

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1264

To streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

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 “Commonsense Report-
5 ing Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Department of the Treasury and the
2 Internal Revenue Service should work together with
3 other relevant departments and agencies to identify
4 and implement methods to minimize compliance bur-
5 dens on businesses, insurance carriers, and individ-
6 uals.

7 (2) Such collaboration should strike an appro-
8 priate balance between sufficient reporting to en-
9 force the law and protecting the privacy of individ-
10 uals.

11 **SEC. 3. VOLUNTARY PROSPECTIVE REPORTING SYSTEM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
14 Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, and the Admin-
16 istrator of the Small Business Administration, shall de-
17 velop and implement guidance providing for a prospective
18 reporting system meeting the requirements of subsection
19 (b). Such system shall be available for use by employers
20 on a voluntary basis beginning not later than January 1,
21 2024.

22 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The system created under sub-
23 section (a) shall include—

24 (1) voluntary reporting by each participating
25 employer that offers minimum essential coverage to

1 its full-time employees and their dependents under
2 an eligible employer-sponsored plan, not later than
3 45 days before the first day of the annual open en-
4 rollment period under section 1311(c)(6)(B) of the
5 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
6 U.S.C. 18031(c)(6)(B)) for each calendar year, of—

7 (A) the name and employer identification
8 number for purposes of section 6056 of the In-
9 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 of the employer;

10 (B) a certification of—

11 (i) whether coverage meeting the defi-
12 nition of minimum essential coverage in
13 section 5000A(f) of the Internal Revenue
14 Code of 1986 is offered to the full-time
15 employees (within the meaning of section
16 4980H of such Code) of the employer;

17 (ii) whether such coverage is offered
18 to part-time employees of the employer;

19 (iii) whether such coverage is offered
20 to dependents of employees;

21 (iv) whether such coverage is offered
22 to spouses of employees;

23 (v) whether such coverage meets the
24 minimum value requirement of section
25 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of such Code;

1 (vi) whether such coverage satisfies
2 the requirements to qualify for one of the
3 affordability safe harbors promulgated by
4 the Secretary of the Treasury for purposes
5 of section 4980H of such Code; and

6 (vii) whether the employer reasonably
7 expects to be liable for any shared respon-
8 sibility payment under section 4980H of
9 such Code for such year;

10 (C) the months during the prospective re-
11 porting period that such coverage is available to
12 individuals described in clauses (i) through (iv)
13 of subparagraph (B);

14 (D) what waiting periods, if any, apply
15 with respect to such coverage; and

16 (E) a list of all employer identification
17 numbers of the employer for entities that em-
18 ploy employees within the employers control
19 group under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of
20 section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code for
21 1986;

22 (2) processes necessary to ensure that Ex-
23 changes, the Federal Marketplace Data Services
24 Hub, and the Internal Revenue Service can securely
25 and confidentially access the information described

1 in paragraph (1) as necessary to carry out their re-
2 spective missions, and to provide to the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services additional information
4 relating to eligibility determinations for advance pay-
5 ment of the premium tax credits under section 36B
6 of such Code and the cost-sharing subsidies under
7 section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Afford-
8 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071);

9 (3) a process to allow Exchanges to follow up
10 with employers in order to obtain additional reason-
11 ably necessary information relating to an employee's
12 eligibility for such advance payment or such cost-
13 sharing subsidies, and to allow an employee to re-
14 ceive notification of any problem in verifying such
15 eligibility; and

16 (4) a process to allow employers using the sys-
17 tem to provide timely updates to the Federal Mar-
18 ketplace Data Services Hub regarding any cancella-
19 tion of coverage or significant change in coverage for
20 participating employees that would change the infor-
21 mation reported under paragraph (1).

