

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1325

To require that certain Federal job training and career education programs give a priority to programs that provide an industry recognized and nationally portable credential.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. BOREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 require that certain Federal job training and career education programs give a priority to programs that provide an industry recognized and nationally portable credential.

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 “American Manufac-
5 turing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration
6 Achievement Works Act” or the “AMERICA Works Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED AND NATIONALLY PORT-**
2 **ABLE CREDENTIALS FOR JOB TRAINING PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 (a) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.—

5 (1) GENERAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AC-
6 TIVITIES.—Section 134(d)(4)(F) of the Workforce
7 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(F))
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(iv) PRIORITY FOR PROGRAMS THAT
10 PROVIDE AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED AND
11 NATIONALLY PORTABLE CREDENTIAL.—In
12 selecting and approving training services,
13 or programs of training services, under
14 this section, a one-stop operator and em-
15 ployees of a one-stop center referred to in
16 subsection (c) shall give priority consider-
17 ation to services and programs (approved
18 by the appropriate State agency and local
19 board in conjunction with section 122) that
20 lead to a credential that is in high demand
21 in the local area served and listed in the
22 registry described in section 3(b) of the
23 AMERICA Works Act.”.

24 (2) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(c)(1)(C)
25 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
26 2854(c)(1)(C)) is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating clauses (ii) through
2 (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively;
3 and

4 (B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(ii) training (with priority consider-
7 ation given to programs that lead to a cre-
8 dential that is in high demand in the local
9 area served and listed in the registry de-
10 scribed in section 3(b) of the AMERICA
11 Works Act, if the local board determines
12 that such programs are available and ap-
13 propriate);”.

14 (b) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—

15 (1) STATE PLAN.—Section 122(c)(1)(B) of the
16 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
17 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)) is amended
18 by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting
19 the following: “and, with respect to programs of
20 study leading to an industry-recognized credential or
21 certificate, will give priority consideration to pro-
22 grams of study that—

23 “(i) lead to an appropriate (as deter-
24 mined by the eligible agency) skills creden-
25 tial (which may be a certificate) that is in

1 high demand in the area served and listed
2 in the registry described in section 3(b) of
3 the AMERICA Works Act; and

4 “(ii) may provide a basis for addi-
5 tional credentials, certificates, or degrees;”.

6 (2) USE OF LOCAL FUNDS.—Section 134(b) of
7 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
8 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

9 (A) in paragraph (11), by striking “; and”
10 and inserting a semicolon;

11 (B) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking the
12 period and inserting “; and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(13) describe the career and technical edu-
15 cation activities supporting the attainment of indus-
16 try-recognized credentials or certificates, and how
17 the eligible recipient, in selecting such activities,
18 gave priority consideration to activities supporting
19 high-demand registry skill credentials described in
20 section 122(c)(1)(B)(i).”.

21 (3) TECH-PREP PROGRAMS.—Section
22 203(c)(2)(E) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
23 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
24 2373(c)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “industry-
25 recognized credential, a certificate,” and inserting

1 “industry-recognized credential or certificate (such
2 as a high-demand registry skill credential described
3 in section 122(c)(1)(B)(i)),”.

4 (c) TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDER TAA.—Section
5 236(a)(5) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.
6 2296(a)(5)) is amended by inserting after the sentence
7 that follows subparagraph (H)(ii) the following: “In ap-
8 proving training programs under paragraph (1), the Sec-
9 retary shall give priority consideration to programs that
10 lead to a credential that is in high demand in the local
11 area (defined for purposes of title I of the Workforce In-
12 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)) served
13 by the corresponding one-stop delivery system under that
14 title for the training programs, and that is listed in the
15 registry described in section 3(b) of the AMERICA Works
16 Act.”.

17 **SEC. 3. SKILL CREDENTIAL REGISTRY.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) COVERED PROVISION.—The term “covered
20 provision” means any of sections 129 and 134 of the
21 Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854,
22 2864), section 122(c)(1)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins
23 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
24 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)), and section 236 of the Trade
25 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296).

1 (2) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term “indus-
2 try-recognized”, used with respect to a credential,
3 means a credential that—

4 (A) is sought or accepted by companies
5 within the industry sector involved as recog-
6 nized, preferred, or required for recruitment,
7 screening, or hiring; and

8 (B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized
9 trade association or organization representing a
10 significant part of the industry sector.

11 (3) NATIONALLY PORTABLE.—The term “na-
12 tionally portable”, used with respect to a credential,
13 means a credential that is sought or accepted by
14 companies within the industry sector involved, across
15 multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required
16 for recruitment, screening, or hiring.

17 (4) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—
18 The term “workforce investment activities” has the
19 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Work-
20 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

21 (b) REGISTRY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary of Labor (referred to in this section as the
25 “Secretary”) shall create a registry of skill creden-

1 tials (which may be certificates), for purposes of en-
2 abling programs that lead to such a credential to re-
3 ceive priority under a covered provision.

4 (2) REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall—

5 (A) list the credential in the registry if the
6 credential is required by Federal or State law
7 for an occupation (such as a credential required
8 by a State law regarding qualifications for a
9 health care occupation);

10 (B) list the credential in the registry if the
11 credential is a credential from the Manufac-
12 turing Institute-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills
13 Certification System; and

14 (C) list the credential, and list an updated
15 credential, in the registry if the credential in-
16 volved is an industry-recognized, nationally
17 portable credential that is consistent with the
18 Secretary's established industry competency
19 models and is consistently updated through
20 third party validation to reflect changing indus-
21 try competencies.

22 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
23 shall be construed to require an entity with responsibility
24 for selecting or approving an education, training, or work-
25 force investment activities program with regard to a cov-

1 ered provision, to select a program with a credential listed
2 in the registry described in subsection (b).

3 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, take
5 effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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