

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 6

To replace certain Federal job training programs by developing a training account system to provide individuals the opportunity to choose the type of training and employment-related services that most closely meet the needs of such individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BREAU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DORGAN, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To replace certain Federal job training programs by developing a training account system to provide individuals the opportunity to choose the type of training and employment-related services that most closely meet the needs of such individuals, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Working Americans Opportunity Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—JOB TRAINING ACCOUNT SYSTEM

- Sec. 101. Establishment.
- Sec. 102. Individual choice.
- Sec. 103. Eligibility.
- Sec. 104. Obtaining a voucher.
- Sec. 105. Oversight and accountability.
- Sec. 106. Eligibility requirements for providers of job training.
- Sec. 107. Eligibility requirements for providers of employment-related services.
- Sec. 108. Evaluation of training account system and assistance centers.
- Sec. 109. Apportionment of funds.

TITLE II—ELIMINATION OF FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Elimination of programs.
- Sec. 202. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—INFORMATION FOR BETTER CHOICES

- Sec. 301. Assistance centers.
- Sec. 302. Access to labor market information.
- Sec. 303. Direct loans to working Americans.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS

- Sec. 401. Consolidation and streamlining.
- Sec. 402. Report relating to income support.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

- 5 (1) increasing international competition, techno-
 6 logical advances, and structural changes in the econ-
 7 omy of the United States present new challenges to
 8 private firms and public policymakers in creating a
 9 skilled workforce with the ability to adapt to change
 10 and progress;
- 11 (2) a substantial number of Americans lose jobs
 12 due to the constantly changing world and national

1 economies rather than cyclical downturns, with more
2 than 2,000,000 full-time workers permanently dis-
3 placed annually due to plant closures, production
4 cutbacks, and layoffs;

5 (3) the current response of the Federal Govern-
6 ment to dislocation and structural employment is a
7 patchwork of categorical programs, with varying eli-
8 gibility requirements and different sets of services
9 and benefits;

10 (4) the lack of coherence among existing Fed-
11 eral programs creates administrative and regulatory
12 obstacles that hamper the efforts of individuals who
13 are seeking new jobs or reemployment;

14 (5) enacted in 1944, the Servicemen's Readjust-
15 ment Act of 1944, popularly known as the GI Bill
16 of Rights, helped millions of World War II veterans,
17 and later, Korean and Vietnam War veterans, fi-
18 nance college educations and assisted in building the
19 middle class of the United States;

20 (6) restructuring the current job training sys-
21 tem, with respect to dislocated and disadvantaged
22 workers, in a manner that is conceptually similar to
23 the GI Bill will help millions of Americans to become
24 more competitive in today's dynamic world economy
25 in which most Americans—

1 (A) can expect to move to new jobs a num-
2 ber of times, voluntarily or by layoff; and

3 (B) must upgrade their skills continuously;

4 (7) success in this ever-changing environment
5 depends, in part, on an individual's effective man-
6 agement of the individual's career based on personal
7 choice and reliable information;

8 (8) there is insufficient market information and
9 assistance regarding access to job training opportu-
10 nities that lead to good employment opportunities;

11 (9) only a small fraction of individuals eligible
12 for current Federal job training are now served, and
13 by removing obstacles and layers of administrative
14 costs, more funds will be made available to individ-
15 uals to enable such individuals to receive the train-
16 ing of their choice; and

17 (10) while the Federal Government proceeds to
18 create a new marketplace for job training, the Fed-
19 eral Government must also maintain its commitment
20 to providing intensive services to assist those individ-
21 uals who are economically disadvantaged.