22 (c) EMPLOYER NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE EN-
23 ROLLMENT IN EXCHANGE PLANS.—Subparagraph (J) of
24 section 1311(d)(4) of the Patient Protection and Afford-
25 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(d)(4)(J)) is amended by

1 striking “to each employer” and all that follows through
2 “(and the effective date of such cessation); and” and in-
3 serting “to each employer—

4 “(i) the name of each employee of the
5 employer who enrolls in a qualified health
6 plan for a plan year, or whose dependents
7 enroll in such a plan, at the time of such
8 enrollment; or

9 “(ii) the name of each employee of the
10 employer described in subparagraph (I)(ii)
11 who ceases coverage under a qualified
12 health plan during a plan year (and the ef-
13 fective date of such cessation); and”.

14 (d) EXEMPTION FROM REPORTING REQUIREMENT
15 UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section
16 6056 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended
17 by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and by
18 inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

19 “(f) EXEMPTION.—If, through the system created
20 pursuant to section 3(a) of the Commonsense Reporting
21 Act of 2023, an employer provides prospective reporting
22 for any calendar year that meets the requirements of sec-
23 tion 3(b)(1) of such Act, such employer shall be treated
24 as satisfying the return requirements of subsections (a),
25 (b), and (c) for such year.”.

1 (e) THIRD-PARTY FILING.—An employer may con-
2 tract with a third party to make the report under sub-
3 section (b)(1) without affecting the employer’s treatment
4 as having satisfied the return requirements of subsections
5 (a) and (b) of section 6056 of the Internal Revenue Code
6 of 1986.

7 (f) ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW
8 HIRES.—Subsection (i)(3) of section 453 of the Social Se-
9 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 653) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new sentence: “The Secretary of the
11 Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
12 ices shall have access to the information in the National
13 Directory of New Hires for purposes of administering sec-
14 tion 36B and 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code of
15 1986 and section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Af-
16 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071). Subsection (k)(3)
17 shall not apply to information received for purposes of the
18 administration of such sections 36B and 4980H of such
19 Code and section 1402 of such Act.”.

20 (g) IMPROVING EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO ACCURATE
21 EINS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall de-
23 velop and implement guidance for allowing any employee
24 of an employer to receive, on request, the employer’s em-
25 ployer identification number for purposes of section 6056

1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Employers shall
2 provide the employer's employer identification number for
3 purposes of section 6056 of the Internal Revenue Code
4 of 1986 on employee pay statements.

5 (h) FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY PROSPECTIVE RE-
6 PORTING SYSTEM.—There is authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary
8 of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor,
9 and the Administrator of the Small Business Administra-
10 tion such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

11 **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF DEPENDENT PRIVACY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 6055(b)
13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by add-
14 ing at the end the following flush sentence:

15 “For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i), in the case of
16 an individual other than the primary insured, if the health
17 insurance issuer or the employer is unable to collect or
18 maintain information on the TINs of such individuals
19 (other than for purposes of this section), the Secretary
20 may allow the individual's full name and date of birth to
21 be substituted for the name and TIN. In the event the
22 Secretary allows the use of the individual's full name and
23 date of birth in lieu of the TIN, the Social Security Ad-
24 ministration shall assist the Internal Revenue Service in
25 providing data matches to determine the TIN associated

1 with the name and date of birth provided by the Internal
2 Revenue Service with respect to such individual.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 this section shall apply to returns the due date for which
5 is after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 5. ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of section 6056 of
9 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding
10 at the end the following new paragraph:

11 “(3) **ELECTRONIC DELIVERY.**—An individual
12 shall be deemed to have consented to receive the
13 statement under this subsection in electronic form if
14 such individual has affirmatively consented at any
15 prior time, to the person who is the employer of the
16 individual during the calendar year to which the
17 statement relates, to receive such statement in elec-
18 tronic form. The preceding sentence shall not apply
19 if the individual revokes consent in writing with re-
20 spect to the statement under this subsection.”.

21 (b) **STATEMENTS RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE**
22 **COVERAGE.**—Subsection (c) of section 6055 of the Inter-
23 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new paragraph:

1 “(3) ELECTRONIC DELIVERY.—An individual
2 shall be deemed to have consented to receive the
3 statement under this subsection in electronic form if
4 such individual has affirmatively consented at any
5 prior time, to the person required to make such
6 statement (such as the provider of the individual’s
7 health coverage), to receive in electronic form any
8 private health information (such as electronic health
9 records), unless the individual revokes such consent
10 in writing.”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this section shall apply to statements the due date for
13 which is after December 31, 2023.

