

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1759

[Report No. 116-]

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2019

Mrs. MURPHY (for herself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LAHOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

APRIL --, 2019

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 14, 2019]

A BILL

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment compensation, 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 “Building on Reemploy-*
5 *ment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Work-*
6 *ers Act” or the “BRIDGE for Workers Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 *Congress finds the following:*

9 (1) *The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public*
10 *Law 115-123) improved program accountability for*
11 *effectively serving unemployed workers and made a*
12 *significant new investment in reemployment services.*

13 (2) *Research shows the longer workers are out of*
14 *work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills,*
15 *professional network, and stable home life.*

16 (3) *Reemployment services give workers who*
17 *might otherwise struggle to find new jobs the tools*
18 *that they need to get back to work—such as individ-*
19 *ualized career counseling and job search help as well*
20 *as local labor market information—and they can*
21 *serve as an entry point to the workforce development*
22 *system.*

23 (4) *Reemployment services have been dem-*
24 *onstrated to reduce the number of weeks that program*
25 *participants receive unemployment benefits by im-*

1 *proving their employment outcomes, including earn-*
2 *ings.*

3 (5) *Unemployment benefits replace less than half*
4 *of working income, on average, so workers who find*
5 *new jobs quickly suffer less financial hardship.*

6 (6) *Combining targeted reemployment services*
7 *with unemployment benefits helps keep people at-*
8 *tached to the labor force who might otherwise become*
9 *discouraged and drop out.*

10 (7) *The Congressional Budget Office estimates*
11 *that, over time, investments in reemployment services*
12 *create savings for taxpayers and unemployment trust*
13 *funds by reducing spending on unemployment bene-*
14 *fits.*

15 (8) *Many different types of workers can benefit*
16 *from reemployment services. Reemployment services*
17 *should be used to shorten the duration of unemploy-*
18 *ment for workers even if they are not projected to*
19 *fully exhaust their unemployment benefits.*

20 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.**

21 *Section 306(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
22 *506(a)) is amended—*

23 (1) *by striking “individuals referred to reem-*
24 *ployment services as described in section 303(j)” and*
25 *inserting “claimants for unemployment compensa-*

- 1 *tion, including claimants referred to reemployment*
2 *services as described in section 303(j),”; and*
3 *(2) by striking “such individuals” and inserting*
4 *“such claimants”.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.”.