22 (b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

23 (1) enhance the choices available to dislocated
24 workers, and the economically disadvantaged, who

1 want to upgrade their work skills and learn new
2 skills to compete in a changing economy;

3 (2) enable individuals to make choices that are
4 best for the careers of such individuals;

5 (3) replace a number of Federal job training
6 programs and employment-related services with a
7 simple and direct training account voucher system
8 that relies on individual choice and provides high-
9 quality job market information;

10 (4) allow an individual to tailor training and
11 education to the personal needs of such individual so
12 that such individual may remain in long-term em-
13 ployment yet have the means to be flexible when
14 necessary; and

15 (5) create a system that provides timely and re-
16 liable information to individuals to use to assist such
17 individuals in making the best choices with respect
18 to the use of vouchers for job training and employ-
19 ment-related services.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 As used in this Act:

22 (1) DISLOCATED WORKERS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “dislocated
24 workers” means individuals who—

1 (i) have been terminated or laid off or
2 who have received a notice of termination
3 or layoff from employment, are eligible for
4 or have exhausted their entitlement to un-
5 employment compensation, and are un-
6 likely to return to their previous industry
7 or occupation;

8 (ii) have been terminated or have re-
9 ceived a notice of termination of employ-
10 ment, as a result of any permanent closure
11 of or any substantial layoff at a plant, fa-
12 cility, or enterprise;

13 (iii) are long-term unemployed and
14 have limited opportunities for employment
15 or reemployment in the same or a similar
16 occupation in the area in which such indi-
17 viduals reside, including older individuals
18 who may have substantial barriers to em-
19 ployment by reason of age; or

20 (iv) were self-employed (including
21 farmers and ranchers and fishermen) and
22 are unemployed as a result of general eco-
23 nomic conditions in the community in
24 which they reside or because of natural

1 disasters, subject to regulations prescribed
2 by the Secretary.

3 (B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of
4 Labor shall establish categories of self-employed
5 individuals and of economic conditions and nat-
6 ural disasters to which subparagraph (A)(iv)
7 applies.

8 (2) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—The
9 term “community-based organizations” means pri-
10 vate nonprofit organizations that—

11 (A) are representative of communities or
12 significant segments of communities; and

13 (B) provide education, training, and relat-
14 ed services.

15 (3) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED ADULT.—
16 The term “economically disadvantaged adult” means
17 an individual who is age 18 and older and who has,
18 or is a member of a family that has, received a total
19 family income (exclusive of unemployment com-
20 pensation, child support payments, and welfare pay-
21 ments) that, in relation to family size, was not in ex-
22 cess of the higher of—

23 (A) the official poverty line (as defined by
24 the Office of Management and Budget, and re-

1 vised annually in accordance with section
2 9902(2)) of title 42; or

3 (B) 70 percent of the lower living standard
4 income level.

5 (4) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means
6 the chief executive of any State.

7 (5) PROVIDER.—The term “provider” means a
8 public agency, private nonprofit organization, or pri-
9 vate for-profit entity that delivers basic employment,
10 educational, job training, employment-related, or
11 supportive services.

12 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
13 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
14 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
15 Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
16 Islands, American Samoa, the Republic of the Mar-
17 shall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
18 and the Republic of Palau.

19 **TITLE I—JOB TRAINING**
20 **ACCOUNT SYSTEM**

21 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

22 Not later than January 1, 1996, the Secretary of
23 Labor and the Secretary of Education shall jointly estab-
24 lish pursuant to the requirements of this Act a job train-
25 ing account system that provides vouchers to individuals

1 for the purpose of the provision of job training and em-
2 ployment-related services.

3 **SEC. 102. INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon notification of approval of
5 an application under section 104, an individual may re-
6 ceive a voucher in the amount of \$3,000 for 2-years begin-
7 ning on the date on which an application is approved
8 under section 104.

9 (b) USE OF TRAINING ACCOUNT VOUCHERS FOR JOB
10 TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is a recip-
12 ient of a voucher under subsection (a) may use such
13 voucher to purchase job training or employment-re-
14 lated services from providers that meet the require-
15 ments of section 106 or 107, whichever is applicable.

16 (2) AUTHORIZED JOB TRAINING AND EMPLOY-
17 MENT-RELATED SERVICES.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The job training and
19 employment-related services described in para-
20 graph (1) may include—

- 21 (i) associate degree or nondegree pro-
22 grams at—
23 (I) two- and four-year colleges;
24 (II) vocational and technical edu-
25 cation schools;

1 (III) private for-profit and not-
2 for-profit training organizations;

3 (IV) public agencies and schools;
4 and

5 (V) community-based organiza-
6 tions;

7 (ii) employer work-based training pro-
8 grams;

9 (iii) job search assistance;

10 (iv) in the case of individuals who
11 are economically disadvantaged,
12 preemployment training programs; or

13 (v) other appropriate employment-re-
14 lated services.

