118th CONGRESS 2d Session

To improve administration of the unemployment insurance program by expanding program integrity and anti-fraud activities and improving access to benefits, and for other purposes.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

## A BILL

- To improve administration of the unemployment insurance program by expanding program integrity and anti-fraud activities and improving access to benefits, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 "Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility
6 Act".

### 1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of

#### 2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY

- Sec. 101. Extension of the statute of limitations for fraud by individuals under certain unemployment programs.
- Sec. 102. Waiver of recovery of nonfraud pandemic overpayments.
- Sec. 103. Permissible use of unemployment fund money for program administration.

#### TITLE II—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY

- Sec. 201. Use of National Directory of New Hires in administration of unemployment compensation programs.
- Sec. 202. Electronic transmission of unemployment compensation information.
- Sec. 203. Unemployment compensation data cross-matching.
- Sec. 204. Incarcerated individuals.
- Sec. 205. Regulations.

## TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 301. Access to benefits.

Sec. 302. GAO study and report on the use of funding for unemployment fraud prevention, equitable access, and timely payments.

# 3 TITLE I—UNEMPLOYMENT IN-4 SURANCE FRAUD AND OVER-

5 **PAYMENT RECOVERY** 

6 SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

### FOR FRAUD BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER CER-

#### TAIN UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

9 (a) PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Sec-

10 tion 2102 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021) is amend-

11 ed—

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12 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-13 section (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol lowing new subsection:

3 "(h) Statute of Limitations.—

4 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other 5 provision of law and subject to paragraph (2), any 6 criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for 7 a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 8 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, 9 United States Code, or section 3729 of title 31, 10 United States Code, with respect to any unemploy-11 ment compensation claim funded in whole or in part 12 by pandemic unemployment assistance under this 13 section shall be brought not later than 10 years 14 after the date of the violation or conspiracy.

15 "(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not 16 apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil 17 enforcement action if the statute of limitations appli-18 cable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforce-19 ment action expired prior to the date of enactment 20 of the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Ac-21 cessibility Act.".

(b) FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2104(f) of the CARES Act (15)

1 U.S.C. 9023(f)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-2 lowing new paragraph:

3 "(5) Statute of limitations.—

4 "(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any 5 other provision of law and subject to subpara-6 graph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil en-7 forcement action for a violation of, or con-8 spiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 9 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States 10 Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States 11 Code, with respect to any unemployment com-12 pensation claim funded in whole or in part by 13 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-14 tion or Mixed Earner Unemployment Com-15 pensation under this section shall be brought 16 not later than 10 years after the date of the 17 violation or conspiracy.

18 "(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph  $(\mathbf{A})$ 19 shall not apply with respect to a criminal pros-20 ecution or civil enforcement action if the statute 21 of limitations applicable to such criminal pros-22 ecution or civil enforcement action expired prior 23 to the date of enactment of the Unemployment 24 Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act.".

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(c) PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COM PENSATION.—Section 2107(e) of the CARES Act (15
 U.S.C. 9025(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol lowing new paragraph:

5 "(5) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

6 "(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any 7 other provision of law and subject to subpara-8 graph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil en-9 forcement action for a violation of, or con-10 spiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 11 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States 12 Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States 13 Code, with respect to any unemployment com-14 pensation claim funded in whole or in part by 15 pandemic emergency unemployment compensa-16 tion under this section shall be brought not 17 later than 10 years after the date of the viola-18 tion or conspiracy.

19 "(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph  $(\mathbf{A})$ 20 shall not apply with respect to a criminal pros-21 ecution or civil enforcement action if the statute 22 of limitations applicable to such criminal pros-23 ecution or civil enforcement action expired prior 24 to the date of enactment of the Unemployment 25 Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act.".

1 (d) FEMA OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—

(1) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any 4 other provision of law and subject to subpara-5 graph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil en-6 forcement action for a violation of, or con-7 spiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 8 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States 9 Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States 10 Code, with respect to other needs assistance for 11 lost wages to supplement unemployment assist-12 ance available under programs administered by 13 the Department of Labor shall be brought not 14 later than 10 years after the date of the viola-15 tion or conspiracy.

16 (B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall 17 not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution 18 or civil enforcement action if the statute of limi-19 tations applicable to such criminal prosecution 20 or civil enforcement action expired prior to the 21 date of enactment of this section.

(2) DEFINITION.—In paragraph (1), the term
"other needs assistance for lost wages to supplement
unemployment assistance" means any supplementary
payment funded in whole or in part by financial as-

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|    | 1   |
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| 1  | sistance under section $408(e)(2)$ of the Robert T.         |
| 2  | Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance           |
| 3  | Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)(2)) relating to a major dis-         |
| 4  | aster declared by the President under section 401 of        |
| 5  | such Act $(42 \text{ U.S.C. } 5170)$ to supplement recovery |
| 6  | efforts in areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease        |
| 7  | 2019 (COVID-19).  |
| 8  | SEC. 102. WAIVER OF RECOVERY OF NONFRAUD PANDEMIC           |
| 9  | OVERPAYMENTS.   |
| 10 | (a) PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Sec-                  |
| 11 | tion $2102(d)(4)$ of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C.               |
| 12 | 9021(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:                  |
| 13 | "(4) Repayment and waivers of overpay-                      |
| 14 | MENTS.—   |
| 15 | "(A) REPAYMENT.—Subject to subpara-                         |
| 16 | graph (B), in the case of individuals who have              |
| 17 | received amounts of pandemic unemployment                   |
| 18 | assistance to which they were not entitled, the             |
| 19 | State shall require such individuals to repay the           |
| 20 | amounts of such pandemic unemployment as-                   |
| 21 | sistance to the State agency.                               |
| 22 | "(B) WAIVERS.—  |
| 23 | "(i) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the                              |
| 24 | case of an overpayment of amounts of pan-                   |
| 25 | demic unemployment assistance—                              |
|    |   |

|    | <u> </u>                             |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | "(I) established on or before De-    |
| 2  | cember 31, 2025, a State agency may  |
| 3  | waive repayment of such amounts      |
| 4  | under subparagraph (A) if the State  |
| 5  | agency determines that—              |
| 6  | "(aa) the payment of such            |
| 7  | pandemic unemployment assist-        |
| 8  | ance was without fault on the        |
| 9  | part of any such individual; and     |
| 10 | "(bb) such repayment would           |
| 11 | be contrary to equity and good       |
| 12 | conscience; and                      |
| 13 | "(II) established after December     |
| 14 | 31, 2025, a State agency shall waive |
| 15 | repayment of such amounts under      |
| 16 | subparagraph (A) if the State agency |
| 17 | determines that—                     |
| 18 | "(aa) the payment of such            |
| 19 | pandemic unemployment assist-        |
| 20 | ance was not based on fraud on       |
| 21 | the part of the individual; and      |
| 22 | "(bb) such repayment would           |
| 23 | be contrary to equity and good       |
| 24 | conscience.                          |
| 25 | "(ii) Additional authority.—         |
|    |                                      |

