

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2407

To establish a career pathway grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a career pathway grant program.

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 “Gateway to Careers
5 Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. CAREER PATHWAYS GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1161a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“PART BB—CAREER PATHWAY GRANT PROGRAM**

2 **“SEC. 899. CAREER PATHWAY GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) WIOA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘area ca-
5 reer and technical education school’, ‘career path-
6 way’, ‘individual with a barrier to employment’, ‘in-
7 dustry or sector partnership’, ‘integrated education
8 and training’, ‘local board’, and ‘recognized postsec-
9 ondary credential’ have the meanings given such
10 terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
11 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 “(2) CAREER PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘career
14 pathway partnership’ means a partnership—

15 “(i) between an eligible institution, a
16 workforce development partner described
17 in subparagraph (B), and a secondary and
18 adult education partner described in sub-
19 paragraph (C);

20 “(ii) evidenced by a formal agreement
21 between partners; and

22 “(iii) that is intended to support the
23 development and implementation of a ca-
24 reer pathway program.

25 “(B) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PART-
26 NER.—A workforce development partner de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (A) means one or more
2 of the following:

3 “(i) A local board.

4 “(ii) An industry association or other
5 representative of multiple employers in the
6 target industry, including an industry or
7 sector partnership.

8 “(iii) A community-based organization
9 with experience in providing employment,
10 education, or support services relevant to
11 the career pathway and student popu-
12 lations receiving services under the grant
13 under this section.

14 “(C) SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION
15 PARTNER.—A secondary and adult education
16 partner described in subparagraph (A) means
17 one or more of the following:

18 “(i) A local educational agency, as de-
19 fined under section 8101 of the Elemen-
20 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

22 “(ii) An eligible provider, as defined
23 under section 203 of the Workforce Inno-
24 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
25 3272).

1 “(iii) An eligible agency, as defined in
2 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career
3 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
4 U.S.C. 2302).

5 “(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
6 ble institution’ means—

7 “(A) a public institution of higher edu-
8 cation at which the highest degree that is pre-
9 dominantly awarded to students is an associ-
10 ate’s degree, including 2-year Tribal Colleges or
11 Universities under section 316 of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e) and
13 public 2-year State institutions of higher edu-
14 cation;

15 “(B) an area career and technical edu-
16 cation school that provides education at the
17 postsecondary level; or

18 “(C) a consortium of entities described in
19 subparagraph (A) or (B).

20 “(4) MEASURABLE SKILL GAINS.—The term
21 ‘measurable skill gains’ has the meaning given the
22 term in section 361.155(a)(1)(v) of title 34, Code of
23 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

24 “(b) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary, in
25 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall establish

1 a career pathway grant program, through which the Sec-
2 retary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
3 ble institutions in order to enable eligible institutions to
4 carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

5 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution desiring
6 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
7 cation, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary
8 may require, that includes the following information:

9 “(1) A description of the career pathway part-
10 nership, including the roles and responsibilities of
11 each partner.

12 “(2) A description of the career pathway pro-
13 gram that will be supported under the grant, includ-
14 ing a description of the occupations and industries
15 that will be targeted and the recognized postsec-
16 ondary credentials to be awarded.

17 “(3) A description of how the career pathway
18 program supported under the grant is aligned and
19 coordinated with other employment, education, and
20 support services offered in the geographic area
21 served under the grant, including services provided
22 under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
23 Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and the Carl D. Per-
24 kins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
25 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

1 “(4) A description of the student populations
2 that will be served under the grant, including an
3 analysis of any barriers to postsecondary access and
4 completion that such populations face, and an anal-
5 ysis of how the services to be provided under the
6 grant will address those barriers.

7 “(5) A description of the activities and services
8 to be provided under this grant, consistent with the
9 subsection (e).

10 “(6) A description of the performance outcomes
11 that the eligible institution plans to achieve, includ-
12 ing a description of how the eligible institution will
13 evaluate and measure student progress and measur-
14 able skill gains along a career pathway.

