

# **The Heroes Act: Manager's Amendment**

## **Division A**

Technical correction to the title of the legislation.

Adds \$309 million for rural rental assistance and ensures prevailing wage requirements are applied to the ReConnect program (rural broadband) under the CARES Act.

Authorizes a study by the National Academy of Sciences regarding COVID disinformation.

Clarification to DC's eligibility for county funding under Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund.

Ensures Election Assistance Commission Grants are disbursed by population.

Removes the application of certain Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program waivers for fiscal year 2020 funds appropriated in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-93).

Aligns appropriations and authorization text for environmental justice grants.

Changes the period of availability for Department of Labor program administration funding.

Provides Occupational Safety and Health Administration funding to enforce standards included in this Act.

Clarifies that funding can be used for adult protective services through the Elder Justice Act.

Includes a reference to the relevant authorizing section in this Act.

Clarifies that Governors must reserve a portion of higher education State Fiscal Stabilization Fund funding to make minimum grants to qualifying institutions of higher education.

Clarifies that supplemental afterschool programs are an allowable use of State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grants and that tuition is an allowable expense for student grants.

Makes modifications to State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Maintenance of Effort requirements. Requires the Secretary of Education to reserve funds for Higher Education minimum grants to qualifying institutions.

Directs the Secretary of Education to issue an application for institutions of higher education to demonstrate need with various requirements.

Clarifies the funding formula for equitable services to non-public school students in the CARES Act.

Technical amendments to budgetary effects language.

Makes additional technical and conforming changes.

### **Division B**

Provides that employers of domestic workers who are not otherwise engaged in a trade or business are eligible for the employee retention tax credit for retaining such domestic workers, and coordinates relevant double benefit rules.

Clarifies that the share of the \$9.6 billion in additional funding from the Social Services Block Grant states are required to pass through to local governments and organizations is 50 percent.

Clerical, technical and conforming changes.

### **Division C**

Clarifies the scope of the extension of 1115 waivers.

Technical amendment to conform with the CARES Act.

Adds a risk mitigation program for Medicare Advantage to reduce premium increases as a result of the uncertainty from COVID-19.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revert to initial volume decrease adjustment calculations that were subsequently amended by Medicare administrative contractors for Medicare payments to certain rural hospitals.

Technical adjustment to the Medicare inpatient hospital wage index to permit certain reclassifications.

Adds a risk mitigation program for individual and small group market health plans to reduce premium increases as a result of the uncertainty from COVID-19.

Adds a risk mitigation program for large employer health plans to reduce premium increases as a result of the uncertainty from COVID-19.

Technical and clarifying edits to Sec. 30611

Adds a new Title VII to Division C and clarifies that no person shall be excluded from participation under the law based on any non-merit based factors.

### **Division F**

Technical, conforming and clarifying changes.

Strikes the section waiving the non-Federal fund matching requirement under the emergency food assistance program (TEFAP).

Amends the renewable fuel reimbursement program definition of “qualified fuel” for specificity and clarifies that such fuel must be domestically produced.

Includes a provision in section 60102 to prevent payments in excess of the value of a loss when combined with payments under section 60306.

### **Division H**

Clarifies that unemployed and uninsured veterans will receive VA health care 12 months from the date on which an uninsured veteran applies for VA health care, and makes a technical correction.

Strikes section 80015, which is a duplicate of section 30402, eliminating copays for VA-provided COVID-19 treatment.

### **Division I**

Clarifies the eligibility of eligible entities.

Prohibits PPP assistance for lobbyists salaries.

Prohibits covered loans to certain nonprofits engaged in election and campaign activities.

Expands the forgiveness safe harbor and the allowable use and forgiveness of expenditures for PPE.

Reduces the cost of the division.

Removes duplicative sections.

Corrects the maximum payment deferral period.

### **Division K**

Clarifies that Federal Reserve reports required under Section 110204 describing lending to residential property owners are monthly.

Clarifies the eligibility for the Federal Reserve’s Main Street Lending Program (MSLP) loans described in Section 110604 includes public universities, nonprofits that are eligible to receive PPP loans, and excludes certain 501(c)4 organizations that make campaign contributions.

Clarifies that loans provided under the MSLP to non-profits will not accrue interest during the payment deferral period.

Clarifies that MSLP loans provided to small businesses and small non-profits under Section 110605 that are not subject to a minimum loan size will have payment deferrals without interest accruing, and that such forgivable loans described in this section are also available to small public universities.

Limits the eligibility for private student loan protections including loan forgiveness provided in Sections 110501 and 110502 to economically distressed borrowers.

#### **Division M**

Technical and conforming edit.

#### **Division O**

Clarifies the relationship between state authorizers and private non-profit institutions for purposes of the Institutional Stabilization Program.

Targets the \$10,000 federal student loan debt relief to economically distressed borrowers and makes other technical corrections to student debt relief provisions.

Clarifies language to reflect the existing obligations of the Secretary of Education related to the handling of borrower defense to repayment claims.

#### **Division Q**

Makes technical amendments and changes allocations to the Labor Department to conduct outreach for the Heroes Fund from a percentage of appropriated amounts to a flat dollar amount of \$3 million

#### **Division R**

Makes technical clarifications and technical corrections pertaining to the Pandemic-EBT program.

Adds an authorization of appropriations for Sec. 180002, Emergency Costs for Child Nutrition Programs During COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **Division S**

Clarifies that certain Bureau of Prisons provisions in the bill cover prisoners housed by BOP who were sentenced under the District of Columbia Code.

Amends the America COMPETES Act to require every federal agency that funds, conducts or oversees scientific research to develop, adopt, and enforce a scientific integrity policy in accordance with the requirements in the amendment.

Amends section 190405 which directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide onetime grants to States, Tribes, and Territories for disease surveillance activities to waive any matching requirements for grant funds, to include USGS in coordinating surveillance activities, and to specify maximum grant amounts.

Makes technical amendments for conforming terms and definitions for the grants to states and tribal workforce agencies.

Removes duplicate tribal related health provision.

Further clarifies that the prohibition on involuntary furloughs of employees of airlines or contractors receiving financial assistance from the Treasury Department must last through September 30, 2020, or the date on which the financial assistance is fully exhausted, whichever date occurs later.

Extends to January 31, 2021 the enhanced benefit payment provided to railroaders receiving regular weeks or extended weeks of benefits and extends the enhanced benefit to March 31, 2021 for railroaders receiving regular weeks of unemployment benefits.

Extends the window to apply for the 13-week of extended benefits (provided by CARES) until January 31, 2021. Railroaders already receiving such benefits on February 1, 2021 can continue receiving the extra weeks of benefits, but all weeks stop on April 1, 2021.

Extends to January 31, 2021 the end date for waiving the 7-day waiting period for railroaders seeking unemployment or sickness benefits (both of which are provided under Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act).