

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2520

To require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to eligible entities to train individuals for careers in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2023

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to eligible entities to train individuals for careers in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, 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 to as the “Renewable Energy  
5 Jobs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRAINING AND EMPLOY-**  
2 **MENT PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Labor shall  
4 carry out a pilot program (in this section referred to as  
5 the “pilot program”) to award competitive grants to eligi-  
6 ble entities to train individuals for careers in the renew-  
7 able energy and energy efficiency industries.

8 (b) APPLICATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under  
10 the pilot program, an eligible entity shall submit an  
11 application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
12 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
13 retary may require.

14 (2) CONTENTS.—A grant application under this  
15 section shall include the following:

16 (A) A proposal for a program to train indi-  
17 viduals for careers in the renewable energy and  
18 energy efficiency industries.

19 (B) A description of the presence of such  
20 industries, and the availability of jobs in such  
21 industries, in the State in which the eligible en-  
22 tity will carry out the program.

23 (C) A description of the sustainability of  
24 long-term careers in such industries in such  
25 State, including a description of the growth of  
26 such industries over the 10-year period pre-

1 ceding the date of the application and the pro-  
2 duction output of such industries as of the date  
3 of such application.

4 (D) A plan to coordinate the efforts of the  
5 eligible entity under the program with relevant  
6 efforts of workforce development boards.

7 (E) A description of how the program  
8 aligns with the workforce plan of such State.

9 (F) A description of how the program will  
10 aid participants to attain recognized postsec-  
11 ondary credentials.

12 (c) DURATION OF GRANT.—Each grant under this  
13 section shall be for a period of 3 years.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
15 a grant under this section may use the grant funds—

16 (1) to carry out the proposal submitted by the  
17 recipient under subsection (b)(2)(A);

18 (2) to reimburse a primary entity for the cost  
19 of providing on-the-job training;

20 (3) to reimburse a secondary entity for the cost  
21 of providing skills training (or on-the-job training if  
22 in partnership with an energy efficient employer);

23 (4) to reimburse an employer for wages associ-  
24 ated with registered apprenticeship;

1           (5) to conduct outreach to inform primary enti-  
2 ties, secondary entities, and the public, including in-  
3 dividuals in rural areas and Indian tribes, of eligi-  
4 bility or potential eligibility for participation in the  
5 program; and

6           (6) to conduct any other activities that the Sec-  
7 retary determines appropriate.

8           (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection  
9 (a), the Secretary shall prioritize grants to eligible entities  
10 that submit a proposal to carry out a program in a State  
11 that is among the 5 States with the highest installed alter-  
12 native energy power capacity.

13          (f) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of receipt of funds  
14 under this section, the Secretary shall require an eligible  
15 entity to agree—

16           (1) to repay to the Secretary any amount re-  
17 ceived under the pilot program that is not used for  
18 the purposes described in subsection (d) by the date  
19 that is 3 years after the date on which the recipient  
20 received such funds;

21           (2) to submit to the Secretary, at such times  
22 and containing such information as the Secretary  
23 shall require, reports on the use of grant funds; and

24           (3) to ensure that any employer or other entity  
25 receiving funds through a program under this sec-

1       tion pays each individual receiving on-the-job train-  
2       ing provided by such employer or entity not less  
3       than the applicable minimum wage for the State or  
4       locality in which such training is provided.

5       (g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

6           (1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—Of the  
7       amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization  
8       of appropriations under subsection (i), 2 percent  
9       shall be made available to the Secretary for adminis-  
10      trative costs associated with implementing and eval-  
11      uating the pilot program under this section and for  
12      preparing and submitting the report required under  
13      subsection (h).

14          (2) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—The Sec-  
15      retary shall determine the appropriate maximum  
16      amount of each grant awarded under this section  
17      that may be used by the recipient for administrative  
18      and reporting costs.

19      (h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall  
20      submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot program  
21      for each year of the grant period containing—

22          (1) a description of activities carried out under  
23      this section;

24          (2) an evaluation of the pilot program; and

1           (3) a description of how many participants were  
2           employed by renewable energy and energy efficiency  
3           employers within 6 months of completing the train-  
4           ing.

5           (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
7           \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027,  
8           for the purpose of carrying out the pilot program.

9           (j) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

10           (1) The term “eligible entity” means—

11                   (A) a primary entity; or

12                   (B) a consortium of entities that—

13                           (i) consists of one or more primary  
14                           entities; and

15                           (ii) may include one or more sec-  
16                           ondary entities.

17           (2) The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning  
18           given that term in section 102 of the Federally Rec-  
19           ognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.  
20           479a).

21           (3) The term “installed alternative energy  
22           power capacity” means the amount of wind, solar,  
23           and geothermal power generation, expressed in  
24           megawatts, installed in a State.

1           (4) The term “institution of higher education”  
2           has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the  
3           Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
4           U.S.C. 3102).

5           (5) The term “labor organization” has the  
6           meaning given such term in section 2 of the Na-  
7           tional Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152).

8           (6) The term “on-the-job training” means  
9           training by renewable energy and energy efficiency  
10          employers, a labor organization, a institution of  
11          higher education, or a nonprofit organization that is  
12          provided to a paid participant while engaged in pro-  
13          ductive work that—

14                (A) provides knowledge or skills essential  
15                to the full and adequate performance of the job;

16                (B) provides reimbursement to the em-  
17                ployer for the costs of providing the training  
18                and additional supervision related to the train-  
19                ing; and

20                (C) is limited in duration as appropriate to  
21                the occupation for which the participant is  
22                being trained, taking into account the content  
23                of the training, the prior work experience of the  
24                participant, and the service strategy of the par-  
25                ticipant, as appropriate.

1 (7) The term “primary entity” means—

2 (A) a renewable energy and energy effi-  
3 ciency employer; or

4 (B) a workforce development board.

5 (8) The term “recognized postsecondary creden-  
6 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of  
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
8 U.S.C. 3102).

9 (9) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-  
10 ficiency employer” means an employer that employs  
11 individuals in a trade or business in the renewable  
12 energy and energy efficiency industries.

13 (10) The term “renewable energy and energy  
14 efficiency industries” means any of the following in-  
15 dustries:

16 (A) The energy-efficient building, construc-  
17 tion, or retrofits industry.

18 (B) The renewable electric power industry,  
19 including the wind, solar, and geothermal en-  
20 ergy industries.

21 (C) The energy efficiency assessment in-  
22 dustry that serves the residential, commercial,  
23 or industrial sectors.



1           (D) The industries that manufacture solar  
2 panels, wind turbines, geothermal generators,  
3 and similar products.

4           (11) The term “secondary entity” means—

5                 (A) a institution of higher education;

6                 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

7                 (C) a labor organization.

8           (12) The term “skills training” means training  
9 by secondary entity that provides the knowledge and  
10 skills essential to specific jobs in the renewable en-  
11 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

12           (13) The term “State” includes each of the sev-  
13 eral States, the District of Columbia, the Common-  
14 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Com-  
15 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the  
16 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the  
17 Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the ter-  
18 ritories and possessions of the United States.

19           (14) The term “workforce development board”  
20 means a State or local workforce development board  
21 established under title I of the Workforce Innovation  
22 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

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