15 (B) SPECIAL RULE.—A recipient of a
16 voucher under subsection (a) may not pay by
17 voucher more than \$750 for job search assist-
18 ance services.

19 **SEC. 103. ELIGIBILITY.**

20 An individual shall be eligible to receive a voucher
21 under this title if such individual is—

22 (1) a dislocated worker; or

23 (2) an economically disadvantaged adult.

1 **SEC. 104. OBTAINING A VOUCHER.**

2 (a) APPLICATION.—An individual who desires to par-
3 ticipate in a training account program established under
4 this title shall submit an application to a voucher applica-
5 tion office described in subsection (b)(1) at such time, in
6 such manner, and accompanied by such information as the
7 Governor may reasonably require. The Governor shall, to
8 the extent that appropriations are available, approve an
9 application that meets the application requirements of reg-
10 ulations issued under section 105 and promptly notify
11 such applicant of such approval.

12 (b) STATE-DESIGNATED VOUCHER APPLICATION OF-
13 FICES.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each State shall des-
15 ignate or establish easily accessible voucher applica-
16 tion offices within such State to assist in administer-
17 ing the training account system under this title.
18 Such offices may be administered by private (for-
19 profit or not-for-profit) or public entities.

20 (2) DUTIES.—Each voucher application office
21 shall—

22 (A) provide applications for vouchers under
23 this title to interested individuals, assist such
24 individuals in completing such applications, and
25 collect completed applications for determination
26 of eligibility;

1 (B) provide performance-based information
2 to applicants relating to service providers eligi-
3 ble to receive payment by voucher in accordance
4 with section 106 or 107, whichever is applica-
5 ble;

6 (C) carry out such other duties relating to
7 the training account system as may be specified
8 by the Governor or prescribed in regulations is-
9 sued jointly by the Secretary of Labor and the
10 Secretary of Education; and

11 (D) provide information on—

12 (i) the local economy and availability
13 of employment;

14 (ii) profiles of local industries; and

15 (iii) details of local labor market de-
16 mand.

17 (3) CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS.—The
18 Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education
19 shall jointly issue regulations establishing procedures
20 to ensure that voucher application offices that are
21 administered by an entity that is concurrently an eli-
22 gible provider of services under the training account
23 system provide information to voucher applicants re-
24 lating to the other providers of services in the local
25 area in an objective and equitable manner.

1 (c) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
2 Congress that as States become more experienced with ad-
3 ministering vouchers to eligible individuals that the vouch-
4 er applications offices described in subsection (b) should
5 be converted to one stop assistance centers described in
6 section 301.

7 **SEC. 105. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and
10 the Secretary of Education shall jointly issue regulations
11 that—

12 (1) specify the—

13 (A) voucher application requirements;

14 (B) form of vouchers;

15 (C) use of such vouchers;

16 (D) method of redemption of such vouch-
17 ers;

18 (E) most expeditious and effective process
19 of distribution (consistent with the findings and
20 purposes of this Act) of a voucher from the
21 Federal Government to eligible individuals; and

22 (F) the arrangements necessary to phase
23 in the training account system in each State in
24 a timely manner;

1 (2) specify the duties and responsibilities of
2 providers under a training account program estab-
3 lished by a State under this title;

4 (3) include a role for a State in the oversight
5 of such providers of such State;

6 (4) specify the Federal and State responsibil-
7 ities in such oversight, including the enforcement re-
8 sponsibilities and the determination of administra-
9 tive costs with respect to a State that establishes a
10 training account program under this title;

11 (5) include provisions that encourage States to
12 distribute in a regionally balanced manner, to the
13 extent practicable, vouchers to individuals to pur-
14 chase job training or employment-related services in
15 such State; and

16 (6) specify the manner in which economically
17 disadvantaged individuals will receive adequate coun-
18 seling and support services necessary to take full ad-
19 vantage of the voucher assistance under this title.

