

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5639

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a grant program to make grants for the establishment or expansion of job training programs for communications tower service, construction, and maintenance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2018

Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a grant program to make grants for the establishment or expansion of job training programs for communications tower service, construction, and maintenance.

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 “Communications Jobs
5 Training Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the reorganization of broadcast television
4 spectrum under section 6403(b) of the Middle Class
5 Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
6 1452(b)), the establishment of the First Responder
7 Network Authority (FirstNet) under such Act, and
8 advances toward 5G technology have created high
9 demand for communications tower service, construc-
10 tion, maintenance, and structural modification;

11 (2) additional job training is necessary to meet
12 such demand; and

13 (3) enhancement of communications tower serv-
14 ice is essential to the Nation’s economy, competitive-
15 ness, homeland security, and vital communications
16 capabilities.

17 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATIONS TOWER JOB TRAINING GRANT**
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934
20 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 **“SEC. 344. COMMUNICATIONS TOWER JOB TRAINING**
23 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in consultation
25 with the Secretary of Education, shall carry out a grant
26 program to make grants to covered entities to establish

1 or expand job training programs for communications
2 tower service, construction, maintenance, and structural
3 modification.

4 “(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
5 under this section, a covered entity shall submit an appli-
6 cation to the Commission at such time, in such manner,
7 and containing such information as the Commission may
8 require.

9 “(c) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall begin ac-
10 cepting applications for grants under this section not later
11 than the date that is 90 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this section.

13 “(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of the enactment of this section, and annu-
15 ally thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Com-
16 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
18 and Transportation of the Senate a report on the grant
19 program carried out under this section that includes, with
20 respect to the 1-year period preceding the date of the sub-
21 mission of the report—

22 “(1) the number and total dollar amount of
23 grants made under this section;

24 “(2) the number of individuals and crews
25 trained to perform communications tower service,

1 construction, maintenance, and structural modifica-
2 tion using grant funds; and

3 “(3) the number of communications towers on
4 which service, construction, maintenance, or struc-
5 tural modification was performed by individuals or
6 crews while participating in job training programs
7 receiving grant funds.

8 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COMMUNICATIONS TOWER.—The term
10 ‘communications tower’ means a structure that
11 transmits broadcast radio signals, commercial mobile
12 service (as defined in section 332) signals, or com-
13 mercial mobile data service (as defined in section
14 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
15 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401)) signals.

16 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
17 tity’ means—

18 “(A) a junior or community college (as de-
19 fined in section 312(f) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)));

21 “(B) a postsecondary vocational institution
22 (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c)));

24 “(C) an area career and technical edu-
25 cation school (as defined in section 3 of the

1 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
2 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or

3 “(D) any organization that provides career
4 and technical education (as defined in such sec-
5 tion) to veterans (as defined in section 101 of
6 title 38, United States Code).

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2019 through
10 2021. Amounts appropriated under this subsection are au-
11 thorized to remain available until expended.”.

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