

BACK TO WORK BONUS ACT

Providing Relief for American Workers and Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

Section-by-Section

Section 1. Short Title.

This Act may be cited as the “Back to Work Bonus Act.”

Section 2. Time-Limited Back-to-Work Bonuses.

- Allows states to make a one-time, lump sum payment of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, of either \$1,200 or \$600, to individuals receiving unemployment benefits that return to work prior to July 1st.
- The bonus would be available for claimants that return to work for at least four consecutive weeks and make not more than \$75,000 annually in wages.
- Allows a bonus of \$1,200 to individuals who work at least 30 hours per week, and \$600 for individuals who work at least 20 hours, but less than 30.
- Requires verification from an individual's employer of their hours and earnings prior to paying a bonus.

Section 3. Accelerated Funding Increase for Reemployment Services for Unemployed Workers.

- Accelerates a scheduled increase in funding for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA). The bill authorizes an increase in budget authority for RESEA in FY 2022 and FY 2023, from \$133 million to \$433 million; and \$258 million to \$433 million respectively.

Section 4. Eligibility for Reemployment Services.

- Expands the pool of unemployed workers eligible for reemployment services by allowing states to use RESEA funds to serve all workers receiving unemployment benefits, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits.
- Allows states to provide reemployment services to those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

Section 5. Reinstating the Federal Work Search Requirement.

- Reinstates the federal requirement that unemployment claimants certify they are able, available, and actively seeking work. Last March, Congress provided flexibility for states to waive this requirement. Such flexibility was needed when our economy was closed. Re-opening the economy will require connecting all available workers to job openings.