20 (b) PUBLIC COMMENTS.—In promulgating regula-
21 tions under subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor and the
22 Secretary of Education shall provide the opportunity for
23 comment from the public, including representatives of the
24 business community, workers, and community-based orga-
25 nizations.

1 **SEC. 106. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDERS OF**
2 **JOB TRAINING.**

3 (a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A provider of job
4 training shall be eligible to receive payment by voucher
5 under this title if such provider—

6 (1) is—

7 (A) eligible to participate in programs
8 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965; or

10 (B) determined to be eligible under the
11 procedures described in subsection (b); and

12 (2) provides the performance-based information
13 required pursuant to subsection (c).

14 (b) ALTERNATIVE ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall establish
16 an alternative eligibility procedure for providers of
17 job training desiring to receive payment by voucher
18 under this title, but that are not eligible to partici-
19 pate in programs under title IV of the Higher Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965.

21 (2) PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.—The proce-
22 dure described in paragraph (1) shall establish mini-
23 mum acceptable levels of performance for providers
24 of job training based on factors and guidelines devel-
25 oped jointly by the Secretary of Labor and the Sec-
26 retary of Education. Such factors shall be com-

1 parable in rigor and scope to those provisions of part
2 H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
3 that are used to determine an institution of higher
4 education's eligibility to participate in programs
5 under such part as are appropriate to the type of
6 provider seeking eligibility under this subsection and
7 the nature of the education and training services to
8 be provided.

9 (3) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
10 (1), if the participation of an institution of higher
11 education in any of the programs under title IV of
12 the Higher Education Act of 1965 is terminated,
13 such institution shall not be eligible to receive funds
14 under this Act for a period of 2 years beginning on
15 the date of such termination.

16 (c) PERFORMANCE-BASED INFORMATION.—

17 (1) CONTENTS.—The Secretary of Labor and
18 the Secretary of Education, shall identify perform-
19 ance-based information that is to be submitted by
20 providers of job training desiring to be eligible under
21 this section. Such information may include informa-
22 tion relating to—

23 (A) the percentage of students completing
24 the programs conducted by a provider of job
25 training;

1 (B) the rates of licensure of graduates of
2 the programs conducted by such provider;

3 (C) the percentage of graduates of the pro-
4 grams conducted by such provider that meet
5 skill standards and certification requirements
6 endorsed by the National Skill Standards Board
7 established under section 503 of the National
8 Skills Standards Act of 1994;

9 (D) the rates of placement and retention in
10 employment, and earnings of the graduates of
11 the programs conducted by such provider;

12 (E) the percentage of graduates of the pro-
13 gram conducted by such provider who obtained
14 employment in an occupation related to such
15 program conducted by such provider; and

16 (F) the warranties or guarantees provided
17 by such provider relating to the skill levels or
18 employment to be attained by graduates of the
19 program conducted by such provider.

20 (2) ADDITIONS.—The Governor may, pursuant
21 to the approval of the Secretary of Labor and the
22 Secretary of Education, prescribe additional per-
23 formance-based information that shall be submitted
24 by providers of job training pursuant to this sub-
25 section.

1 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 (1) STATE AGENCY.—The Governor shall des-
3 ignate a State agency to collect, verify, and dissemi-
4 nate the performance-based information submitted
5 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (c).

6 (2) APPLICATION.—A provider of job training
7 desiring to be eligible to receive funds under this
8 title shall submit the information required under
9 subsection (c) to the State agency designated under
10 paragraph (1) at such time and in such form as
11 such State agency may require.

12 (3) LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—The State
13 agency designated under paragraph (1) shall compile
14 a list of eligible providers, accompanied by the per-
15 formance-based information submitted, and dissemi-
16 nate such list and information to the voucher appli-
17 cation offices described under section 105(b)(1), as-
18 sistance centers under section 301, and other appro-
19 priate entities within the State.

20 (4) ACCURACY OF INFORMATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the State agency de-
22 termines that a provider of training services
23 submitted inaccurate performance-based infor-
24 mation under this subsection, then such pro-
25 vider shall be disqualified from receiving funds

1 under this title for a period of 2 years begin-
2 ning on the date of such determination, unless
3 such provider can demonstrate to the satisfac-
4 tion of the Governor or a designee of the Gov-
5 ernor, that the information was provided in
6 good faith.

