114th Congress 1st Session S.
To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that employees are not misclassified as non-employees, and for other purposes.
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
Mr. Casey introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on
A BILL To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that employees are not misclassified as non-employees and for other purposes.
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 "Payroll Fraud Preven
5 tion Act of 2015".
6 SEC. 2. CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES AND NON-EM
7 PLOYEES.
8 (a) Definitions.—Section 3 of the Fair Labo

9 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203) is amended by

10 adding at the end the following:

1	(z) Non-employee means an individual who—
2	"(1) a person has engaged, in the course of the
3	trade or business of the person, for the performance
4	of labor or services; and
5	"(2) is not an employee of the person.
6	"(aa) 'Covered individual' when used with respect to
7	an employer or other person means—
8	"(1) an employee of the employer; or
9	"(2) a non-employee of the person (including ϵ
10	person who is an employer)—
11	"(A) whom the person has engaged, in the
12	course of the trade or business of the person
13	for the performance of labor or services; and
14	"(B)(i) with respect to whom the person is
15	required to file an information return under
16	section 6041A(a) of the Internal Revenue Code
17	of 1986; or
18	"(ii) who is providing labor or services to
19	the person through an entity that is a trust, es-
20	tate, partnership, association, company, or cor-
21	poration (as such terms are used in section
22	7701(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of
23	1986) if—
24	"(I) such individual has an ownership
25	interest in the entity;

1	"(II) creation or maintenance of such
2	entity is a condition for the provision of
3	such labor or services to the person; and
4	"(III) the person would be required to
5	file an information return for the entity
6	under section 6041A(a) of the Internal
7	Revenue Code of 1986 if the entity was an
8	individual.".
9	(b) Classification as Employees.—Section 11(c)
10	of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.
11	211(e)) is amended—
12	(1) by striking "(c) Every employer subject to
13	any provision of this Act or of any order issued
14	under this Act" and inserting the following:
15	"(c) Recordkeeping; Classification; Notice.—
16	"(1) Recordkeeping.—Every person subject
17	to any provision of this Act or of any order issued
18	under this Act"; and
19	(2) by adding at the end the following:
20	"(2) Classification.—
21	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Every person (includ-
22	ing every employer and enterprise), who em-
23	ploys any employee engaged in commerce or in
24	the production of goods for commerce or en-
25	gages any non-employee engaged in commerce

1	or in the production of goods for commerce,
2	shall—
3	"(i) accurately classify each covered
4	individual as an employee or a non-em-
5	ployee (as the case may be);
6	"(ii) provide, to each covered indi-
7	vidual, a written notice that—
8	"(I) informs the covered indi-
9	vidual of the classification of such in-
10	dividual, by the person submitting the
11	notice, as an employee or a non-em-
12	ployee;
13	"(II) includes a statement direct-
14	ing such individual to the Department
15	of Labor website established under
16	section 3 of the Payroll Fraud Pre-
17	vention Act of 2015, or other appro-
18	priate resources, for the purpose of
19	providing further information about
20	the legal rights of an employee;
21	"(III) includes the address and
22	telephone number for the applicable
23	local office of the Department of
24	Labor; and

1	"(IV) includes for each covered
2	individual classified as a non-employee
3	by the person providing the notice, the
4	following statement: 'Your rights to
5	wage, hour, and other labor protec-
6	tions depend upon your proper classi-
7	fication as an employee or a non-em-
8	ployee. If you have any questions or
9	concerns about how you have been
10	classified or suspect that you may
11	have been misclassified, contact the
12	U.S. Department of Labor.'; and
13	"(iii) maintain a copy of such notice
14	as a required record under paragraph (1).
15	"(B) TIMING OF NOTICE.—
16	"(i) In general.—The notice de-
17	scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be
18	provided, at a minimum, to each covered
19	individual not later than 6 months after
20	the date of enactment of the Payroll Fraud
21	Prevention Act of 2015, and thereafter—
22	"(I) for each new employee, upon
23	employment; and