| 1  | "(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition           |
|----|--|
| 2  | to the waiver authority provided under |
| 3  | clause (i) and subject to subclause    |
| 4  | (II) of this clause, in the case of an |
| 5  | overpayment of amounts of pandemic     |
| 6  | unemployment assistance established    |
| 7  | on or before December 31, 2025, if     |
| 8  | the State agency has not recovered     |
| 9  | such amounts as of the date of enact-  |
| 10 | ment of the Unemployment Insurance     |
| 11 | Integrity and Accessibility Act, the   |
| 12 | State agency may waive repayment of    |
| 13 | such amounts to the State agency if it |
| 14 | determines that—                       |
| 15 | "(aa) the payment of such              |
| 16 | pandemic unemployment assist-          |
| 17 | ance was not based on fraud on         |
| 18 | the part of the individual; and        |
| 19 | "(bb) such repayment would             |
| 20 | be contrary to equity and good         |
| 21 | conscience.                            |
| 22 | "(II) RULE FOR AMOUNTS PRE-            |
| 23 | VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of      |
| 24 | an overpayment of amounts of pan-      |
| 25 | demic unemployment assistance estab-   |
|    |  |

| 10  |
|---|
| lished on or before December 31,                |
| 2025, that has been completely or               |
| partially recovered by the State agen-          |
| cy prior to the date of enactment of            |
| the Unemployment Insurance Integ-               |
| rity and Accessibility Act, with respect        |
| to such amount that has been so re-             |
| covered—  |
| "(aa) the waiver authority                      |
| under subclause (I) of this clause              |
| shall not apply; and                            |
| "(bb) the State agency may                      |
| waive repayment of such recov-                  |
| ered amounts under the authority                |
| under clause (i)(I).                            |
| "(C) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD                |
| CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,     |
| a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq- |
| uity and good conscience if—                    |
| "(i) recovery would cause financial             |
| hardship to the person from whom it is          |
| sought;   |
| "(ii) the recipient of the overpayment          |
| can show (regardless of their financial situ-   |
| ation) that due to the notice that such pay-    |
|   |

| 1  | ment would be made or because of the in-             |
|----|--|
| 2  | correct payment, either they have relin-             |
| 3  | quished a valuable right or changed posi-            |
| 4  | tions for the worse;                                 |
| 5  | "(iii) recovery would be unconscion-                 |
| 6  | able under the circumstances; or                     |
| 7  | "(iv) recovery would be contrary to                  |
| 8  | equity and good conscience under the State           |
| 9  | law.".   |
| 10 | (b) Federal Pandemic Unemployment Com-               |
| 11 | PENSATION AND MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COM-         |
| 12 | PENSATION.—Section $2104(f)(2)$ of the CARES Act (15 |
| 13 | U.S.C. 9023(f)(2)) is amended to read as follows:    |
| 14 | "(2) Repayment and waivers of overpay-               |
| 15 | MENTS.—  |
| 16 | "(A) Repayment.—Subject to subpara-                  |
| 17 | graph (B), in the case of individuals who have       |
| 18 | received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unem-           |
| 19 | ployment Compensation or Mixed Earner Un-            |
| 20 | employment Compensation to which they were           |
| 21 | not entitled, the State shall require such indi-     |
| 22 | viduals to repay the amounts of such Federal         |
| 23 | Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or                |
| 24 | Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation to            |
| 25 | the State agency.                                    |

| 1  | "(B) WAIVERS.—                            |
|----|---|
| 2  | "(i) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the            |
| 3  | case of an overpayment of amounts of Fed- |
| 4  | eral Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-      |
| 5  | tion or Mixed Earner Unemployment Com-    |
| 6  | pensation—                                |
| 7  | "(I) established on or before De-         |
| 8  | cember 31, 2025, a State agency may       |
| 9  | waive repayment of such amounts           |
| 10 | under subparagraph (A) if the State       |
| 11 | agency determines that—                   |
| 12 | "(aa) the payment of such                 |
| 13 | Federal Pandemic Unemploy-                |
| 14 | ment Compensation or Mixed                |
| 15 | Earner Unemployment Com-                  |
| 16 | pensation was without fault on            |
| 17 | the part of any such individual;          |
| 18 | and                                       |
| 19 | "(bb) such repayment would                |
| 20 | be contrary to equity and good            |
| 21 | conscience; and                           |
| 22 | "(II) established after December          |
| 23 | 31, 2025, a State agency shall waive      |
| 24 | repayment of such amounts under           |

| 1  | subparagraph (A) if the State agency   |
|----|--|
| 2  | determines that—                       |
| 3  | "(aa) the payment of such              |
| 4  | Federal Pandemic Unemploy-             |
| 5  | ment Compensation or Mixed             |
| 6  | Earner Unemployment Com-               |
| 7  | pensation was not based on fraud       |
| 8  | on the part of the individual; and     |
| 9  | "(bb) such repayment would             |
| 10 | be contrary to equity and good         |
| 11 | conscience.                            |
| 12 | "(ii) Additional authority.—           |
| 13 | "(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition           |
| 14 | to the waiver authority provided under |
| 15 | clause (i) and subject to subclause    |
| 16 | (II) of this clause, in the case of an |
| 17 | overpayment of amounts of Federal      |
| 18 | Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-        |
| 19 | tion or Mixed Earner Unemployment      |
| 20 | Compensation established on or before  |
| 21 | December 31, 2025, if the State agen-  |
| 22 | cy has not recovered such amounts as   |
| 23 | of the date of enactment of the Unem-  |
| 24 | ployment Insurance Integrity and Ac-   |
| 25 | cessibility Act, the State agency may  |
|    |  |

| 1  | waive repayment of such amounts to     |
|----|--|
| 2  | the State agency if it determines      |
| 3  | that—                                  |
| 4  | "(aa) the payment of such              |
| 5  | Federal Pandemic Unemploy-             |
| 6  | ment Compensation or Mixed             |
| 7  | Earner Unemployment Com-               |
| 8  | pensation was not based on fraud       |
| 9  | on the part of the individual; and     |
| 10 | "(bb) such repayment would             |
| 11 | be contrary to equity and good         |
| 12 | conscience.                            |
| 13 | "(II) RULE FOR AMOUNTS PRE-            |
| 14 | VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of      |
| 15 | an overpayment of amounts of Fed-      |
| 16 | eral Pandemic Unemployment Com-        |
| 17 | pensation or Mixed Earner Unemploy-    |
| 18 | ment Compensation established on or    |
| 19 | before December 31, 2025, that has     |
| 20 | been completely or partially recovered |
| 21 | by the State agency prior to the date  |
| 22 | of enactment of the Unemployment       |
| 23 | Insurance Integrity and Accessibility  |
| 24 | Act, with respect to such amount that  |
| 25 | has been so recovered—                 |

