

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1804

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Science Technology and the Director of the National Science Foundation, to establish a program for increasing the United States scientific, technology, and mathematical resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 27, 1999

Mr. MCCAIN 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 Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Science Technology and the Director of the National Science Foundation, to establish a program for increasing the United States scientific, technology, and mathematical resources, 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 “21st Century Tech-
5 nology Resources and Commercial Leadership Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
3 findings:

4 (1) The United States Department of Com-
5 merce, through its Office of Technology Policy, has
6 reported in June, 1999, that the United States will
7 require more than 1.3 million new highly-skilled core
8 information technology workers by the year 2006.

9 (2) The need for computer scientists, computer
10 engineers, and systems analysts by 2006 is projected
11 to be more than double the number of such sci-
12 entists, engineers, and analysts in 1996.

13 (3) The supply of new graduates qualified for
14 the positions described in paragraph (2) is antici-
15 pated to be well short of half the number needed.

16 (4) The lack of qualified workers is due in part
17 to a lack of sufficient numbers of students pursuing
18 advanced degrees in mathematics, science, and engi-
19 neering technology.

20 (5) The number of degrees in technical science
21 and engineering fields awarded by United States in-
22 stitutions of higher learning have declined since
23 1990.

24 (6) Foreign national students in the United
25 States were awarded 47 percent of Doctorate de-
26 grees in engineering, 38 percent of Master's degrees,

1 and 46 percent of Doctorate degrees in computer
2 science in 1996.

3 (7) The United States is a leader in the global
4 development of technology related enterprises.

5 (8) If the United States cannot meet the needs
6 of industry to allow continued expansion and innova-
7 tion in the 21st century, American companies will lo-
8 cate in those countries which do have the technical
9 base to meet those needs and this will be counter-
10 productive to the American economy.

11 (9) Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
12 grants Congress the power “To regulate Commerce
13 with foreign nations and among the several States.”.

14 (10) In order to maintain a strong domestic
15 economy and provide for the national defense, it is
16 critical that the United States maintain its leader-
17 ship position in technology.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
19 vide incentives and opportunities for the United States’
20 improving the mathematics, science, engineering, and
21 technology resources in order to maintain the United
22 States leadership in technology, and to permit United
23 States companies to continue the technology-related ex-
24 pansion of the United States’ domestic economy and inter-
25 national economic presence.

1 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in
3 consultation with the Director of the Office of Science
4 Technology and the Director of the National Science
5 Foundation, shall establish and administer a program
6 under this Act to strengthen the scientific, mathematical,
7 engineering, and technology resources of the United States
8 in order to ensure the United States continued global lead-
9 ership in technology-related commerce.

10 (b) GRANTS.—The program shall include grants of
11 financial assistance, awarded on a competitive basis, to
12 support the advancement and improvement of mathe-
13 matics, science, engineering, and technology competencies
14 and resources to assure continued growth, leadership, and
15 competitiveness of United States based companies in
16 interstate and international commerce.

17 (c) RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may award grants
18 under subsection (b) to business enterprises, organizations
19 supporting mathematics, scientific, engineering, tech-
20 nology research and advancement, teachers, schools,
21 school districts, or institutions of higher learning.

22 (d) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants for
23 programs that can demonstrate an economically beneficial
24 return on investment and achievement in the advancement
25 of science, math, engineering, and technology com-
26 petencies and resources.

1 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY SKILLED PERSONNEL IN MATHE-**
2 **MATICS, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECH-**
3 **NOLOGY.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding clauses (iii), (iv),
5 and (v) of section 214(g)(1)(A) of the Immigration and
6 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(1)(A)), the total num-
7 ber of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise pro-
8 vided nonimmigrant status during fiscal years 2000
9 through 2006 under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of that
10 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)) shall not be subject
11 to numerical limitation, and shall be subject to numerical
12 limitations after 2006 as provided by law.

13 (b) **CERTAIN APPLICATIONS GIVEN PREFERENCE.**—
14 In processing applications for visas or other nonimmigrant
15 status under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as
16 modified by subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall
17 give preferential consideration to applications from foreign
18 national students who are graduates of post-secondary
19 schools in the United States with advanced degrees in
20 mathematics, science, engineering, or technology.

21 (c) **FUNDING FOR GRANTS.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section
23 286(s) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(s)), for fiscal
24 years 2000 through 2006 51.3 percent of the
25 amounts deposited into the H-1B Nonimmigrant
26 Petitioner Account established by paragraph (1) of

1 that section shall be available to the Secretary of
2 Commerce until expended under section 3 of this
3 Act.

4 (2) JOB TRAINING.—For fiscal years 2000
5 through 2006, section 286(s)(2) of such Act (8
6 U.S.C. 1356(s)(2)) shall be applied by substituting
7 “5 percent” for “56.3 percent”.

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