1	"(II) for each new non-employee,
2	upon commencement of the labor or
3	services provided by the non-employee.
4	"(ii) Change in Status.—Each per-
5	son required to provide a notice under sub-
6	paragraph (A)(ii) to a covered individual
7	shall also provide such notice to such indi-
8	vidual upon changing the status of such in-
9	dividual as an employee or a non-employee.
10	"(C) Presumption.—
11	"(i) In general.—For purposes of
12	this Act and the regulations or orders
13	issued under this Act, a covered individual
14	to whom a person is required to provide a
15	notice under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be
16	presumed to be an employee of the person
17	if the person has not provided the indi-
18	vidual with such notice within the time re-
19	quired under subparagraph (B).
20	"(ii) Rebuttal.—The presumption
21	under clause (i) shall be rebutted only
22	through the presentation of clear and con-
23	vincing evidence that a covered individual
24	described in such subparagraph is not an
25	employee of the person.".

1	(c) SPECIAL PROHIBITED ACTS.—Section 15(a) of
2	the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215(a))
3	is amended—
4	(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
5	following:
6	"(3) to discharge or in any other manner dis-
7	criminate against any covered individual (including
8	an employee) because such individual has—
9	"(A) opposed any practice, filed any peti-
10	tion or complaint, or instituted or caused to be
11	instituted any proceeding—
12	"(i) under or related to this Act (in-
13	cluding concerning the status of a covered
14	individual as an employee or a non-em-
15	ployee for purposes of this Act); or
16	"(ii) concerning the status of a cov-
17	ered individual as an employee or a non-
18	employee for employment tax purposes
19	within the meaning of subtitle C of the In-
20	ternal Revenue Code of 1986;
21	"(B) testified or is about to testify in any
22	proceeding described in subparagraph (A); or
23	"(C) served, or is about to serve, on an in-
24	dustry committee;";

I	(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
2	the end and inserting "; and; and
3	(3) by adding at the end the following:
4	"(6) to wrongly classify an employee of the per-
5	son as a non-employee in accordance with section
6	11(e)(2).".
7	(d) Special Penalty for Certain
8	MISCLASSIFICATION, RECORDKEEPING, AND NOTICE VIO-
9	LATIONS.—Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act
10	of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended—
11	(1) in subsection (b)—
12	(A) in the sixth sentence, by striking "any
13	employee" each place the term occurs and in-
14	serting "any covered individual";
15	(B) in the fourth sentence—
16	(i) by striking "employees" and in-
17	serting "covered individual"; and
18	(ii) by striking "he gives his consent"
19	and inserting "such covered individual con-
20	sents";
21	(C) in the third sentence—
22	(i) by striking "either of the preceding
23	sentences" and inserting "any of the pre-
24	ceding sentences";

1	(ii) by striking "one or more employ-
2	ees" and inserting "one or more covered
3	individuals"; and
4	(iii) by striking "in behalf of himself
5	or themselves and other employees" and
6	inserting "on behalf of such covered indi-
7	vidual or individuals and other covered in-
8	dividuals"; and
9	(D) by inserting after the first sentence
10	the following: "Such liquidated damages are
11	doubled (subject to section 11 of the Portal-to-
12	Portal Act of 1947 (29 U.S.C. 260)) where, in
13	addition to violating the provisions of section 6
14	or 7, the employer has violated the provisions of
15	section 15(a)(6) with respect to such employee
16	or employees."; and
17	(2) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2)
18	and inserting the following:
19	"(2) Any person who violates section 6, 7, 11(c), or
20	15(a)(6) shall be subject to a civil penalty, for each em-
21	ployee or other individual who was the subject of such a
22	violation, in an amount—
23	"(A) not to exceed \$1,100; or