7 (B) APPEAL.—The Governor shall estab-
8 lish a procedure for a provider of job training
9 to appeal a determination by a State agency
10 that results in a disqualification under subpara-
11 graph (A). Such procedure shall provide an op-
12 portunity for a hearing and prescribe appro-
13 priate time limits to ensure prompt resolution
14 of the appeal.

15 (5) ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING INFORMA-
16 TION.—The State agency designated under para-
17 graph (1) may provide technical assistance to a pro-
18 vider of job training in developing the performance-
19 based information required under subsection (c).
20 Such assistance may include facilitating the utiliza-
21 tion of State administrative records, such as unem-
22 ployment compensation wage records, and other ap-
23 propriate coordination activities.

24 (6) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Labor
25 shall consult with the Secretary of Education re-

1 regarding the eligibility of institutions of higher edu-
2 cation or other providers of job training to partici-
3 pate in programs under this Act or under title IV
4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

5 **SEC. 107. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDERS OF**
6 **EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—A provider of employment-related
8 services shall be eligible to receive payment by voucher
9 under this title if such provider—

10 (1) is determined to be eligible under proce-
11 dures described in subsection (b); and

12 (2) provides the performance-based information
13 required pursuant to subsection (c).

14 (b) PROCEDURES.—The Governor, after consultation
15 with local elected officials and other appropriate entities
16 in the State, shall establish eligibility procedures for pro-
17 viders of employment-related services in such State desir-
18 ing to receive payment by voucher under this title. Such
19 procedures shall establish minimum acceptable levels of
20 performance for such providers based on factors and
21 guidelines developed by the Secretary of Labor.

22 (c) PERFORMANCE-BASED INFORMATION.—The Sec-
23 retary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall iden-
24 tify performance-based information that is to be submitted

1 by providers of employment-related services desiring to be
2 eligible under this section.

3 **SEC. 108. EVALUATION OF TRAINING ACCOUNT SYSTEM**
4 **AND ASSISTANCE CENTERS.**

5 The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Edu-
6 cation shall annually—

7 (1) monitor the effectiveness of the training ac-
8 count system and the assistance centers established
9 under section 301;

10 (2) evaluate the benefit of such system and cen-
11 ters to voucher recipients under this title and the
12 taxpayer; and

13 (3) submit to the appropriate committees of
14 Congress information obtained from such evaluation.

15 **SEC. 109. APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Labor and the
17 Secretary of Education shall, without in any way reducing
18 the commitment of, or the level of effort by, the Federal
19 Government to improve the education, employment, and
20 earnings of all workers and jobseekers (particularly in
21 hard-to-serve communities), jointly apportion funds appro-
22 priated under section 202 to each State for each fiscal
23 year in accordance with subsection (b).

24 (b) **CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An apportionment of funds
2 under subsection (a) shall be based on the following
3 factors:

4 (A) The relative number of unemployed in-
5 dividuals who reside in each State as compared
6 to the total number of unemployed individuals
7 in all the States.

8 (B) The relative excess number of unem-
9 ployed individuals who reside in each State as
10 compared to the total excess number of unem-
11 ployed individuals in all the States.

12 (C) The relative number of individuals who
13 have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more
14 and who reside in each State as compared to
15 the total number of such individuals in all the
16 States.

17 (D) The relative number of economically
18 disadvantaged adults who reside in each State.

19 (2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
20 section, the term “excess number” means the num-
21 ber which represents unemployed individuals in ex-
22 cess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the
23 State.

24 (c) FUNDS FOR VOUCHERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), not less than 75 percent of funds appor-
3 tioned to a State under subsection (a) shall be made
4 available in the form of vouchers to individuals in
5 the State who are eligible under section 103.

6 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Labor may
7 waive the requirement under paragraph (1) for a
8 State if—

9 (A) such State provides job training and
10 employment-related services other than the job
11 training and employment-related services pro-
12 vided through vouchers; and

13 (B) such services are considered by the
14 Secretary of Labor to be more beneficial to in-
15 dividuals in such State to meet the self-deter-
16 mined training needs of such individuals.

