

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1163

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to increase racial and gender minority access and representation in the aviation workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2023

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to increase racial and gender minority access and representation in the aviation workforce, 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 “Aviation Minority
5 Workforce Development Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE RACIAL AND GEN-**
2 **DER MINORITY ACCESS AND REPRESENTA-**
3 **TION IN THE AVIATION WORKFORCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
5 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Trans-
6 portation shall establish a program to award grants to eli-
7 gible entities to increase racial and gender minority access
8 and representation in the aviation workforce.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
10 this section to an eligible entity shall be used to—

11 (1) facilitate the creation of programs that edu-
12 cate and train students from under-represented ra-
13 cial and gender groups to participate in the aviation
14 workforce;

15 (2) increase access to, and the availability of,
16 resources at existing aviation workforce programs
17 for the express purpose of increasing representation
18 of racial and gender minorities, including at minor-
19 ity serving institutions;

20 (3) assist students from under-represented ra-
21 cial and gender minorities with education, appren-
22 ticeship, internship, transportation, and certification
23 costs; and

24 (4) increase outreach and recruitment to stu-
25 dents from racial and gender minorities who are in-
26 terested in working in the aviation industry.

1 (c) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that
 2 not less than 40 percent of the total amount of funds ap-
 3 propriated in each fiscal year to carry out this section are
 4 awarded to minority-serving institutions.

5 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
 6 after the first grant is awarded under the grant program
 7 under this section, and annually thereafter for as long as
 8 the Secretary is conducting such program, the Secretary
 9 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 10 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
 11 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
 12 resentatives a report that evaluates such program, includ-
 13 ing—

14 (1) a description of the number of grants
 15 awarded;

16 (2) the amount of each grant;

17 (3) the activities funded under each grant; and

18 (4) the effectiveness of such funded activities in
 19 meeting the objective described in subsection (a).

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
 22 \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
 25 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior

or community college” in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a minority-serving institution; and

(B) a consortium of 1 or more institutions of higher education that has a partnership with 1 or more of the following entities:

(i) A member of the aviation industry, such as a company or industry association.

(ii) A labor-management organization.

(iii) An aviation industry registered apprenticeship program.

(iv) A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals gain employment in the aviation industry.

(v) A community college or a postsecondary vocational institution with experience in providing relevant education or training for individuals seeking employment in the aviation industry or a similar industry.

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
4 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
5 tution described in section 371(a) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

7 (5) POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-
8 TION.—The term “postsecondary vocational institu-
9 tion” has the meaning given that term in section
10 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 1002(c)).

12 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Transportation.

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