

Bingaman Amendment to the WORK Act #3

Sponsor: Senator Bingaman

Purpose: To provide flexibility to states to implement innovative welfare reform programs that best respond to the characteristics of their TANF caseloads, and labor market conditions within the state.

Background: Many states operating under waivers since 1996 have implemented innovative welfare reform programs that have been highly successful, and that have allowed those states to tailor their welfare reform programs to meet the needs of participants and employers. Other states should be provided with the option to seek a waiver to implement these proven strategies.

Text of the Amendment: Any state may submit a waiver application on terms similar or identical to states that are successfully implementing innovative programs under waivers and the Secretary shall approve the application. A waiver granted under this provision shall be in effect no longer than 4 years. At the end of the waiver period, the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver and may extend the waiver if this evaluation demonstrates that the program has been effective.

Text of the Amendment: Any state may submit a waiver application on terms similar or identical to states that are successfully implementing innovative programs under waivers and the Secretary shall approve the application. A waiver granted under this provision shall be in effect no longer than 4 years. At the end of the waiver period, the Secretary shall review documentation of the effectiveness of the waiver provided by the state and may extend the waiver if this documentation provided adequately demonstrates that the program has been effective.