

## S 3496

### Preventing Layoffs During a Public Health Emergency Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Mar 12, 2020

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1)

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1743-1744) (Mar 12, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3496>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** RI • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 12, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 12, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 748	Related bill	<b>Jul 23, 2020:</b> Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 116-517.

## Preventing Layoffs During a Public Health Emergency Act of 2020

This bill provides 100% of temporary federal financing of limited short-time compensation (STC) payments in certain states where a public health emergency has been declared. (STC, also known as work sharing, is a program within the federal-state unemployment system that provides pro-rated unemployment compensation to workers whose hours have been reduced in lieu of a layoff.)

The term *public health emergency* means a public health emergency declared for an area by (1) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or (2) a state public health official with the authority to declare such an emergency for the area.

Certain states without a STC program may enter into an agreement with the Department of Labor under which Labor will temporarily finance 50% of the state's STC payments.

If such a state subsequently enacts a state law implementing a STC program that meets federal requirements it shall be ineligible for such 50% financing; however, it shall be eligible for the 100% financing.

Labor must

- develop and provide model legislative language for states to develop and enact STC programs, including periodically reviewing and revising such language;
- provide technical assistance and guidance in developing, enacting, and implementing STC programs; and
- establish certain STC reporting requirements.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 12, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 12, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1743-1744)