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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 699 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, BARTOLOTTA, BAKER AND YUDICHAK,  
MAY 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 20, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937  
2 P.L.2897, No.1), entitled "An act establishing a system of  
3 unemployment compensation to be administered by the  
4 Department of Labor and Industry and its existing and newly  
5 created agencies with personnel (with certain exceptions)  
6 selected on a civil service basis; requiring employers to  
7 keep records and make reports, and certain employers to pay  
8 contributions based on payrolls to provide moneys for the  
9 payment of compensation to certain unemployed persons;  
10 providing procedure and administrative details for the  
11 determination, payment and collection of such contributions  
12 and the payment of such compensation; providing for  
13 cooperation with the Federal Government and its agencies;  
14 creating certain special funds in the custody of the State  
15 Treasurer; and prescribing penalties," in preliminary  
16 provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in  
17 unemployment compensation fund and administration fund,  
18 establishing the Return to Work Grant Program and the Return  
19 to Work Grant Fund.

20 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. Section 4 of the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd  
23 Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment  
24 Compensation Law, is amended by adding subsections to read:

25 Section 4. Definitions.--The following words and phrases, as  
26 used in this act, shall have the following meanings, unless the

1 context clearly requires otherwise.

2 \* \* \*

3 (n.1) "Return to Work Grant Fund" means the fund established  
4 under section 610.

5 (n.2) "Return to Work Grant Program" means the program  
6 established under section 610.

7 \* \* \*

8 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

9 Section 610. Return to Work Grant Program.--(a) The Return  
10 to Work Grant Program is established within the department.

11 (b) No later than one month after the effective date of this  
12 section, the department shall develop an online form regarding  
13 the Return to Work Grant Program for individuals to use to  
14 verify employment and removal from unemployment benefits. The  
15 form shall be posted on the publicly accessible Internet website  
16 of the department.

17 (c) From the money appropriated under this section, an  
18 individual who leaves the unemployment compensation system and  
19 returns to the work force shall be eligible for a grant of one  
20 thousand dollars (\$1,000).

21 (d) To qualify for a grant under this section, an individual  
22 shall:

23 (1) certify that the individual is no longer receiving  
24 unemployment benefits and has been employed for a minimum of  
25 thirty-two hours per week for a period of four consecutive  
26 weeks; and

27 (2) return to work no later than July 15, 2021.

28 (e) An individual is limited to receiving only one grant  
29 under this section.

30 (f) An application for a grant under this section must be

1 received by the department no later than August 31, 2021.

2 (g) The Return to Work Grant Fund is established in the  
3 State Treasury. The following apply:

4 (1) In addition to any other money appropriated to the  
5 department for grants under this section, the sum of one hundred  
6 million dollars (\$100,000,000) is appropriated to the department  
7 from money received by the Commonwealth under Title IX, Subtitle  
8 M, section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public  
9 Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) and deposited into the Return to Work  
10 Grant Fund for the purpose of supporting the Return To Work  
11 Grant Program.

12 (2) Money deposited into the Return to Work Grant Fund shall  
13 be allocated in accordance with this section.

14 (3) Any excess funds remaining in the Return to Work Grant  
15 Fund after all applications have been processed shall be  
16 returned to the General Fund.

17 (4) The Return to Work Grant Program is closed when the  
18 Return To Work Grant Fund balance becomes zero.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.