| 1  | "(aa) the waiver authority                      |
|----|---|
| 2  | under subclause (I) of this clause              |
| 3  | shall not apply; and                            |
| 4  | "(bb) the State agency may                      |
| 5  | waive repayment of such recov-                  |
| 6  | ered amounts under the authority                |
| 7  | under clause (i)(I).                            |
| 8  | "(C) Contrary to equity and good                |
| 9  | CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,     |
| 10 | a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq- |
| 11 | uity and good conscience if—                    |
| 12 | "(i) recovery would cause financial             |
| 13 | hardship to the person from whom it is          |
| 14 | sought;   |
| 15 | "(ii) the recipient of the overpayment          |
| 16 | can show (regardless of their financial situ-   |
| 17 | ation) that due to the notice that such pay-    |
| 18 | ment would be made or because of the in-        |
| 19 | correct payment, either they have relin-        |
| 20 | quished a valuable right or changed posi-       |
| 21 | tions for the worse;                            |
| 22 | "(iii) recovery would be unconscion-            |
| 23 | able under the circumstances; or                |

| 1  | "(iv) recovery would be contrary to                  |
|----|--|
| 2  | equity and good conscience under the State           |
| 3  | law.".   |
| 4  | (c) PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COM-             |
| 5  | PENSATION.—Section 2107(e)(2) of the CARES Act (15   |
| 6  | U.S.C. $9025(e)(2)$ ) is amended to read as follows: |
| 7  | "(2) Repayment and waivers of overpay-               |
| 8  | MENTS.—  |
| 9  | "(A) REPAYMENT.—Subject to subpara-                  |
| 10 | graph (B), in the case of individuals who have       |
| 11 | received amounts of pandemic emergency unem-         |
| 12 | ployment compensation to which they were not         |
| 13 | entitled, the State shall require such individuals   |
| 14 | to repay the amounts of such pandemic emer-          |
| 15 | gency unemployment compensation to the State         |
| 16 | agency.  |
| 17 | "(B) WAIVERS.—                                       |
| 18 | "(i) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the                       |
| 19 | case of an overpayment of amounts of pan-            |
| 20 | demic emergency unemployment compensa-               |
| 21 | tion—  |
| 22 | "(I) established on or before De-                    |
| 23 | cember 31, 2025, a State agency may                  |
| 24 | waive repayment of such amounts                      |
|    |  |

| 1  | under subparagraph (A) if the State  |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 2  | agency determines that—              |
| 3  | "(aa) the payment of such            |
| 4  | pandemic emergency unemploy-         |
| 5  | ment compensation was without        |
| 6  | fault on the part of any such in-    |
| 7  | dividual; and                        |
| 8  | "(bb) such repayment would           |
| 9  | be contrary to equity and good       |
| 10 | conscience; and                      |
| 11 | "(II) established after December     |
| 12 | 31, 2025, a State agency shall waive |
| 13 | repayment of such amounts under      |
| 14 | subparagraph (A) if the State agency |
| 15 | determines that—                     |
| 16 | "(aa) the payment of such            |
| 17 | pandemic emergency unemploy-         |
| 18 | ment compensation was not            |
| 19 | based on fraud on the part of the    |
| 20 | individual; and                      |
| 21 | "(bb) such repayment would           |
| 22 | be contrary to equity and good       |
| 23 | conscience.                          |
| 24 | "(ii) Additional authority.—         |
|    |                                      |

| 1  | "(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition           |
|----|--|
| 2  | to the waiver authority provided under |
| 3  | clause (i) and subject to subclause    |
| 4  | (II) of this clause, in the case of an |
| 5  | overpayment of amounts of pandemic     |
| 6  | emergency unemployment compensa-       |
| 7  | tion established on or before Decem-   |
| 8  | ber 31, 2025, if the State agency has  |
| 9  | not recovered such amounts as of the   |
| 10 | date of enactment of the Unemploy-     |
| 11 | ment Insurance Integrity and Accessi-  |
| 12 | bility Act, the State agency may waive |
| 13 | repayment of such amounts to the       |
| 14 | State agency if it determines that—    |
| 15 | "(aa) the payment of such              |
| 16 | pandemic emergency unemploy-           |
| 17 | ment compensation was not              |
| 18 | based on fraud on the part of the      |
| 19 | individual; and                        |
| 20 | "(bb) such repayment would             |
| 21 | be contrary to equity and good         |
| 22 | conscience.                            |
| 23 | "(II) RULE FOR AMOUNTS PRE-            |
| 24 | VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of      |
| 25 | an overpayment of amounts of pan-      |
|    |  |

| 1  | demic emergency unemployment com-               |
|----|---|
| 2  | pensation established on or before De-          |
| 3  | cember 31, 2025, that has been com-             |
| 4  | pletely or partially recovered by the           |
| 5  | State agency prior to the date of en-           |
| 6  | actment of the Unemployment Insur-              |
| 7  | ance Integrity and Accessibility Act,           |
| 8  | with respect to such amount that has            |
| 9  | been so recovered—                              |
| 10 | "(aa) the waiver authority                      |
| 11 | under subclause (I) of this clause              |
| 12 | shall not apply; and                            |
| 13 | "(bb) the State agency may                      |
| 14 | waive repayment of such recov-                  |
| 15 | ered amounts under the authority                |
| 16 | under clause (i)(I).                            |
| 17 | "(C) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD                |
| 18 | CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,     |
| 19 | a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq- |
| 20 | uity and good conscience if—                    |
| 21 | "(i) recovery would cause financial             |
| 22 | hardship to the person from whom it is          |
| 23 | sought;   |
| 24 | "(ii) the recipient of the overpayment          |
| 25 | can show (regardless of their financial situ-   |
|    |   |

| 1  | ation) that due to the notice that such pay-            |
|----|---|
| 2  | ment would be made or because of the in-                |
| 3  | correct payment, either they have relin-                |
| 4  | quished a valuable right or changed posi-               |
| 5  | tions for the worse;                                    |
| 6  | "(iii) recovery would be unconscion-                    |
| 7  | able under the circumstances; or                        |
| 8  | "(iv) recovery would be contrary to                     |
| 9  | equity and good conscience under the State              |
| 10 | law.".  |
| 11 | (d) FEMA DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE.—Section            |
| 12 | 262(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations |
| 13 | Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 5174 note) is amended to read as   |
| 14 | follows:  |
| 15 | "(b) Repayment and Waivers of Overpay-                  |
| 16 | MENTS.—   |
| 17 | "(1) REPAYMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2),               |
| 18 | in the case of individuals who have received amounts    |
| 19 | of covered assistance to which they were not entitled,  |
| 20 | the State shall require such individuals to repay the   |
| 21 | amounts of such covered assistance to the State         |
| 22 | agency.   |
| 23 | "(2) WAIVERS OF OVERPAYMENTS.—                          |

