115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6200

To allow the Secretary of Transportation to provide grants to retrain transportation workers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. BARTON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CAPUANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To allow the Secretary of Transportation to provide grants to retrain transportation workers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Transportation Workforce Modernization Act”.

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION WORKER RETRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
portation may make grants under this section to institutions of higher education, a consortium of such institutions to establish curriculum for a transportation worker retraining program, or trade associations and other non-governmental stakeholders.

(b) Responsibilities.—The responsibilities of each grant recipient or consortium of recipients shall include developing a curriculum to establish a transportation worker retraining program aimed at training and preparing workers who have been separated from their jobs for a period determined by the Secretary or have received notice of impending job loss as a result of being replaced by automated driving systems of SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) level 4 or higher. Individuals who apply and are accepted to a transportation worker retraining program shall pursue a degree or certification through the developed coursework or curriculum. Grant recipients may use funds for studies, pilot programs, as well as testing new roles for current jobs, including mechanical work, diagnostic, and fleet operations management.

(c) General Selection Criteria.—The Secretary shall select recipients of grants under this subsection on the basis of the following criteria:
(1) The demonstrated research and extension resources available to a grant recipient for carrying out this section.

(2) The capability of a grant recipient to develop curriculum in the training or retraining of individuals described in subsection (b) as a result of driverless vehicles.

(3) A grant recipient shall have an established transportation program or programs with expertise in solving transportation problems through research, training, education, and technology and sharing such information with other programs.

(4) The demonstrated commitment of the recipient to carry out a transportation workforce development program through degree-granting programs or programs that provide other industry-recognized credentials.

(d) Federal Share.—The Federal share of a grant under this section shall be a dollar for dollar match of the costs of establishing and administering the retraining program and related activities carried out by the grant recipient or consortium of grant recipients.

(e) Transparency.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
the House of Representatives a report describing the overall review process under paragraph (3) that includes—

(1) specific criteria of evaluation used in the review;

(2) descriptions of the review process; and

(3) explanations of why recipients were selected.

(f) Tracking of Certain Information.—Not later than 1 year after grant awards are made under this section, the Secretary shall implement a reporting or tracking mechanism to determine—

(1) from which sectors of industry are displaced transportation workers coming from;

(2) what skills and professions are participants being retrained for;

(3) how many workers have used the program; and

(4) relevant demographic information.

(g) Definition of Institution of Higher Learning.—For purposes of this Act the term “institution of higher education” has the same meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—

(1) In General.—There is authorized to be appropriated $25,000,000 to be used in fiscal years
2020, 2021, and 2022 to carry out this section. Each recipient may receive a one-time grant in an amount determined by the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) Limitation on availability of amounts.—Amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out this section shall remain available for obligation by the Secretary for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the amounts are authorized.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study and report to Congress regarding the impact of driverless vehicle adoption—

(1) on the Nation’s workforce;

(2) on the trucking, freight movement, and personal transportation industries;

(3) on lost wages;

(4) on job loss, including the economic impact on each region of the United States; and

(5) on the creation of new jobs and how such transportation sector jobs would change.