1	"(B) in the case of a person who has repeatedly
2	or willfully committed such violation, not to exceed
3	\$5,000.".
4	SEC. 3. EMPLOYEE RIGHTS WEBSITE.
5	Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
6	of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish a single
7	webpage on the Department of Labor website that sum-
8	marizes in plain language the rights of employees and non-
9	employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
10	(29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), including the rights described in
11	the amendments made by section 2.
12	SEC. 4. MISCLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES FOR UNEM-
13	PLOYMENT COMPENSATION PURPOSES.
14	(a) In General.—Section 303(a) of the Social Secu-
14 15	(a) In General.—Section 303(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended—
15	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended—
15 16	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period
15 16 17 18	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and";
15 16 17	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period
15 16 17 18	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and
15 16 17 18 19	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and (3) by adding after paragraph (12) the fol-
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and (3) by adding after paragraph (12) the following:
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)) is amended— (1) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and (3) by adding after paragraph (12) the following: "(13)(A) Such auditing and investigative proce-

1	omissions by the employers have the effect of exclud-
2	ing employees from unemployment compensation
3	coverage; and
4	"(B) the making of quarterly reports to the
5	Secretary of Labor (in such form as the Secretary
6	of Labor may require) describing the results of the
7	procedures under subparagraph (A); and
8	"(14) the establishment of administrative pen-
9	alties for misclassifying employees, or paying unre-
10	ported wages to employees without proper record-
11	keeping, for unemployment compensation pur-
12	poses.".
13	(b) REVIEW OF AUDITING PROGRAMS.—The Sec-
14	retary of Labor shall include, in the Department of La-
15	bor's system for measuring the performance of States in
16	conducting unemployment compensation tax audits, a spe-
17	cific measure of the effectiveness of States in identifying
18	the underreporting of wages and the underpayment of un-
19	employment compensation contributions (including the ef-
20	fectiveness of States in identifying instances of such
21	underreporting or underpayments despite the absence of
22	cancelled checks, original time sheets, or other similar doc-
23	umentation).
24	(c) Effective Date.—

1	(1) In general.—Except as provided in para-
2	graph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a)
3	shall take effect 12 months after the date of enact-
4	ment of this Act.
5	(2) Exception.—If the Secretary of Labor
6	finds that legislation is necessary for the unemploy-
7	ment compensation law of a State to comply with
8	the amendments made by subsection (a), such
9	amendments shall not apply with respect to such law
10	until the later of—
11	(A) the day after the close of the first reg-
12	ular session of the legislature of such State that
13	begins after the date of enactment of this Act;
14	or
15	(B) 12 months after the date of enactment
16	of this Act.
17	(d) Definition of State.—For purposes of this
18	section, the term "State" has the meaning given the term
19	in section 3306(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
20	SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COORDINATION, REFER-
21	RAL, AND REGULATIONS.
22	(a) Coordination and Referral.—Notwith-
23	standing any other provision of law, any office, adminis-
24	tration, or division of the Department of Labor that, while
25	in the performance of its official duties, obtains informa-

- 1 tion regarding the misclassification by a person subject to
- 2 the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
- 3 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), or any order issued under such
- 4 Act of any individual regarding whether such individual
- 5 is an employee or a non-employee engaged in the perform-
- 6 ance of labor or services for purposes of section 6 or 7
- 7 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 206, 207), or in records required
- 8 under section 11(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 211(c)), shall
- 9 report such information to the Wage and Hour Division
- 10 of the Department of Labor. The Wage and Hour Division
- 11 may report such information to the Internal Revenue
- 12 Service as the Wage and Hour Division considers appro-
- 13 priate.
- 14 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall
- 15 promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the
- 16 amendments made by this Act.

17 SEC. 6. TARGETED AUDITS.

- The audits of employers subject to the Fair Labor
- 19 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) that are
- 20 conducted by the Wage and Hour Division of the Depart-
- 21 ment of Labor shall include certain industries with fre-
- 22 quent incidence of misclassifying employees as non-em-
- 23 ployees, as determined by the Secretary of Labor.