17 (d) NONVOUCHER EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERV-
18 ICES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The remaining balance of
20 the funds apportioned under subsection (a) shall be
21 used for employment-related services that are pro-
22 vided through means other than voucher and that
23 increase the probability that such individuals will
24 benefit from training and reenter the workforce.

1 (2) AUTHORIZED SERVICES.—The employment-
2 related services described in paragraph (1) may in-
3 clude—

4 (A) skill assessments;

5 (B) testing;

6 (C) counseling;

7 (D) job development;

8 (E) work experience evaluation;

9 (F) job readiness training;

10 (G) basic skills education;

11 (H) supportive and supplemental services;

12 and

13 (I) rapid response.

14 (3) AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.—The services
15 described in paragraph (2) and any other related
16 services may be made available through assistance
17 centers established under title III.

18 (e) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Labor and the
19 Secretary of Education shall jointly determine the equi-
20 table distribution of voucher assistance and nonvoucher
21 assistance under subsections (c) and (d), respectively, be-
22 tween dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged
23 adults.

1 **TITLE II—ELIMINATION OF FED-**
2 **ERAL JOB TRAINING PRO-**
3 **GRAMS**

4 **SEC. 201. ELIMINATION OF PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that the elimination and streamlining of Federal job
7 training programs should be accomplished without in any
8 way reducing the commitment of, or the level of effort by,
9 the Federal Government to improve the education, em-
10 ployment, and earnings of all workers and jobseekers par-
11 ticularly in hard-to-serve communities.

12 (b) REPEALS OF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PRO-
13 GRAMS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions are
15 repealed:

16 (A) Section 6(d)(4) of the Food Stamp Act
17 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)).

18 (B) Section 106(b)(7) of the Job Training
19 Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1516(b)(7)).

20 (C) Section 123 of such Act (29 U.S.C.
21 1533).

22 (D) Section 204(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
23 1604(d)).

24 (E) Part A of title II of such Act (29
25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

1 (F) Section 302(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
2 1652(c)).

3 (G) Part A of title III of such Act (29
4 U.S.C. 1661 et seq.).

5 (H) Sections 321 through 324 of such Act
6 (29 U.S.C. 1662 through 1662c).

7 (I) Section 325 of such Act (29 U.S.C.
8 1662d).

9 (J) Section 325A of such Act (29 U.S.C.
10 1662d-1).

11 (K) Section 326 of such Act (29 U.S.C.
12 1662e).

13 (L) Sections 301 through 303 of such Act
14 (29 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.).

15 (M) Subtitle C of title VII of the Stewart
16 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42
17 U.S.C. 11441 et seq.).

18 (N) The Displaced Homemakers Self-Suffi-
19 ciency Assistance Act (29 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

20 (O) Section 43 of the Airline Deregulation
21 Act of 1978 (49 U.S.C. App. 1552).

22 (P) Title II of Public Law 95-250 (92
23 Stat. 172).

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeals made by
25 paragraph (1) shall take effect on January 1, 1996.

1 **SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act for fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998 the same
4 level of funds that were appropriated for the programs de-
5 scribed in section 201(b) for fiscal year 1995.

6 **TITLE III—INFORMATION FOR**
7 **BETTER CHOICES**

8 **SEC. 301. ASSISTANCE CENTERS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State may, with the funds
11 made available under section 109(d), make arrange-
12 ments with private or public entities to establish as-
13 sistance centers to provide voucher recipients under
14 title I, jobseekers, employers, and workers informa-
15 tion and employment-related services to increase the
16 probability that such individuals will benefit from
17 job training and make better use of other Federal
18 job training assistance. An assistance center may
19 serve as the location where individuals may apply to
20 become eligible for voucher assistance under title I.

21 (2) LOCATION.—An assistance center may be
22 located within an existing unemployment office.

23 (3) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—A State that de-
24 sires to establish an assistance center is encouraged
25 to consult the public, including the business commu-

1 nity, and workers, regarding the choice of services to
2 be made available and the location of such center.