|    | 21  |
|----|---|
| 1  | "(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the case             |
| 2  | of an overpayment of amounts of covered assist- |
| 3  | ance—   |
| 4  | "(i) established on or before Decem-            |
| 5  | ber 31, 2025, a State agency may waive          |
| 6  | repayment of such amounts under para-           |
| 7  | graph (1) if the State agency determines        |
| 8  | that—   |
| 9  | "(I) the payment of such covered                |
| 10 | assistance was without fault on the             |
| 11 | part of any such individual; and                |
| 12 | "(II) such repayment would be                   |
| 13 | contrary to equity and good con-                |
| 14 | science; and                                    |
| 15 | "(ii) established after December 31,            |
| 16 | 2025, a State agency shall waive repay-         |
| 17 | ment of such amounts under paragraph            |
| 18 | (1) if the State agency determines that—        |
| 19 | "(I) the payment of such covered                |
| 20 | assistance was not based on fraud on            |
| 21 | the part of the individual; and                 |
| 22 | "(II) such repayment would be                   |
| 23 | contrary to equity and good con-                |
| 24 | science.  |
| 25 | "(B) Additional Authority.—                     |

| 1  | "(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the          |
|----|--|
| 2  | waiver authority provided under subpara-     |
| 3  | graph (A) and subject to clause (ii) of this |
| 4  | subparagraph, in the case of an overpay-     |
| 5  | ment of amounts of covered assistance es-    |
| 6  | tablished on or before December 31, 2025,    |
| 7  | if the State agency has not recovered such   |
| 8  | amounts as of the date of enactment of the   |
| 9  | Unemployment Insurance Integrity and         |
| 10 | Accessibility Act, the State agency may      |
| 11 | waive repayment of such amounts to the       |
| 12 | State agency if it determines that—          |
| 13 | "(I) the payment of such covered             |
| 14 | assistance was not based on fraud on         |
| 15 | the part of the individual; and              |
| 16 | "(II) such repayment would be                |
| 17 | contrary to equity and good con-             |
| 18 | science.                                     |
| 19 | "(ii) RULE FOR AMOUNTS PRE-                  |
| 20 | VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of an         |
| 21 | overpayment of amounts of covered assist-    |
| 22 | ance established on or before December 31,   |
| 23 | 2025, that has been completely or partially  |
| 24 | recovered by the State agency prior to the   |
| 25 | date of enactment of the Unemployment        |
|    |  |

| 1  | Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act,      |
|----|---|
| 2  | with respect to such amount that has been       |
| 3  | so recovered—                                   |
| 4  | "(I) the waiver authority under                 |
| 5  | clause (i) of this subparagraph shall           |
| 6  | not apply; and                                  |
| 7  | "(II) the State agency may waive                |
| 8  | repayment of such recovered amounts             |
| 9  | under the authority under subpara-              |
| 10 | graph (A)(i).                                   |
| 11 | "(C) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD                |
| 12 | CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this subsection,    |
| 13 | a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq- |
| 14 | uity and good conscience if—                    |
| 15 | "(i) recovery would cause financial             |
| 16 | hardship to the person from whom it is          |
| 17 | sought;   |
| 18 | "(ii) the recipient of the overpayment          |
| 19 | can show (regardless of their financial situ-   |
| 20 | ation) that due to the notice that such pay-    |
| 21 | ment would be made or because of the in-        |
| 22 | correct payment, either they have relin-        |
| 23 | quished a valuable right or changed posi-       |
| 24 | tions for the worse;                            |

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| "(iii) recovery would be unconscion-   |
|--|
| able under the circumstances; or   |
| "(iv) recovery would be contrary to  |
| equity and good conscience under the State   |
| law.".   |
| (e) Ongoing Review and Reports to Con-   |
| GRESS.—  |
| (1) ONGOING REVIEW.—The Comptroller Gen-   |
| eral of the United States (in this subsection referred   |
| to as the "Comptroller General") shall conduct an  |
| ongoing review of the implementation of the provi-   |
| sions of, and the amendments made by, this section.  |
| Such review shall include an analysis of—  |
| (A) whether waivers were properly granted  |
| to individuals who qualified for a waiver;   |
| (B) whether waivers were properly denied   |
| to individuals who did not qualify for a waiver;   |
| and  |
| (C) other matters determined appropriate   |
| by the Comptroller General.  |
| (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the   |
| date of enactment of this subsection, and annually   |
|  |
| until the date that is 3 years after the date of enact-  |
| until the date that is 3 years after the date of enact-<br>ment of this section, the Comptroller General shall |
|  |

| 1  | of the review conducted under paragraph (1), to-   |
|----|--|
| 2  | gether with recommendations for such legislation   |
| 3  | and administrative action as the Comptroller Gen-  |
| 4  | eral determines appropriate.                       |
| 5  | SEC. 103. PERMISSIBLE USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FUND     |
| 6  | MONEY FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.                  |
| 7  | (a) Withdrawal Standard in the Internal            |
| 8  | REVENUE CODE.—Section 3304 of the Internal Revenue |
| 9  | Code of 1986 is amended—                           |
| 10 | (1) in subsection $(a)(4)$ —                       |
| 11 | (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking               |
| 12 | "and" at the end; and                              |
| 13 | (B) by inserting after subparagraph (G)            |
| 14 | the following:                                     |
| 15 | "(H) subject to subsection (h) and except          |
| 16 | as provided in subparagraph (J), of those pay-     |
| 17 | ments of benefits from a State's unemployment      |
| 18 | fund that are determined to have been overpaid     |
| 19 | and are subsequently recovered by the State,       |
| 20 | the State may, immediately following receipt of    |
| 21 | such recovered amount, place a percentage of       |
| 22 | such recovered amount, as specified in State       |
| 23 | law (but not to exceed 5 percent), in a sub-ac-    |
| 24 | count of the State's account in the Unemploy-      |
| 25 | ment Trust Fund from which money may be            |

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withdrawn only for the uses described in subsection (g);

3 "(I) of those payments of contributions (or 4 payments in lieu of contributions) that are col-5 lected as a result of an investigation and assess-6 ment by a State agency, the State may, imme-7 diately following receipt of such payments, place 8 a percentage of such payments, as specified in 9 State law (but not to exceed 5 percent), into 10 the same sub-account of the State's account in 11 the Unemployment Trust Fund described in 12 subparagraph (H) from which money may be withdrawn only for the uses described in sub-13 14 section (g); and

