



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To support both workers and recovery by converting expanded Federal unemployment payments into signing bonuses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To support both workers and recovery by converting expanded Federal unemployment payments into signing bonuses.

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 “National Signing
5 Bonus Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SIGNING 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 up to 2 lump-
9 sum payments (in this paragraph referred to as
10 the ‘first lump-sum payment’ and the ‘second
11 lump-sum payment’) to each individual who—

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

15 “(I) any week beginning after the
16 date of enactment of the National
17 Signing Bonus Act of 2021; and

18 “(II) at least the 8 weeks imme-
19 diately preceding the week under sub-
20 clause (I);

21 “(ii) is no longer eligible for Federal
22 Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
23 under paragraph (1) (as determined by the
24 State), as a result of earnings due to com-
25 mencing employment with an employer by

1 whom the individual has not been em-
2 ployed during the preceding 6 months; and

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

5 “(I) has been employed by a non-
6 governmental employer throughout—

7 “(aa) in the case of the first
8 lump-sum payment, the individ-
9 ual’s first qualifying period; and

10 “(bb) in the case of the sec-
11 ond lump-sum payment, the indi-
12 vidual’s second qualifying period;
13 and

14 “(II) remains employed with an
15 intent to continue such employment.

16 “(B) AMOUNT.—

17 “(i) FIRST LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—

18 With respect to the first qualifying period,
19 a payment made to an individual under
20 this paragraph shall be paid in a lump sum
21 amount of \$1,212.

22 “(ii) SECOND LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—

23 With respect to the second qualifying pe-
24 riod, a payment made to an individual

1 under this paragraph shall be paid in a
2 lump sum amount of \$1,212.

3 “(C) QUALIFYING PERIODS.—

4 “(i) FIRST QUALIFYING PERIOD.—For
5 purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘first
6 qualifying period’ means, with respect to
7 an individual, a period—

8 “(I) beginning on the date the in-
9 dividual commenced employment as
10 described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

11 “(II) extending at least 4 con-
12 secutive weeks from such date.

13 “(ii) SECOND QUALIFYING PERIOD.—
14 For purposes of this paragraph, the term
15 ‘second qualifying period’ means, with re-
16 spect to an individual, a period—

17 “(I) beginning on the date the in-
18 dividual commenced employment as
19 described in subparagraph (A)(ii)
20 (with the same employer with whom
21 the individual qualified for the first
22 lump-sum payment under this para-
23 graph); and

24 “(II) extending at least 8 con-
25 secutive weeks from such date.

1 “(D) DURATION.—A first or second lump-
2 sum payment may not be made to any indi-
3 vidual under this paragraph with respect to a
4 first or second qualifying period beginning on
5 or after July 4, 2021.

6 “(E) EMPLOYER VERIFICATION REQUIRED
7 FOR BOTH LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS.—Before
8 making the first and second lump-sum payment
9 to an individual pursuant to this paragraph, a
10 State agency shall require verification from the
11 individual’s employer—

12 “(i) of the individual’s employment
13 status;

14 “(ii) of the wages paid to the indi-
15 vidual during the applicable qualifying pe-
16 riod; and

17 “(iii) of the hours worked by the indi-
18 vidual during the applicable qualifying pe-
19 riod.

20 “(F) LIMITATION.—A State may not pro-
21 vide more than one first lump-sum payment
22 and one second lump-sum payment under this
23 paragraph to an individual.

24 “(G) SPECIAL RULE.—Payments made
25 pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph

1 shall not be considered to violate the withdrawal
2 requirements of section 303(a)(5) of the Social
3 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)(5)) or section
4 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of
5 1986.”.

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

8 (1) in subsections (d) and (f), by inserting “,
9 payments under subsection (b)(4),” after “Federal
10 Pandemic Unemployment Compensation” each place
11 it appears; and

12 (2) in subsection (g)—

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

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

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

18 “(3) the purposes of the preceding provisions of
19 this section, as such provisions apply with respect to
20 payments under subsection (b)(4), shall be applied
21 with respect to unemployment benefits described in
22 subsection (i)(2) to the same extent and in the same
23 manner as if those benefits were regular compensa-
24 tion.”.