

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 996

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. KIHUEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs.

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 “Service, Training,  
5 Education, and Preparation for Veterans Act” or the  
6 “STEP for Veterans Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO TRAIN VETERANS FOR LOCAL**  
8 **JOBS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
10 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a

1 program to award competitive grants to eligible commu-  
2 nity colleges (as described in subsection (b)) to train cov-  
3 ered veterans for jobs in the local community.

4 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive  
5 a grant under this section, a community college shall sub-  
6 mit an application to the Secretary that demonstrates, to  
7 the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the local community  
8 in which the community college is located has—

9 (1) employment opportunities that require  
10 trained workers; and

11 (2) a significant population of covered veterans  
12 that might pursue the employment opportunities de-  
13 scribed in paragraph (1) if given access to necessary  
14 training.

15 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A community college receiving  
16 a grant under this section shall use amounts under the  
17 grant to—

18 (1) conduct an analysis of—

19 (A) the demand for additional trained em-  
20 ployees among local employers, including local  
21 manufacturers; and

22 (B) the skills and training possessed by  
23 covered veterans seeking employment with local  
24 employers, including local manufacturers;

1           (2) carry out an existing, or develop and imple-  
2           ment a new, certificate or degree program at the  
3           community college that provides training to covered  
4           veterans that addresses the demand for additional  
5           trained employees among local employers, including  
6           local manufacturers; and

7           (3) facilitate the establishment of an advisory  
8           board that consists of representatives from the local  
9           business community and the employee from the De-  
10          partment of Veterans Affairs detailed under section  
11          4—

12                   (A) to provide assistance regarding the  
13                   training described in paragraph (2); and

14                   (B) to assist covered veterans who have  
15                   successfully completed the training described in  
16                   paragraph (2) in their pursuit of local employ-  
17                   ment opportunities.

18 **SEC. 3. DETAIL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

19                   **EMPLOYEE.**

20           The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall detail an em-  
21           ployee of the Department of Veterans Affairs to partici-  
22           pate on the supervisory board established in section  
23           2(c)(3).

1 **SEC. 4. GRANT AMOUNT.**

2 To the maximum extent practicable, the amount of  
3 a grant under section 2 shall not exceed \$2,000,000.

4 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

5 Not later than one year after the date of enactment  
6 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-  
7 port—

8 (1) evaluating the success of the program estab-  
9 lished under section 2; and

10 (2) making recommendations as to whether the  
11 program should be continued, and if so, whether the  
12 program should be expanded.

13 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The term “commu-  
16 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior  
17 or community college” in section 312(f) of the High-  
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

19 (2) **COVERED VETERAN.**—The term “covered  
20 veteran” means a veteran receiving educational as-  
21 sistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States  
22 Code.

23 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of Labor.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
3 priated to the Secretary \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2018  
4 to carry out this Act.

5 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
6 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)  
7 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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