"(J) of those payments of pandemic unem-15 16 ployment assistance under section 2102 of the 17 CARES Act, Federal Pandemic Unemployment 18 Compensation under section 2104 of such Act, 19 Earner Unemployment Compensation Mixed 20 under section 2104 of such Act, or pandemic 21 emergency unemployment compensation under 22 section 2107 of such Act that are determined to 23 have been fraudulently overpaid and are subse-24 quently recovered by the State, the State may, 25 immediately following receipt of such recovered

| 1  | amount, place up to 25 percent of such recov-        |
|----|--|
| 2  | ered amount into the same sub-account of the         |
| 3  | State's account in the Unemployment Trust            |
| 4  | Fund described in subparagraph (H) from              |
| 5  | which money may be withdrawn only for the            |
| 6  | uses described in subsection (g);"; and              |
| 7  | (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-      |
| 8  | sections:  |
| 9  | "(g) PERMISSIBLE USES.—The uses described in this    |
| 10 | subsection are the following:                        |
| 11 | "(1) The payment of costs of deterring, detect-      |
| 12 | ing, and preventing improper unemployment insur-     |
| 13 | ance payments.                                       |
| 14 | "(2) Uses relating to the proper classification of   |
| 15 | employees.   |
| 16 | "(3) Uses relating to the provisions of State        |
| 17 | law implementing section 303(k) of the Social Secu-  |
| 18 | rity Act.  |
| 19 | "(4) The payment to the Secretary of the             |
| 20 | Treasury to the credit of the account of the State   |
| 21 | in the Unemployment Trust Fund.                      |
| 22 | "(5) Modernizing the State's unemployment in-        |
| 23 | surance technology infrastructure.                   |
| 24 | "(6) Improving access to unemployment com-           |
| 25 | pensation and recipiency rates for eligible workers. |
|    |  |

| 1  | "(7) Improving the timely and accurate pay-           |
|----|---|
| 2  | ment of unemployment compensation.                    |
| 3  | "(8) Complying with the requirements of sec-          |
| 4  | tion 303(q) of the Social Security Act.               |
| 5  | "(9) Otherwise improving the administration of        |
| 6  | State and Federal unemployment compensation           |
| 7  | laws.   |
| 8  | "(h) Limitation on Retention of Recovered             |
| 9  | FUNDS.—   |
| 10 | "(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph $(2)$ ,         |
| 11 | subsection $(a)(4)(H)$ shall not apply to a State un- |
| 12 | less the State law provides that, in the case of an   |
| 13 | individual who has received amounts of unemploy-      |
| 14 | ment compensation to which they were not entitled,    |
| 15 | the State agency may waive repayment of such          |
| 16 | amounts to the State agency if it determines that—    |
| 17 | "(A) the payment of such unemployment                 |
| 18 | compensation was not based on fraud on the            |
| 19 | part of the individual; and                           |
| 20 | "(B)(i) the payment of such unemployment              |
| 21 | compensation was due to the error of the State        |
| 22 | agency; or  |
| 23 | "(ii) such repayment would be contrary to             |
| 24 | equity and good conscience.                           |

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| 1  | "(2) Requirement not applicable to pan-              |
| 2  | DEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT.—The requirement under            |
| 3  | paragraph (1) shall not apply to repayments of pan-  |
| 4  | demic unemployment assistance, Federal Pandemic      |
| 5  | Unemployment Compensation, Mixed Earner Unem-        |
| 6  | ployment Compensation, and pandemic emergency        |
| 7  | unemployment compensation.                           |
| 8  | "(3) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD CON-                |
| 9  | SCIENCE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), a     |
| 10 | repayment shall be considered contrary to equity and |
| 11 | good conscience if—                                  |
| 12 | "(A) recovery would cause financial hard-            |
| 13 | ship to the person from whom it is sought;           |
| 14 | "(B) the recipient of the overpayment can            |
| 15 | show (regardless of their financial situation)       |
| 16 | that due to the notice that such payment would       |
| 17 | be made or because of the incorrect payment,         |
| 18 | either they have relinquished a valuable right or    |
| 19 | changed positions for the worse;                     |
| 20 | "(C) recovery would be unconscionable                |
| 21 | under the circumstances; or                          |
| 22 | "(D) the situation meets any other criteria          |
| 23 | as determined by State law.".                        |
| 24 | (b) Definition of Unemployment Fund.—Sec-            |
| 25 | tion 3306(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is |

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amended, in the third sentence, by striking "(exclusive of
 expenses of administration)" and all that follows through
 the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting ",
 except as otherwise provided in section 3304(a)(4) or any
 other provision of Federal law.".

6 (c) WITHDRAWAL STANDARD IN SOCIAL SECURITY
7 ACT.—Section 303(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
8 U.S.C. 503(a)(5)) is amended by striking "exclusive of ex9 penses of administration," and all that follows and insert10 ing "except as otherwise provided in this section, section
11 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
12 other provision of Federal law; and".

13 (d) Immediate Deposit Requirements.—

14 (1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE REQUIRE15 MENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 3304(a) of the In16 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as
17 follows:

"(3) all money received in the unemployment
fund of the State shall immediately upon such receipt be paid over to the Secretary of the Treasury
to the credit of the Unemployment Trust Fund established by section 904 of the Social Security Act
(42 U.S.C. 1104), except for—

24 "(A) refunds of sums erroneously paid into
25 the unemployment fund of the State;

| 1  | "(B) refunds paid in accordance with the                  |
|----|---|
| 2  | provisions of section 3305(b); and                        |
| 3  | "(C) amounts placed in a sub-account of                   |
| 4  | the State's account in the Unemployment Trust             |
| 5  | Fund pursuant to subparagraph (H), (I), or (J)            |
| 6  | of paragraph (4);".                                       |
| 7  | (2) Social security act requirement.—                     |
| 8  | Section $303(a)(4)$ of the Social Security Act (42)       |
| 9  | U.S.C. 503(a)(4)) is amended by striking "(except         |
| 10 | for refunds" and all that follows through "Federal        |
| 11 | Unemployment Tax Act)" and inserting "(except as          |
| 12 | otherwise provided in this section, section               |
| 13 | 3304(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or       |
| 14 | any other provision of Federal law)".                     |
| 15 | (e) Application to Federal Payments.—Section              |
| 16 | 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503) is amended |
| 17 | by adding at the end the following new subsection:        |
| 18 | "(n) Recovery of Federal Payments.—                       |
| 19 | "(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition for admin-                |
| 20 | istering any unemployment compensation program of         |
| 21 | the United States (as defined in paragraph (2)) as        |
| 22 | an agent of the United States, a State shall, with re-    |
| 23 | spect to erroneous payments made under such pro-          |
| 24 | grams by the State, use the authority provided            |
| 25 | under subparagraphs (H) and (I) of section                |
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| 1  | 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in   |
|----|--|
| 2  | the same manner as such authority is used with re-   |
| 3  | spect to erroneous payments made under the State     |
| 4  | unemployment compensation law. With respect to er-   |
| 5  | roneous Federal payments recovered consistent with   |
| 6  | the authority under such subparagraphs (H) and       |
| 7  | (I), the State shall immediately place the same per- |
| 8  | centage of the recovered payments into the same      |
| 9  | sub-account of the State's account in the Unemploy-  |
| 10 | ment Trust Fund as provided in the State law im-     |
| 11 | plementing such section 3304(a)(4).                  |
| 12 | "(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-           |
| 13 | section, the term 'unemployment compensation pro-    |
| 14 | gram of the United States' means—                    |
| 15 | "(A) unemployment compensation for Fed-              |
| 16 | eral civilian employees under subchapter I of        |
| 17 | chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code;           |
| 18 | "(B) unemployment compensation for ex-               |
| 19 | servicemembers under subchapter II of chapter        |
| 20 | 85 of title 5, United States Code;                   |
| 21 | "(C) extended benefits under the Federal-            |
| 22 | State Extended Unemployment Compensation             |
| 23 | Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note);                   |
| 24 | "(D) any Federal temporary extension of              |
| 25 | unemployment compensation;                           |

