

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1304

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2015

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy 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 “21st Century Energy
5 Workforce Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the energy sector is the third-largest indus-
9 try in the United States;

1 (2) 1,500,000 new skilled workers will be need-
2 ed in the energy sector over the next 15 years; and

3 (3) a skilled workforce is a critical component
4 of ensuring the growth of the energy sector in the
5 United States.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Na-
9 tional Center of Excellence for the 21st Century
10 Workforce Advisory Board established under section
11 4(a).

12 (2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
13 nity college” means a junior or community college
14 (as defined in section 312(f) of the Higher Edu-
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))).

16 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
17 the pilot program established under section 5(a).

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Energy.

20 (5) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
21 term “veterans service organization” means an orga-
22 nization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
23 fairs for the representation of veterans under section
24 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE 21ST**
2 **CENTURY WORKFORCE.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a
4 nationwide advisory board, to be known as the “National
5 Center of Excellence for the 21st Century Workforce Advi-
6 sory Board”, to foster strategic vision, guidance, and net-
7 works for the energy industry.

8 (b) **REPRESENTATIVES.**—The members of the Board
9 shall consist of energy sector stakeholders, including—

- 10 (1) representatives of relevant industries;
- 11 (2) experts in labor, economics, and workforce
12 development;
- 13 (3) representatives of States and units of local
14 government;
- 15 (4) representatives of elementary and secondary
16 education and postsecondary education; and
- 17 (5) representatives of labor organizations.

18 (c) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Board are—

- 19 (1) to support and develop training and science
20 education programs that—
 - 21 (A) meet the industry and labor needs of
22 the energy sector; and
 - 23 (B) provide opportunities for students to
24 become qualified for placement in traditional
25 and clean energy sector jobs;

1 (2) to align apprenticeship programs and indus-
2 try certifications to further develop succession plan-
3 ning in the energy sector;

4 (3) to integrate educational standards to de-
5 velop foundational skills for elementary and sec-
6 ondary education and postsecondary education to
7 create a pipeline between education and career; and

8 (4) to support the replication of existing model
9 energy curricula.

10 **SEC. 5. ENERGY WORKFORCE PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
13 tion with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of
14 Education, shall establish a pilot program to award grants
15 on a competitive basis to eligible entities for job training
16 to obtain an industry-recognized credential.

17 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
18 under this section, an entity shall be a public or nonprofit
19 organization that—

20 (1) includes an advisory board of proportional
21 participation, as determined by the Secretary, of rel-
22 evant organizations, including—

23 (A) relevant energy industry organizations,
24 including public and private employers;

25 (B) labor organizations; and

1 (C) elementary and secondary education
2 and postsecondary education organizations;

3 (2) demonstrates experience in implementing
4 and operating job training and education programs;

5 (3) demonstrates the ability to recruit and sup-
6 port individuals who plan to work in the energy in-
7 dustry in the successful completion of relevant job
8 training and education programs; and

9 (4) provides students who complete the job
10 training and education program with an industry-
11 recognized credential.

12 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Eligible entities desiring a grant
13 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
14 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
15 information as the Secretary may require.

16 (d) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive
17 grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize ap-
18 plicants that—

19 (1) house the job training and education pro-
20 grams in—

21 (A) a community college or institution of
22 higher education that includes basic science and
23 math education in the curriculum of the com-
24 munity college, institution of higher education;
25 or

1 (B) an apprenticeship program registered
2 with the Department of Labor;

3 (2) work with the Secretary of Defense or vet-
4 erans organizations to transition members of the
5 Armed Forces and veterans to careers in the energy
6 sector;

7 (3) apply as a State or regional consortia to le-
8 verage best practices already available in the State
9 or region in which the community college or institu-
10 tion of higher education is located;

11 (4) have a State-supported entity included in
12 the application;

13 (5) include an apprenticeship program reg-
14 istered with the Department of Labor as part of the
15 job training and education program;

16 (6) develop a mentorship program for energy
17 professionals and elementary and secondary edu-
18 cation students;

19 (7) provide support services and career coach-
20 ing; or

21 (8) provide introductory energy workforce devel-
22 opment training.

23 (e) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.—In making
24 grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider re-
25 gional diversity.

1 (f) LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS.—An eligible enti-
2 ty may not submit, either individually or as part of a joint
3 application, more than 1 application for a grant under this
4 section during any 1 fiscal year.

5 (g) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The
6 amount of a grant for any 1 year shall not exceed
7 \$1,000,000.

8 (h) COSTS.—

9 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
10 the cost of a job training and education program
11 carried out using a grant under this section shall be
12 not greater than 65 percent.

13 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share
15 of the cost of a job training and education pro-
16 gram carried out using a grant under this sec-
17 tion shall consist of not less than 50 percent
18 cash.

19 (B) LIMITATION.—Not greater than 50
20 percent of the non-Federal contribution of the
21 total cost of a job training and education pro-
22 gram carried out using a grant under this sec-
23 tion shall be in the form of in-kind contribu-
24 tions of goods or services fairly valued.

1 (i) REDUCTION OF DUPLICATION.—Prior to submit-
2 ting an application for a grant under this section, each
3 applicant shall consult with the applicable agencies of the
4 Federal Government and coordinate the proposed activi-
5 ties of the applicant with existing State and local pro-
6 grams.

7 (j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
8 provide technical assistance and capacity building to na-
9 tional and State energy partnerships, including the enti-
10 ties described in subsection (b)(1), to leverage the existing
11 job training and education programs of the Department
12 of Energy.

13 (k) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Con-
14 gress and make publicly available on the website of the
15 Department of Energy an annual report on the program
16 established under this section, including a description of—

17 (1) the entities receiving grants;

18 (2) the activities carried out using the grants;

19 (3) best practices used to leverage the invest-
20 ment of the Federal Government;

21 (4) the rate of employment for participants
22 after completing a job training and education pro-
23 gram carried out using a grant; and

24 (5) an assessment of the results achieved by the
25 program.

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019.

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