

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1775

To provide support to develop career and technical education programs of study and facilities in the areas of renewable energy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide support to develop career and technical education programs of study and facilities in the areas of renewable energy.

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 “Grants for Renewable
5 Energy Education for the Nation Act” or the “GREEN
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

1 (1) career and technical education provides edu-
2 cation pathways that help students explore interests
3 and careers that support the United States economy;

4 (2) the United States needs to develop renew-
5 able energy options that conserve energy and provide
6 energy efficiency and new and yet unrecognized
7 fields are developing as a result of the attention and
8 focus on renewable energy, and new workers will be
9 needed for professions in these fields;

10 (3) the Conference of Mayors reports that mil-
11 lions of U.S. workers across a wide range of familiar
12 occupations, States, and income and skill levels will
13 all benefit from the project of defeating global
14 warming and transforming the United States into a
15 green economy;

16 (4) a report commissioned by the American
17 Solar Energy Society attributed 8.5 million jobs in
18 2006 to renewable energy or energy efficient indus-
19 tries and the Apollo Alliance predicts that the Na-
20 tion could generate 3 million to 5 million more green
21 jobs over the next 10 years;

22 (5) more than 40 percent of the fastest growing
23 occupations will require an associate's degree, a
24 postsecondary vocational certificate, or extensive job

1 training, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 Report;

3 (6) more than 80 percent of respondents in the
4 National Association of Manufacturers 2005 skills
5 gap report indicated that they are experiencing a
6 shortage of qualified workers overall with 13 percent
7 reporting severe shortages and 68 percent indicating
8 moderate shortages;

9 (7) career and technical education graduates
10 are more likely to be in the labor force and earn
11 more than graduates who have a high school degree;
12 and

13 (8) career and technical education programs
14 need support in acquiring the latest technology and
15 developing programs that prepare students for the
16 new and emerging renewable energy field.

17 **SEC. 3. RENEWABLE ENERGY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**
18 **GRANTS.**

19 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Education is
20 authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-
21 gible partnerships to develop programs of study (con-
22 taining the information described in section 122(c)(1)(A)
23 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
24 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342)), that are focused on emerg-
25 ing careers and jobs in the renewable energy sector.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS.—For purposes of this
2 section, an eligible partnership shall include—

3 (1) at least 1 local education agency eligible for
4 funding under section 131 of the Carl D. Perkins
5 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
6 U.S.C. 2351) or an area career and technical edu-
7 cation school or education service agency described
8 in such section;

9 (2) at least 1 postsecondary institution eligible
10 for funding under section 132 of such Act (20
11 U.S.C. 2352); and

12 (3) representatives of the community including
13 business, labor organizations, and industry that has
14 experience in the renewable energy field.

15 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking a
16 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
17 Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Sec-
18 retary may require. Applications shall include—

19 (1) a description of the eligible partners and
20 partnership, the roles and responsibilities of each
21 partner, and a demonstration of each partner's ca-
22 pacity to support the program;

23 (2) a description of the career area or areas
24 within the field of renewable energy to be developed,

1 the reason for the choice, and evidence of the labor
2 market need to prepare students in that area;

3 (3) a description of the new or existing program
4 of study and both secondary and postsecondary com-
5 ponents;

6 (4) a description of the students to be served by
7 the new program of study;

8 (5) a description of how the program of study
9 funded by the grant will be replicable and dissemi-
10 nated to schools outside of the partnership, including
11 urban and rural areas;

12 (6) a description of applied learning that will be
13 incorporated into the program of study and how it
14 will incorporate or reinforce academic learning;

15 (7) a description of how the program of study
16 will be delivered;

17 (8) a description of how the program will pro-
18 vide accessibility to students, especially economically
19 disadvantaged, low performing and urban and rural
20 students; and

21 (9) a description of how the program will ad-
22 dress placement of students in non-traditional fields
23 as described in section 3(20) of the Carl D. Perkins
24 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
25 U.S.C. 2302(20)).

1 (d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to
2 applications that—

3 (1) use online learning or other innovative
4 means to deliver the program of study to students,
5 educators, and instructors outside of the partner-
6 ship; and

7 (2) focus on low performing students and spe-
8 cial populations as defined in section 3(29) of the
9 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
10 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(29)).

11 (e) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a
12 peer review process to review applications for grants under
13 this section and to make recommendations regarding the
14 selection of grantees. Members of the peer review com-
15 mittee shall include—

16 (1) educators who have experience imple-
17 menting renewable energy curriculums; and

18 (2) business and industry experts who work and
19 build in renewable energy fields.

20 (f) USES OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this
21 section shall be used for the development, implementation,
22 and dissemination of programs of study (as described in
23 section 122(c)(1)(A) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
24 Technical Education Act (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(A))) in
25 career areas related to energy sustainability.

1 **SEC. 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES GRANTS.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Education is
3 authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-
4 gible entities to promote development of career and tech-
5 nical education facilities that are energy efficient and pro-
6 mote the use of renewable energy practices.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this sec-
8 tion, eligible entities include—

9 (1) a local education agency eligible for funding
10 under section 131 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
11 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2351)
12 or an area career and technical education school or
13 education service agency described under that sec-
14 tion; or

15 (2) a postsecondary institution eligible for fund-
16 ing under section 132 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2352).

17 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant
18 under this section shall submit an application to the Sec-
19 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
20 information as the Secretary may require.

21 (d) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a
22 peer review process to review applications for grants under
23 this section and to make recommendations regarding the
24 selection of grantees. Members of the peer review com-
25 mittee shall include—

1 (1) career and technical education administra-
2 tors who have experience with energy-efficient facili-
3 ties and equipment; and

4 (2) business and industry experts who build and
5 work in renewable energy facilities.

6 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
7 tion shall be used for—

8 (1) performing an evaluation of the sustain-
9 ability aspects of current facilities, unless such an
10 evaluation has been conducted prior to receiving a
11 grant under this section;

12 (2) convening stakeholders, including organiza-
13 tions devoted to the promotion and support of re-
14 newable energy activities, to develop a plan to ad-
15 dress needs identified in such an evaluation, unless
16 such a plan has already been developed prior to re-
17 ceiving a grant under this section;

18 (3) initiating activities related to the construc-
19 tion, operation, and improvement of facilities that
20 promote the use of renewable energy practices;

21 (4) purchasing energy-efficient machinery, tech-
22 nology, or other physical equipment used as an edu-
23 cational tool to deliver career and technical edu-
24 cation courses;

1 (5) measuring the effectiveness of the new or
2 improved facilities and infrastructure, such as com-
3 plying with existing renewable energy standards; and

4 (6) communicating the lessons and practices
5 learned from the building upgrades to other institu-
6 tions.

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000
9 to the Secretary of Education to carry out the grant pro-
10 gram established under this Act.

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