

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1329

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a pilot program to facilitate the provision of education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 6, 2011

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a pilot program to facilitate the provision of education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing.

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 “High-Tech Job Oppor-
5 tunities Between our Shores Act” or the “High-Tech
6 JOBS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ADVANCED MANU-**
2 **FACTURING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

3 Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
4 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(f) **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DE-**
7 **VELOPMENT PROGRAM.**—

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Under a plan published
9 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, through
10 grants or contracts, carry out demonstration and
11 pilot projects for the purpose of facilitating the pro-
12 vision of education and training programs in the
13 field of advanced manufacturing. Such projects
14 shall—

15 “(A) target skills and competency develop-
16 ment in communities with existing jobs in ad-
17 vanced manufacturing or expected growth in
18 advanced manufacturing;

19 “(B) provide education and training for
20 available jobs or job openings that are antici-
21 pated in advanced manufacturing, that result in
22 an employer- or industry-recognized and nation-
23 ally portable credential;

24 “(C) educate individuals about opportuni-
25 ties for career advancement within advanced
26 manufacturing; and

1 “(D) give priority to incumbent workers,
2 dislocated workers, and unemployed workers.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
5 ceive a grant or enter into a contract under a
6 project carried out under paragraph (1), an en-
7 tity, in any of the States or outlying areas, shall
8 be any of the following types of entities:

9 “(i) An institution of higher education
10 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)),
12 a postsecondary vocational institution (as
13 defined in section 102(c) of such Act (20
14 U.S.C. 1002(c)), or a tribally controlled
15 college or university (as defined in section
16 2 of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and
17 Universities Assistance Act of 1978 (25
18 U.S.C. 1801)).

19 “(ii) A local board, in partnership
20 with one or more one-stop career centers,
21 that specifies one or more educational enti-
22 ties described in clause (i) where education
23 and training activities will occur.

24 “(iii) A nonprofit organization.

1 “(iv) Another entity that would serve
2 educationally underserved communities.

3 “(v) A consortium of entities de-
4 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv).

5 “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give
6 priority to any entity, or consortium of entities,
7 described in subparagraph (A) that proposes to
8 use the funds received under this subsection to
9 leverage substantial non-Federal funding for
10 the program involved.

11 “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
12 grant or enter into a contract under this subsection
13 an eligible entity described in paragraph (2) shall
14 submit an application to the Secretary at such time
15 and in such form and manner as the Secretary shall
16 determine, including each of the following:

17 “(A) A description of each eligible entity
18 (including, in the case of a consortium, each eli-
19 gible entity in the consortium), evidence of each
20 eligible entity’s capacity to carry out the activi-
21 ties described in paragraph (1), and a descrip-
22 tion of the expected participation and respon-
23 sibilities of each eligible entity.

24 “(B) A description of education and train-
25 ing activities to be provided through the edu-

1 cation and training program, and a description
2 of how the activities will—

3 “(i) develop skills and competencies
4 demanded by advanced manufacturing
5 firms;

6 “(ii) lead to an employer- or industry-
7 recognized and nationally portable creden-
8 tial; and

9 “(iii) educate individuals about oppor-
10 tunities for career advancement and wage
11 growth within advanced manufacturing.

12 “(C) A description of how the economy, of
13 the State, locality, or outlying area where the
14 eligible entity submitting the application will
15 provide the program, would benefit, including a
16 description of—

17 “(i) evidence of existing jobs in ad-
18 vanced manufacturing or expected growth
19 in advanced manufacturing in the State,
20 locality, or outlying area;

21 “(ii) the potential to prepare individ-
22 uals for existing jobs in advanced manufac-
23 turing or create additional job growth in
24 advanced manufacturing through the pro-
25 gram as a result of investments in edu-

1 cation and training in advanced manufac-
2 turing; and

3 “(iii) how the eligible entity will ex-
4 pose incumbent workers, dislocated work-
5 ers, and unemployed workers to new ad-
6 vanced manufacturing technology skill sets
7 through the program.

8 “(D) A description of how the eligible enti-
9 ty will employ evidence-based training models
10 that integrate academic instruction with train-
11 ing, including on-the-job training, in advanced
12 manufacturing, to meet the goals described in
13 paragraph (5).

14 “(E) A description of how the eligible enti-
15 ty will coordinate activities with State boards or
16 local boards, and State or local economic devel-
17 opment officials, in carrying out the program.

