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT**  
14 **COMPENSATION.**

15 Section 2104(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the CARES Act (15  
16 U.S.C. 9023(b)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “Sep-  
17 tember 6, 2021” and inserting “the date of enactment of  
18 the Back to Work Bonus Act”.

19 **SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS.**

20 (a) **MODIFYING PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSIST-**  
21 **ANCE.**—Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the CARES Act  
22 (15 U.S.C. 9021(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I)) is amended by striking  
23 items (aa) through (kk) and inserting the following:

24 “(aa) the individual has an  
25 active infection with COVID–19;

1                   “(bb) the individual received  
2                   an order from a physician to  
3                   quarantine due to exposure to  
4                   COVID–19; or

5                   “(cc) the individual is caring  
6                   for a family member or a mem-  
7                   ber of the individual’s household  
8                   described in items (aa) or (bb);  
9                   or”.

10           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2102(c)  
11 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(c)) is amended by—

12                   (1) inserting at the end of paragraph (6) the  
13                   following: “A State shall require proof of active in-  
14                   fection or quarantine order required by subsection  
15                   (a)(3)(A)(ii)(I).”; and

16                   (2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as  
17                   paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

18           (c) MODIFYING PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOY-  
19 MENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2107(a)(7) of the  
20 CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(a)(7)) is amended by strik-  
21 ing subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

22                   “(B) FLEXIBILITY.—

23                   “(i) Notwithstanding the requirements  
24                   under subparagraph (A) and paragraph  
25                   (2)(D), a State may provide flexibility in

1 meeting such requirements in case of indi-  
2 viduals unable to search for work be-  
3 cause—

4 “(I) the individual has an active  
5 infection with COVID–19;

6 “(II) the individual received an  
7 order from a physician to quarantine  
8 due to exposure to COVID–19; or

9 “(III) the individual is caring for  
10 a family member or a member of the  
11 individual’s household described in  
12 subclause (I) or (II).

13 “(ii) Prior to providing flexibility  
14 under this subparagraph, a State shall re-  
15 quire proof of active infection or quar-  
16 antine order required by subclause (I) or  
17 (II).”.

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