

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2524

To support access to career and technical education programs of study that provide students with education and training combining rigorous academics with technical curricula focused on specific high-skill, high-wage, high-demand and high-growth occupations and industries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2014

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To support access to career and technical education programs of study that provide students with education and training combining rigorous academics with technical curricula focused on specific high-skill, high-wage, high-demand and high-growth occupations and industries.

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 “Pathways to Prosperity
5 Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in
 3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
 4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
 5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
 6 section or other provision of the Carl D. Perkins Career
 7 and Technical Education Act (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 Section 3 (20 U.S.C. 2302) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through
 11 (9), (10) through (17), (18), (19), and (20) through
 12 (34) as paragraphs (7) through (10), (12) through
 13 (19), (21), (22), and (24) through (38), respectively;

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(6) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PRO-
 17 GRAM OF STUDY.—The term ‘career and technical
 18 education program of study’ means a coordinated,
 19 non-duplicative sequence of secondary and postsec-
 20 ondary academic and technical courses that—

21 “(A) contain rigorous, State-identified col-
 22 lege and career readiness standards that ad-
 23 dress both academic and technical content and
 24 align to local, regional, or State labor market
 25 needs, as identified by employers and labor
 26 market information;

1 “(B) support attainment of career readi-
2 ness skills;

3 “(C) progress in content specificity (begin-
4 ning with all aspects of an industry or career
5 cluster leading to more occupationally specific
6 instruction);

7 “(D) incorporate multiple entry and exit
8 points with portable demonstrations of technical
9 competency, which may include postsecondary
10 education credits as recognized by credit trans-
11 fer or articulation agreements or industry-rec-
12 ognized credentials; and

13 “(E) culminate in the attainment of an in-
14 dustry-recognized credential, an apprenticeship
15 or postsecondary certificate, or an associate or
16 baccalaureate degree.”;

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (10), as reded-
18 ignated by paragraph (1) of this section, the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(11) CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT.—The
21 term ‘credit transfer agreement’ refers to an oppor-
22 tunity for secondary students to be awarded
23 transcripted postsecondary credit, supported with
24 formal agreements among secondary and postsec-
25 ondary education systems, such as dual enrollment,

1 dual credit, 2-year to 4-year college articulation
2 agreements, or articulated credit, which may include
3 credit awarded for performance on technical assess-
4 ments.”;

5 (4) by inserting after paragraph (19), as redese-
6 gnated by paragraph (1) of this section, the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(20) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—
9 The term ‘industry-recognized credential’ means a
10 credential that—

11 “(A) is sought or accepted by employers
12 within the industry or sector involved as a rec-
13 ognized, preferred, or required credential for re-
14 cruitment, screening, hiring, retention or ad-
15 vancement purposes; and

16 “(B) if appropriate, is endorsed by a na-
17 tionally recognized trade association or organi-
18 zation representing a significant part of the in-
19 dustry or sector.”; and

20 (5) by inserting after paragraph (22), as redese-
21 gnated by paragraph (1) of this section, the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(23) LABOR MARKET INFORMATION.—The
24 term ‘labor market information’ means economic, so-
25 cial, and demographic information that—

1 “(A) pertains to labor markets for the pur-
2 poses of determining the supply of, and demand
3 for, labor and related skills and competencies;
4 and

5 “(B) supports students, job seekers, em-
6 ployers, developers of curricula, and other rel-
7 evant stakeholders in understanding labor mar-
8 ket and economic trends to help make informed
9 labor market decisions.”.

10 **SEC. 4. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

11 Section 113(b)(2) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
12 Technical Education Act (20 U.S.C. 2323(b)(2)) is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (vi);
15 and

16 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (v)
17 and inserting the following:

18 “(v) the median earnings of students
19 who are employed during the second quar-
20 ter after completing a career and technical
21 education program of study in the State.
22 The Secretary shall, consistent with State
23 law, ensure that the necessary wage
24 records are available to enable eligible

1 agencies to collect data relating to this
2 State performance measure.”.

3 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

4 Section 114(d)(4)(A) (20 U.S.C. 2324) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v);

6 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “and” after the
7 semicolon; and

8 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

9 “(iv) to engage in evaluation and
10 technical assistance activities that will as-
11 sist in—

12 “(I) collecting information on the
13 industry-recognized credentials award-
14 ed to participants in career and tech-
15 nical education programs of study, in-
16 cluding—

17 “(aa) the name of such in-
18 dustry-recognized credentials;

19 “(bb) the awarding body;

20 “(cc) the duration of the
21 program of study for the creden-
22 tial; and

23 “(dd) the number of such
24 participants receiving the creden-
25 tial; and

1 “(II) developing the necessary in-
 2 frastructure to support the State and
 3 local reporting of information de-
 4 scribed in subclause (I), including
 5 through activities such as estab-
 6 lishing—

7 “(aa) data sharing agree-
 8 ments with State licensing agen-
 9 cies and with industry associa-
 10 tions and employers who award
 11 certifications or other industry-
 12 recognized credentials;

13 “(bb) a consistent reporting
 14 method across States; and

15 “(cc) a collection system to
 16 process reports in a timely fash-
 17 ion; and”.

18 **SEC. 6. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.**

19 Section 124(b) (20 U.S.C. 2341(a)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after
 21 the semicolon;

22 (2) in paragraph (9) by striking the period at
 23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(10) establishing statewide credit transfer
2 agreements aligned to approved career and technical
3 education programs of study.”.

4 **SEC. 7. LOCAL PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-**
5 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

6 Section 134(b) (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” after
8 the semicolon;

9 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(13) describe how the eligible recipient will
13 partner with business and industry to—

14 “(A) identify opportunities for experiential
15 and work-based learning opportunities either in-
16 person or virtually;

17 “(B) ensure career and technical education
18 programs of study are responsive to community
19 and employment demands and are—

20 “(i) aligned with employment prior-
21 ities in the State, regional, or local econ-
22 omy identified by employers and other rel-
23 evant stakeholders identified in section
24 134(b)(5);

1 “(ii) informed by labor market infor-
2 mation; and

3 “(iii) designed to meet current, inter-
4 mediate, and long term labor market pro-
5 jections;

6 “(C) ensure funding under this Act is
7 spent in a coordinated manner with other local
8 resources.”.

9 **SEC. 8. AMENDMENT TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SEC-**
10 **ONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**

11 Section 1502(a) of the Elementary and Secondary
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6492(a)) is amended
13 by striking “challenging State academic content standards
14 and challenging State student academic achievement
15 standards” and inserting “rigorous, State-identified col-
16 lege and career readiness standards that address both aca-
17 demic content and career and technical education content
18 identified under section 113(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Carl D.
19 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.”.

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