18 “(F) A description of how the eligible enti-
19 ty will enter into a partnership with—

20 “(i) a manufacturer who employs indi-
21 viduals with advanced manufacturing
22 skills; and

23 “(ii) a labor organization whose mem-
24 bers are employed in advanced manufac-

1 turing industries, where such a labor orga-
2 nization exists.

3 “(4) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be carried out
4 under a program funded under paragraph (1) may
5 include—

6 “(A) classroom and on-site experiential
7 learning;

8 “(B) on-the-job training;

9 “(C) training that leads to an employer- or
10 industry-recognized competency and nationally
11 portable credential for advanced manufacturing;

12 “(D) development and implementation of
13 registered apprenticeship programs, and
14 preapprenticeship programs leading to reg-
15 istered apprenticeship programs;

16 “(E) coordination with local boards imple-
17 menting and utilizing articulation agreements
18 with educational entities described in paragraph
19 (2)(A)(i) and other educational partners;

20 “(F) distance learning; and

21 “(G) any other activity the Secretary con-
22 siderers appropriate for training in advanced
23 manufacturing.

24 “(5) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

1 “(A) GOALS.—The goals of the activities
2 described in paragraph (4) shall be to—

3 “(i) enhance the skill sets of incum-
4 bent workers, dislocated workers, and un-
5 employed workers who live in communities
6 with existing jobs in advanced manufac-
7 turing or expected growth in advanced
8 manufacturing, and enable such workers to
9 obtain an employer- or industry-recognized
10 and nationally portable credential;

11 “(ii) enable individuals with limited
12 experience to develop competencies in ad-
13 vanced manufacturing;

14 “(iii) in an effort to meet the needs of
15 advanced manufacturing businesses for
16 adaptability in education and training of
17 incumbent workers, strengthen partner-
18 ships of eligible entities described in para-
19 graph (2) with—

20 “(I) manufacturers described in
21 paragraph (3)(F); and

22 “(II) labor organizations de-
23 scribed in paragraph (3)(F), where
24 such labor organizations exist; and

1 “(iv) help incumbent workers, dis-
2 located workers, and unemployed workers
3 develop skills in advanced manufacturing
4 that lead to employment or greater earn-
5 ings than would otherwise be available
6 without those skills.

7 “(B) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The
8 Secretary shall negotiate, and reach agreement,
9 with each eligible entity that receives a grant or
10 enters into a contract under this subsection, on
11 measures that will be used to evaluate the per-
12 formance of the eligible entity in carrying out
13 the activities described in paragraph (4) and
14 meeting the goals described in subparagraph
15 (A). Such performance measures shall consist
16 of indicators of performance, and, at a min-
17 imum, shall include—

18 “(i) the number of workers, including
19 incumbent workers, dislocated workers and
20 unemployed workers, who are participants
21 in the program involved, that receive
22 employer- or industry-recognized and na-
23 tionally portable credentials;

24 “(ii) the number of such participants,
25 including dislocated workers and unem-

1 employed workers, that attain 1 or more basic
2 skills that are required for an employer- or
3 industry-recognized and nationally portable
4 credential for advanced manufacturing;

5 “(iii) the number of such incumbent
6 workers who obtain skills, through edu-
7 cation and training, that meet the skill
8 needs of employers to enhance operations;

9 “(iv) the earnings growth of such par-
10 ticipants as a result of education and
11 training provided through the program;
12 and

13 “(v) other indicators the Secretary de-
14 termines to be necessary to evaluate the
15 performance of the eligible entity in car-
16 rying out the activities described in para-
17 graph (4) and meeting the goals described
18 in subparagraph (A).

19 “(6) EVALUATION.—Beginning not later than 1
20 year after the date of the first disbursement of
21 funds under this subsection, the Secretary shall pro-
22 vide for the continuing evaluation of the programs
23 funded under this subsection, as required by section
24 172, and shall transmit a report of the evaluation to

1 Congress not later than 2 years after such date and
2 every 2 years thereafter.”.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 Section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
5 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(54) EMPLOYER- OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
8 AND NATIONALLY PORTABLE CREDENTIAL.—The
9 term ‘employer- or industry-recognized and nation-
10 ally portable’, used with respect to a credential, in-
11 cludes an educational certificate or degree, an occu-
12 pational license, an industry-sponsored certificate or
13 certification, or a certificate or degree from a reg-
14 istered apprenticeship program.”.

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