14 **SEC. 6. TIME FOR APPEAL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(d) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new paragraph:

18 “(4) TIME FOR APPEAL.—The Secretary shall
19 allow an applicable large employer 90 days from the
20 date of the first letter which allows the employer an
21 opportunity for administrative review of a proposed
22 employer shared responsibility payment under this
23 section by the Internal Revenue Service Independent
24 Office of Appeals to appeal the proposed assessment

1 of such payment before issuing the notice and de-
2 mand for payment under paragraph (1).”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 this section shall apply to assessments in taxable years be-
5 ginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 7. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON PENALTY ASSESS-**
7 **MENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(d) of the Internal
9 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 6, is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
11 graph:

12 “(5) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON PENALTY
13 ASSESSMENT.—With respect to an assessment of an
14 assessable payment under paragraph (1), the statu-
15 tory period for such assessment shall expire at the
16 end of the 3-year period beginning on the date the
17 employer files the return under section 6056 for the
18 calendar year with respect to which such payment is
19 determined.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 this section shall apply to proposed assessments with re-
22 spect to which a letter described in section 4980H(d)(4)
23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this
24 section) is issued in taxable years beginning after the date

1 which is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 8. GAO STUDIES.**

4 (a) STUDY OF FIRST YEARS OF EMPLOYER REPORT-
5 ING.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
7 the United States shall conduct a study that evalu-
8 ates, with respect to the period beginning on Janu-
9 ary 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2022—

10 (A) the notification of employers by Ex-
11 changes established under title I of the Patient
12 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public
13 Law 111–148) that a full-time employee of the
14 employer has been determined eligible for ad-
15 vance payment of premium tax credits under
16 section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986 or cost-sharing subsidies under section
18 1402 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18071), including
19 information regarding—

20 (i) the data elements included in the
21 employer notification;

22 (ii) the process by which the notifica-
23 tion forms were developed and sent to em-
24 ployers, including whether the process pro-

1 provided for a formal notice and comment pe-
2 riod;

3 (iii) whether employers report that
4 such notifications provided sufficient and
5 relevant information for them to make ap-
6 propriate decisions about whether to utilize
7 the appeals process;

8 (iv) the total number of notifications
9 sent to employers and the timeline of when
10 such notifications were sent;

11 (v) differences in the notification proc-
12 ess between the marketplace facilitated by
13 the Federal Government and the State-
14 Based Marketplaces; and

15 (vi) challenges that have arisen in the
16 notification process, and recommendations
17 to address these challenges; and

18 (B) the extent to which the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services has established a
20 separate appeals process for employers who re-
21 ceived such a notification to challenge the eligi-
22 bility determination, as required by section
23 1411(f)(2) of the Patient Protection and Af-
24 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18081(f)(2)).

1 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
3 General shall submit to the Committees on Finance
4 and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
5 Senate and the Committees on Ways and Means,
6 Energy and Commerce, and Education and the
7 Workforce of the House of Representatives a report
8 on the results of the study conducted under para-
9 graph (1).

10 (b) STUDY OF PROSPECTIVE REPORTING SYSTEM.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
12 the United States shall conduct a study that evalu-
13 ates, with respect to the period beginning on Janu-
14 ary 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, the
15 functionality of the prospective reporting system es-
16 tablished pursuant to section 3, including the accu-
17 racy of information collected, the number of employ-
18 ers electing to report under such system, and any
19 challenges that have arisen in implementing such
20 system.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2025, the
22 Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees
23 on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
24 sions of the Senate and the Committees on Ways
25 and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education

1 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives
2 a report on the results of the study conducted under
3 paragraph (1).

4 **SEC. 9. TAX COMPLIANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6724(d)(1)(B)(xxv) of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting
7 “or, in the case of an employer to which section 6056(f)
8 applies, section 3(b)(1) of the Commonsense Reporting
9 Act of 2023” before “, or”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 this section shall apply to returns required to be filed after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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