| 1                          | "(E) any Federal program that increases  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2                          | the weekly amount of unemployment compensa-  |
| 3                          | tion payable to individuals; and   |
| 4                          | "(F) any other Federal program providing   |
| 5                          | for the payment of unemployment compensa-  |
| 6                          | tion, as determined by the Secretary.".  |
| 7                          | (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by   |
| 8                          | this section shall apply to overpayments or payments of  |
| 9                          | contributions (or payments in lieu of contributions) that  |
| 10                         | are collected as a result of an investigation and assessment   |
| 11                         | by the State agency after the earlier of—  |
| 12                         | (1) the date the State changes its statutes, reg-  |
| 13                         | ulations, or policies in order to comply with such   |
| 14                         | amendment; or  |
| 15                         | (2) December 31, 2026.   |
|                            |  |
| 16                         | (g) Implementation.—   |
| 16<br>17                   |  |
|                            | (g) Implementation.—   |
| 17                         | (g) IMPLEMENTATION.—<br>(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after   |
| 17<br>18                   | <ul> <li>(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—</li> <li>(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after<br/>the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary</li> </ul>  |
| 17<br>18<br>19             | <ul> <li>(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—</li> <li>(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after<br/>the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary<br/>of Labor shall provide guidance to States for imple-</li> </ul>   |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20       | <ul> <li>(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—</li> <li>(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after<br/>the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary<br/>of Labor shall provide guidance to States for imple-<br/>menting the amendments made by this section.</li> </ul>              |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21 | <ul> <li>(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—</li> <li>(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Labor shall provide guidance to States for implementing the amendments made by this section.</li> <li>(2) REGULATIONS.—</li> </ul> |

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| 1  | terim final rule to carry out the amendments             |
| 2  | made by section.   |
| 3  | (B) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years                   |
| 4  | after the date of enactment of this section, the         |
| 5  | Secretary of Labor shall issue a final rule to           |
| 6  | carry out the amendments made by section.                |
| 7  | TITLE II-UNEMPLOYMENT IN-                                |
| 8  | SURANCE PROGRAM INTEG-                                   |
| 9  | RITY   |
| 10 | SEC. 201. USE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES IN      |
| 11 | ADMINISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COM-                      |
| 12 | PENSATION PROGRAMS.                                      |
| 13 | Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.        |
| 14 | 503), as amended by section 103(e), is amended by adding |
| 15 | at the end the following new subsection:                 |
| 16 | "(o) USE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW                    |
| 17 | HIRES.—  |
| 18 | "(1) IN GENERAL.—The State agency charged                |
| 19 | with administration of the State law shall have in       |
| 20 | place procedures to—                                     |
| 21 | "(A) compare information in the National                 |
| 22 | Directory of New Hires established under sec-            |
| 23 | tion 453(i) against unemployment compensation            |
| 24 | data to identify any individuals claiming unem-          |
| 25 | ployment compensation who may have become                |
|    |  |

| 1  | employed, in accordance with any regulations or         |
|----|---|
| 2  | guidance that the Secretary of Health and               |
| 3  | Human Services may issue and consistent with            |
| 4  | the computer matching provisions of the Pri-            |
| 5  | vacy Act of 1974;                                       |
| 6  | "(B) take timely action to verify whether               |
| 7  | the individuals identified pursuant to subpara-         |
| 8  | graph (A) are employed; and                             |
| 9  | "(C) upon verification pursuant to sub-                 |
| 10 | paragraph (B), take appropriate action to sus-          |
| 11 | pend or modify unemployment compensation                |
| 12 | payments, and to initiate recovery of any im-           |
| 13 | proper unemployment compensation payments               |
| 14 | that have been made.                                    |
| 15 | "(2) ENFORCEMENT.—Whenever the Secretary                |
| 16 | of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for   |
| 17 | hearing to the State agency charged with the admin-     |
| 18 | istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail- |
| 19 | ure to comply substantially with the requirements of    |
| 20 | paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall notify      |
| 21 | such State agency that further payments will not be     |
| 22 | made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is       |
| 23 | satisfied that there is no longer any such failure.     |
| 24 | Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such      |
|    |   |

| 1  | Secretary shall make no future certification to the     |
|----|---|
| 2  | Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State.    |
| 3  | "(3) Effective date.—The requirements of                |
| 4  | paragraph (1) shall apply to weeks of unemployment      |
| 5  | beginning on or after the earlier of—                   |
| 6  | "(A) the date the State changes its stat-               |
| 7  | utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply       |
| 8  | with such requirements; or                              |
| 9  | "(B) December 31, 2026.".                               |
| 10 | SEC. 202. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT       |
| 11 | COMPENSATION INFORMATION.                               |
| 12 | Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.       |
| 13 | 503), as amended by sections 103(e) and 201, is amended |
| 14 | by adding at the end the following new subsection:      |
| 15 | "(p) Electronic Transmission of Unemploy-               |
| 16 | MENT COMPENSATION INFORMATION.—                         |
| 17 | "(1) IN GENERAL.—The State agency charged               |
| 18 | with administration of the State law shall use a sys-   |
| 19 | tem designated by the Secretary of Labor for auto-      |
| 20 | mated electronic transmission between such State        |
| 21 | agency and employers or their agents of requests for    |
| 22 | information relating to unemployment compensation       |
| 23 | and the provision of such information to such State     |
| 24 | agency.   |
|    |   |
1 (2)EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION.—The Sec-2 retary of Labor shall work with the State agency 3 charged with administration of the State law to in-4 crease the number of employers using the system de-5 scribed in paragraph (1) and to resolve any technical 6 challenges with the system. "(3) Reports on use of electronic sys-7 8 TEM.—Not later than December 31, 2027 (and if 9 subsequently requested by the Committee on Fi-10 nance of the Senate or the Committee on Ways and 11 Means of the House of Representatives, but in no 12 case more once per year)), the Secretary shall sub-13 mit to such Committees a report that contains infor-14 mation on— 15 "(A) the proportion of employers using the 16 designated system described in paragraph (1); 17 "(B) the reasons reported by employers for 18 not using such system; 19 "(C) the efforts that States are under-20 taking to increase employers' use of such sys-21 tem; 22 "(D) which components and functions of 23 such system States and employers in the States 24 are using; and

"(E) other information determined appro priate by the Secretary.