15 “(7) Such other information as the Secretary
16 may require.

17 “(d) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY; PRIORITY.—The Sec-
18 retary shall award grants under this part in a manner
19 that—

20 “(1) supports geographic diversity among
21 grantees; and

22 “(2) gives priority to partnerships that seek to
23 serve individuals with a barrier to employment or in-
24 dividuals with a barrier to postsecondary education.

1 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution receiv-
2 ing a grant under this section shall use grant funds to
3 carry out activities that support the development and im-
4 plementation of career pathways programs, which shall in-
5 clude two or more of the following activities:

6 “(1) The planning and implementation of
7 agreements between the eligible institution and other
8 partners in the career pathway partnership to sup-
9 port seamless transitions between elements of the
10 career pathway program offered by different part-
11 ners, as appropriate.

12 “(2) The development and expansion of new or
13 existing programs at the eligible institution that uti-
14 lize integrated education and training strategies, and
15 support multiple entry and exit points for working
16 learners, which may include—

17 “(A) dual-enrollment approaches for sec-
18 ondary students or disconnected youth seeking
19 to transition directly into a career pathway pro-
20 gram; and

21 “(B) strategies that help working students
22 and other nontraditional and adult student pop-
23 ulations access skills and recognized postsec-
24 ondary credentials.

1 “(3) The provision of direct support services
2 such as childcare, transportation, mental health and
3 substance use disorder treatment, assistance in ob-
4 taining health insurance coverage, and assistance in
5 accessing the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
6 gram established under the Food and Nutrition Act
7 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the special supple-
8 mental nutrition program for women, infants, and
9 children established by section 17 of the Child Nu-
10 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), housing, and
11 other benefits, as appropriate.

12 “(4) The provision of emergency grants to help
13 students facing financial hardships that may impact
14 enrollment or completion of an element of a career
15 pathway program.

16 “(5) Offering career pathways navigation and
17 case management services.

18 “(6) The provision of professional development
19 for faculty and other staff at the eligible institution
20 or at partner organizations described under subpara-
21 graph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(3) on the develop-
22 ment and implementation of career pathways.

23 “(7) The acquisition of equipment necessary to
24 support the delivery of career pathway programs
25 supported through a grant under this section.

1 “(8) Any other activity identified by the eligible
2 institution or partners as necessary to support the
3 development or implementation of career pathway
4 programs, as long as such activity is clearly outlined
5 in the grant application.

6 “(f) DURATION OF AWARD.—A grant under this sec-
7 tion shall be for a period of not more than 4 years. An
8 eligible institution may apply for subsequent grants after
9 the completion of a grant period.

10 “(g) REPORTS.—Each eligible institution receiving a
11 grant under this section shall submit a report to the Sec-
12 retary, on an annual basis, describing—

13 “(1) the activities provided under the grant, in-
14 cluding activities carried out directly by the eligible
15 institution and activities carried out by partner or-
16 ganizations;

17 “(2) the students receiving services under the
18 grant, disaggregated by age, race or ethnicity, gen-
19 der, and income; and

20 “(3) outcomes for students receiving services
21 under the grant, including data relating to—

22 “(A) employment of students upon enroll-
23 ment in the career pathway program, and in
24 the second and fourth quarters after comple-
25 tion;

1 “(B) median earnings of students upon en-
2 rollment in the career pathway program, and in
3 the second quarter after completion of the pro-
4 gram or attainment of a recognized postsec-
5 ondary credential;

6 “(C) the percentage of students receiving a
7 high school diploma or recognized equivalent;

8 “(D) the percentage of students receiving a
9 recognized postsecondary credential;

10 “(E) the percentage of students who
11 achieve measurable skill gains toward a recog-
12 nized postsecondary credential or employment;
13 and

14 “(F) the percentage of students receiving
15 support services, disaggregated by type of serv-
16 ice.

17 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activi-
19 ties described in this section, such sums as may be nec-
20 essary for fiscal year 2018 and for each subsequent fiscal
21 year thereafter.”.

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