

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2256

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2004

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families 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. ENCOURAGING THE PREPARATION OF TANF**

4                   **RECIPIENTS FOR HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-DEMAND**

5                   **JOBS.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(c)(2)(D) of the Social

7       Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)(D)) is amended to read

8       as follows:

1                     “(D) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PER-  
2                     SONS WHO MAY BE TREATED AS ENGAGED IN  
3                     WORK BY REASON OF PARTICIPATION IN EDU-  
4                     CATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—

5                     “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
6                     vided in clause (ii), for purposes of sub-  
7                     section (b)(1)(B)(i), not more than 30 per-  
8                     cent of the number of individuals in all  
9                     families in a State who are treated as en-  
10                    gaged in work for a month may consist of  
11                    individuals who are—

12                    “(I) determined to be engaged in  
13                     work for the month by reason of par-  
14                     ticipation in vocational educational  
15                     training (but only with respect to such  
16                     training that does not exceed 12  
17                     months with respect to any indi-  
18                     vidual); or

19                    “(II) deemed to be engaged in  
20                     work for the month by reason of sub-  
21                     paragraph (C) of this paragraph.

22                    “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR EDUCATION IN  
23                     PREPARATION FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC,  
24                     HIGH-SKILL OCCUPATIONS TO MEET EM-  
25                     PLOYER DEMAND.—

1                             “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-  
2                             standing clause (i) and subsection  
3                             (d)(8), for purposes of determining  
4                             monthly participation rates under sub-  
5                             section (b)(1)(B)(i) with respect to an  
6                             individual who is enrolled, in prepara-  
7                             tion for a sector-specific, high-skill oc-  
8                             cupation to meet employer demand  
9                             (as defined in subclause (II)), in a  
10                             postsecondary 2- or 4-year degree pro-  
11                             gram or in vocational educational  
12                             training—

13                             “(aa) the State may count  
14                             the number of hours per week  
15                             that the individual attends such  
16                             program or training for purposes  
17                             of determining the number of  
18                             hours for which a family is en-  
19                             gaged in work for the month  
20                             without regard to the 30 percent  
21                             limitation under clause (i); and

22                             “(bb) the individual shall be  
23                             permitted to complete the re-  
24                             quirements of the degree pro-  
25                             gram or vocational educational

1 training within the normal time-  
2 frame for full-time students seek-  
3 ing the particular degree or com-  
4 pleting such vocational edu-  
5 cational training.

1 State with regard to current and  
2 projected employment opportuni-  
3 ties in specific industry sectors  
4 and is consistent with high de-  
5 mand jobs identified in the State  
6 plan in accordance with section  
7 402(a)(1)(A)(vii);  
8 “(bb) that requires occupa-  
9 tional training; and  
10 “(cc) that provides a wage  
11 of at least 75 percent of the  
12 State median hourly wage, as cal-  
13 culated by the Bureau of Labor  
14 Statistics on the basis of the  
15 most recent Occupational Em-  
16 ployment and Wage Survey.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—Section 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 19 602(a)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21                             “(vii) Describe any strategies and pro-  
22                             grams the State plans to use to address  
23                             employment retention and advancement for  
24                             recipients of assistance under the program,  
25                             including placement into high-demand jobs,

1                   and whether the jobs are identified using  
2                   labor market information.”.

3                   (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4    this section take effect on October 1, 2004.

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