3 "(4) ENFORCEMENT.—Whenever the Secretary 4 of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for 5 hearing to the State agency charged with the admin-6 istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail-7 ure to comply substantially with the requirements of 8 this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall notify 9 such State agency that further payments will not be 10 made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is 11 satisfied that there is no longer any such failure. 12 Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such 13 Secretary shall make no future certification to the 14 Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State. 15 "(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of 16 this subsection shall apply to weeks of unemploy-17 ment beginning on or after the earlier of— 18 "(A) the date the State changes its stat-

19 utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply
20 with such requirements; or

21 "(B) December 31, 2026.".

39 1 SEC. 203. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DATA CROSS-2 MATCHING. 3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)), as amended by section 103, 4 5 is amended— 6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "provision for-" and inserting "provision 7 8 for each of the following:"; 9 (2) at the end of each of paragraphs (1)10 through (10) and paragraph (11)(A), by striking "; 11 and" and inserting a period; and 12 (3) by adding at the end the following new 13 paragraph: 14 "(13) The State agency charged with adminis-15 tration of the State law shall use the system des-16 ignated by the Secretary of Labor for cross-match-17 ing claimants of unemployment compensation under 18 State law against any databases in the system to 19 prevent and detect fraud and improper payments.". 20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by 21 subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment be-22 ginning on or after the earlier of— 23 (1) the date the State changes its statutes, regulations, or policies in order to comply with such 24 25 amendment; or

26 (2) December 31, 2026.

## 1 SEC. 204. INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the Social Secu3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)), as amended by sections 103
4 and 203(a), is amended by adding at the end the following
5 new paragraph:

6 "(14) The regular cross-matching of claimants 7 for unemployment compensation under the State 8 law, or under Federal law administered by the State 9 pursuant to an agreement, with the prisoner infor-10 maintained under sections 202(x)mation and 11 1611(e) by the Social Security Administration or 12 such other repositories of information identifying in-13 dividuals who are incarcerated as the Secretary of 14 Labor may require, for purposes of assisting in the 15 determination of eligibility, subject to appropriate 16 safeguards determined by the disclosing agency to 17 ensure such information is used only for authorized 18 purposes.".

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment be21 ginning on or after the earlier of—

(1) the date the State changes its statutes, regulations, or policies in order to comply with such
amendment; or

25 (2) December 31, 2026.

## 1 SEC. 205. REGULATIONS.

2 (a) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year 3 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Labor shall issue an interim final rule to carry out the 4 5 amendments made by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204. 6 (b) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years after the 7 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Labor 8 shall issue a final rule to carry out the amendments made 9 by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the interim final
rule under subsection (a) and the final rule under subsection (b), the Secretary of Labor shall—

(1) take into account benefit access, benefit
timeliness, program integrity (including fraud prevention), due process, and other factors determined
appropriate by the Secretary;

17 (2) specify—

18 (A) the method and frequency of cross19 matching necessary to minimize susceptibility to
20 fraud while ensuring benefit access and timeli21 ness;

(B) methods to ensure that data used forcross-matching is accurate and up-to-date;

24 (C) methods of evaluating the systems de25 scribed in the amendments made by sections
26 201, 202, 203, and 204 for effectiveness in pre-

venting and detecting fraud and improper pay ments;

3 (D) methods for ensuring that such sys4 tems do not result in the flagging of claims
5 based on the personal characteristics of the ap6 plicant or claimant, such as race, color, religion,
7 sex, national origin, age, disability, or political
8 affiliation or belief;

9 (E) methods for ensuring that such sys-10 tems comply with best practices for privacy and 11 cybersecurity, including ensuring that the cy-12 bersecurity of such systems is consistent with 13 the relevant cybersecurity laws (including regu-14 lations), policies, and standards that would 15 apply if the system were operated by an agency 16 in the executive branch; and

17 (F) other information necessary to ensure
18 proper implementation of the amendments
19 made by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204, as
20 determined appropriate by the Secretary of
21 Labor.

## TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT IN SURANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNOLOGY

## 4 SEC. 301. ACCESS TO BENEFITS.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 503), as amended by sections 103(e), 201,
7 and 202, is amended by adding at the end the following
8 new subsection:

9 "(q) Access to Benefits.—

10 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The State agency charged
11 with administration of the State law shall, in accord12 ance with standards established by the Secretary—

13 "(A) provide guidance to employers in the 14 State on best practices for providing written in-15 formation to employees upon separation from 16 employment regarding how the employee may 17 file a claim for unemployment compensation 18 and how the employee may find more informa-19 tion from the State agency about eligibility cri-20 teria for unemployment compensation;

21 "(B) have processes in place so that em22 ployers may notify the State workforce agency
23 of employees who may apply for unemployment
24 compensation due to layoffs through no fault of
25 the employee, short-term layoffs, business shut-

| downs, partial unemployment, and short-time           |
|---|
| compensation;   |
| "(C) ensure that any online claim filing              |
| system used by the State meets the require-           |
| ments described in paragraph $(2)$ ; and              |
| "(D) ensure that alternate means of claim             |
| filing (such as phone and in-person options) are      |
| available.  |
| "(2) Access requirements for online                   |
| CLAIM FILING.—The requirements described in this      |
| paragraph with respect to an online claim filing sys- |
| tem are the following:                                |
| "(A) The online claim filing system—                  |
| "(i) ensures that the process of filing               |
| initial and continuing claims for unemploy-           |
| ment compensation can be readily under-               |
| stood and accomplished by claimants (in-              |
| cluding individuals with limited English              |
| proficiency, individuals with disabilities (in        |
| compliance with section 508 of the Reha-              |
| bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d)),             |
| older individuals, and individuals with lit-          |
| eracy challenges); and                                |
| "(ii) provides clear methods of seeking               |
| assistance if a claimant is unable to readily         |
|   |

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| 1  | understand or accomplish the process of         |
| 2  | filing initial or continuing claims.            |
| 3  | "(B) The online claim filing system—            |
| 4  | "(i) allows claimants to access the on-         |
| 5  | line claim filing system and file a claim in    |
| 6  | any language spoken at home by more             |
| 7  | than 1 percent of the State's population,       |
| 8  | as determined by the Secretary using data       |
| 9  | from the Bureau of the Census (with such        |
| 10 | translations either completed by human          |
| 11 | translators or, in the case of a translation    |
| 12 | completed by translation software, re-          |
| 13 | viewed by a human translator); and              |
| 14 | "(ii) complies with the requirements            |
| 15 | of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C.      |
| 16 | 301 note), including requirements related       |
| 17 | to providing information that is clear, con-    |
| 18 | cise, and well-organized.                       |
| 19 | "(C) The online claim filing system is de-      |
| 20 | signed to align with the requirements of the    |
| 21 | Connected Government Act and is accessible      |
| 22 | and optimized for all commonly used operating   |
| 23 | systems and web browsers, including operating   |
| 24 | systems and web browsers commonly used on       |
| 25 | desktop computers, tablets, and mobile devices, |