3 (b) AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—The information
4 made available to individuals described in subsection (a)
5 shall include data on—

6 (1) the local economy and availability of em-
7 ployment;

8 (2) profiles of local industries;

9 (3) details of local labor market demand;

10 (4) local demographic and socioeconomic char-
11 acteristics;

12 (5) the performance of training and education
13 providers; and

14 (6) private support service providers.

15 (c) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES.—The em-
16 ployment-related services available to individuals described
17 in subsection (a) may include—

18 (1) counseling;

19 (2) skills and employability assessment;

20 (3) job referral; and

21 (4) child care.

22 (d) OTHER SERVICES.—The Governor shall make
23 available through the assistance centers information on
24 and provide referrals to other Federal and State job train-
25 ing and employment-related service programs.

1 **SEC. 302. ACCESS TO LABOR MARKET INFORMATION.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that accurate,
3 timely, and relevant data regarding employment, training,
4 job skills, and education opportunities are useful for
5 individuals making choices about the careers of such indi-
6 viduals.

7 (b) AUTHORITY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor and
9 the Secretary of Education are authorized to make
10 arrangements with public or private entities to de-
11 velop and provide relevant labor market information
12 to interested individuals, including voucher recipients
13 under title I, jobseekers, employers, and workers.

14 (2) TYPE OF INFORMATION FOR COLLEC-
15 TION.—The types of information to be developed
16 and provided under paragraph (1) shall include the
17 following:

- 18 (A) Regional labor market demand.
19 (B) Regional employment opportunities.
20 (C) Regional industries and employers.
21 (D) Demographic, socioeconomic, and eco-
22 nomic characteristics of particular regions.

23 **SEC. 303. DIRECT LOANS TO WORKING AMERICANS.**

24 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the Federal
25 Direct Student Loan Program authorized by part D of
26 title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, is a valuable

1 financing tool for working Americans who desire to take
2 advantage of training and education programs, consistent
3 with the goals of such Americans, to learn new skills for
4 careers that may bring higher salaries and improved qual-
5 ity of life.

6 (b) AWARENESS.—The Department of Education
7 shall endeavor to make known the value and availability
8 of direct loans through the Federal Direct Student Loan
9 Program under part D of title IV of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 through cooperative arrangements with train-
11 ing and educational training programs, assistance centers,
12 State agencies, and other Federal agencies.

13 **TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS**

14 **SEC. 401. CONSOLIDATION AND STREAMLINING.**

15 (a) REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING NONCOVERED FED-
16 ERAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Not later than Janu-
17 ary 1, 1996, and each year thereafter, the Secretary of
18 Labor and the Secretary of Education shall jointly prepare
19 and submit to Congress a report on how additional Fed-
20 eral job training programs not covered by this Act can
21 be consolidated into a more integrated and accountable
22 workforce development system that better meets the needs
23 of jobseekers, workers, and business.

24 (b) PLAN ON USE OF COMMON DEFINITIONS, MEAS-
25 URES, STANDARDS, AND CYCLES.—Not later than 180

1 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
2 of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall jointly de-
3 velop a plan that, wherever practicable, requires all Fed-
4 eral job training programs not covered by this Act to use
5 common definitions, common outcome measures, common
6 eligibility standards, and common funding cycles in order
7 to make such training programs more accessible.

8 **SEC. 402. REPORT RELATING TO INCOME SUPPORT.**

9 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Con-
10 gress that—

11 (1) many dislocated workers and economically
12 disadvantaged adults are unable to enroll in long-
13 term job training because such workers and adults
14 lack income support after unemployment compensa-
15 tion is exhausted;

16 (2) evidence suggests that long-term job train-
17 ing is among the most effective adjustment service
18 in assisting dislocated workers and economically dis-
19 advantaged adults to obtain employment and en-
20 hance wages; and

21 (3) there is a need to identify options relating
22 to how income support may be provided to enable
23 dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged
24 adults to participate in long-term job training.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall sub-
3 mit to the Congress a report that—

4 (1) examines the need for income support to en-
5 able dislocated workers and economically disadvan-
6 taged adults to participate in long-term job training;

7 (2) identifies options relating to how income
8 support can be provided to such workers and adults;
9 and

10 (3) contains such recommendations as the Sec-
11 retary of Labor determines are appropriate.

○