1 such that any features of the online claim filing 2 system (such as the ability to upload docu-3 mentation) that are available in the desktop 4 version of the online claim filing system are also 5 available in the tablet and mobile versions and 6 are available for all operating systems and web 7 browsers commonly used on such devices. 8 "(D) The online claim filing system allows 9 for electronic submission of documentation re-10 quired to support a claim, including the ability 11 of claimants to scan or photograph and submit 12 documentation using a tablet or mobile device. 13 "(E) The online claim filing system allows 14 claimants to access such system 24 hours a 15 day, 7 days a week, with the exception of sched-16 uled and emergency maintenance that shall be 17 conducted, to the extent practicable, at nonpeak 18 hours. 19 "(F) The online claim filing system is ca-20 pable of deploying multiple methods of commu-21 nication with claimants, such as short message 22 service (SMS) message, email, postal mail, live 23 chat, or chatbots.

24 "(3) ENFORCEMENT.—Whenever the Secretary
25 of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for

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| 1  | hearing to the State agency charged with the admin-     |
|----|---|
| 2  | istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail- |
| 3  | ure to comply substantially with the requirements of    |
| 4  | this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall notify    |
| 5  | such State agency that further payments will not be     |
| 6  | made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is       |
| 7  | satisfied that there is no longer any such failure.     |
| 8  | Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such      |
| 9  | Secretary shall make no future certification to the     |
| 10 | Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State.    |
| 11 | "(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of                |
| 12 | this subsection shall apply to weeks of unemploy-       |
| 13 | ment beginning on or after the earlier of—              |
| 14 | "(A) the date the State changes its stat-               |
| 15 | utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply       |
| 16 | with such requirements; or                              |
| 17 | "(B) December 31, 2027.".                               |
| 18 | (b) REGULATIONS.—                                       |
| 19 | (1) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years after            |
| 20 | the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary    |
| 21 | of Labor shall issue a final rule to carry out the      |
| 22 | amendment made by subsection (a).                       |
| 23 | (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the final rule             |
| 24 | under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall       |
| 25 | take into account—                                      |

| 1  | (A) benefit access, benefit timeliness, pro-  |
|--|---|
| 2  | gram integrity (including fraud prevention),  |
| 3  | and due process;  |
| 4  | (B) how States may meet the requirements  |
| 5  | of section 303(q) of the Social Security Act, as  |
| 6  | added by subsection (a), while minimizing sus-  |
| 7  | ceptibility to fraud;   |
| 8  | (C) best practices related to user experi-  |
| 9  | ence, technology modernization, and procure-  |
| 10   | ment, including best practices for minimizing   |
| 11   | the cost of modernization; and  |
| 12   | (D) other factors determined appropriate  |
| 12   | by the Secretary of Labor.  |
| 13   | by the secretary of Hason.  |
|  | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-  |
| 14   |   |
| 14<br>15   | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-  |
| 14<br>15<br>16   | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-  |
| <ol> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> </ol>                         | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17   | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-<br>MENTS.   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18   | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-<br>MENTS.<br>(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19   | <ul> <li>SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br/>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br/>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-<br/>MENTS.</li> <li>(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United<br/>States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller</li> </ul>  |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20   | SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-<br>MENTS. (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United<br>States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller<br>General") shall conduct a study on the obligation and use  |
| <ol> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ol> | <ul> <li>SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-<br/>ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-<br/>TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-<br/>MENTS.</li> <li>(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United<br/>States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller<br/>General") shall conduct a study on the obligation and use<br/>of funds under section 2118 of division A of the CARES</li> </ul> |

1 (1) How the amounts appropriated under such 2 section 2118 are being utilized by the Secretary of 3 Labor and States and territories to detect and pre-4 vent fraud, promote equitable access, and ensure 5 timely payment of benefits under unemployment 6 compensation programs, including the percentage of 7 such amounts that were used for each of the 3 per-8 missible uses under subsection (b) of such section 9 2118.

10 (2)The progress and implementation of 11 projects funded under such section 2118 arising 12 Department of Labor from Tiger Team rec-13 ommendations, including any reasons for deviation 14 negotiated from agreed-upon recommendations 15 issued by Department of Labor Tiger Teams.

16 (3) Outcome metrics used by States and terri17 tories and the Secretary to demonstrate effectiveness
18 of actions taken using the amounts appropriated
19 under such section 2118 in achieving the purposes
20 of detecting and preventing fraud, promoting equi21 table access, and ensuring the timely payment of
22 benefits.

(4) Whether any of the amounts appropriatedunder such section 2118 were used for any purpose

| 1  | other than the 3 permissible uses under subsection     |
|----|--|
| 2  | (b) of such section 2118.                              |
| 3  | (5) The methodology used by the Secretary to           |
| 4  | determine funding allocations of the amounts appro-    |
| 5  | priated under such section 2118.                       |
| 6  | (6) The total amount of unobligated funds re-          |
| 7  | maining under such section 2118.                       |
| 8  | (7) How amounts appropriated under such sec-           |
| 9  | tion 2118 have been used for technology moderniza-     |
| 10 | tion, and whether States and territories have re-      |
| 11 | maining technology modernization needs.                |
| 12 | (8) The total amount awarded under each                |
| 13 | grant, the projects undertaken by each State and       |
| 14 | territory using such grant, the amount allocated for   |
| 15 | each such project, whether such project is complete    |
| 16 | or incomplete, and, if incomplete, an estimate for the |
| 17 | completion of each project.                            |
| 18 | (9) Whether States and territories will be able        |
| 19 | to continue activities to detect and prevent fraud,    |
| 20 | promote equitable access, and ensure timely payment    |
| 21 | of benefits funded with the amounts appropriated       |
| 22 | under such section 2118 when such amounts are ex-      |
| 23 | pended.  |
| 24 | (10) Contracts, grants, cooperative agreements,        |
| 25 | progress reports (including ETA ARPA 9178s), and       |
|    |  |

other supporting documents relating to agreements
 entered into using amounts appropriated under such
 section 2118, and the amount spent on such con tracts, grants, agreements, and progress reports.

5 (11) Any other area determined appropriate by6 the Comptroller General.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date 8 of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall 9 submit to Congress a report containing the results of the 10 study conducted under subsection (a), together with rec-11 ommendations for such legislation and administrative ac-12 tion as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.