

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1782

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2019

Ms. DELAURO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, 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 “American Apprentice-  
5 ship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND QUALIFIED APPREN-**  
7 **TICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

1           (1) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP.—The term  
2 “qualified apprenticeship”, used with respect to a  
3 program, means an apprenticeship program that  
4 is—

5                   (A) registered under the Act of August 16,  
6 1937 (commonly known as the “National Ap-  
7 prenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;  
8 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

9                   (B) concentrated in an emerging, in-de-  
10 mand industry.

11           (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-  
12 TION.—The term “postsecondary educational institu-  
13 tion” means an institution of higher education, as  
14 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act  
15 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

16           (3) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “pre-ap-  
17 prenticeship”, used with respect to a program,  
18 means an initiative or set of strategies that—

19                   (A) is designed to prepare individuals to  
20 enter and succeed in a qualified apprenticeship  
21 program;

22                   (B) is carried out by a sponsor described  
23 in paragraph (6)(B) that has a documented  
24 partnership with one or more sponsors of quali-  
25 fied apprenticeship programs; and

1 (C) includes each of the following:

2 (i) Training (including a curriculum  
3 for the training), aligned with industry  
4 standards related to apprenticeships in a  
5 qualified apprenticeship program, and re-  
6 viewed and approved annually by sponsors  
7 of such apprenticeships within the docu-  
8 mented partnership, that will prepare indi-  
9 viduals by teaching the skills and com-  
10 petencies needed to enter one or more  
11 qualified apprenticeship programs.

12 (ii) Provision of hands-on training and  
13 theoretical education to individuals that—

14 (I) is carried out in a manner  
15 that includes proper observation of su-  
16 pervision and safety protocols; and

17 (II) is carried out in a manner  
18 that does not displace a paid em-  
19 ployee.

20 (iii) A formal agreement with a spon-  
21 sor of a qualified apprenticeship program  
22 that would enable participants who suc-  
23 cessfully complete the pre-apprenticeship  
24 program to enter directly into the qualified  
25 apprenticeship program (if a place in the

1 program is available and if the participant  
2 meets the qualifications of the qualified ap-  
3 prenticeship program), and includes agree-  
4 ments concerning earning credit recognized  
5 by a postsecondary educational institution  
6 for skills and competencies acquired during  
7 the pre-apprenticeship program.

8 (4) RELATED INSTRUCTION.—The term “re-  
9 lated instruction” means an organized and system-  
10 atic form of instruction designed to provide an ap-  
11 prentice with the knowledge of the theoretical and  
12 technical subjects related to the occupation of the  
13 apprentice or the instruction needed to prepare an  
14 individual to enter and succeed in an qualified ap-  
15 prenticeship program.

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of Labor.

18 (6) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means—  
19 (A) with respect to a qualified apprentice-  
20 ship program, an employer, joint labor-manage-  
21 ment partnership, trade association, profes-  
22 sional association, labor organization, or other  
23 entity, that administers the qualified appren-  
24 ticeship program; and

1 (B) with respect to a pre-apprenticeship  
2 program, a local educational agency, a sec-  
3 ondary school, an area career and technical  
4 education school, a State board, a local board,  
5 or a community-based organization, with re-  
6 sponsibility for the pre-apprenticeship program.

7 (7) WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPOR-  
8 TUNITY ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “area career  
9 and technical education school”, “community-based  
10 organization”, “individual with a barrier to employ-  
11 ment”, “local board”, “local educational agency”,  
12 “secondary school”, and “State board” have the  
13 meanings given the terms in section 3 of the Work-  
14 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
15 3102).

16 (b) GRANTS FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
18 grants to States on a competitive basis to assist the  
19 States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost  
20 of, carrying out projects that defray the cost of re-  
21 lated instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship  
22 and qualified apprenticeship programs.

23 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
24 grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an  
25 application to the Secretary for such a project at

1 such time, in such manner, and containing a stra-  
2 tegic plan that contains such information as the Sec-  
3 retary may require, including—

4 (A) information identifying the State agen-  
5 cy (referred to in this Act as the “State enti-  
6 ty”) that will administer the grant as deter-  
7 mined by the Governor of the State;

8 (B) a description of strategies that the  
9 State entity will use to collaborate with key in-  
10 dustry representatives, State agencies, postsec-  
11 ondary educational institutions, labor-manage-  
12 ment entities, and other relevant partners to  
13 launch or expand pre-apprenticeships, and ap-  
14 prenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-  
15 grams;

16 (C) a description of how the State entity  
17 will—

18 (i) coordinate activities carried out  
19 under this subsection with activities car-  
20 ried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career  
21 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
22 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and the Workforce  
23 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
24 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to support pre-ap-

1                   prenticeships, and apprenticeships in quali-  
2                   fied apprenticeship programs;

3                   (ii) leverage funds provided under the  
4                   Acts specified in clause (i) to support pre-  
5                   apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in  
6                   qualified apprenticeship programs; and

7                   (iii) utilize, and encourage individual  
8                   participants in programs supported under  
9                   this subsection to utilize, available Federal  
10                  and State financial assistance, including  
11                  assistance available under the Workforce  
12                  Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
13                  U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), education assistance  
14                  benefits available to veterans, and Federal  
15                  Pell Grants available under section 401 of  
16                  the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
17                  U.S.C. 1070a), prior to using assistance  
18                  made available under this Act;

19                  (D) a description of strategies to elevate  
20                  apprenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-  
21                  grams as a workforce solution in both tradi-  
22                  tional and nontraditional industries, such as in-  
23                  formation technology, health care, advanced  
24                  manufacturing, construction trades, transpor-

1           tation, and other industries determined to be  
2           high-demand by the State board for the State;

3           (E) a description of activities that the  
4           State entity will carry out to build awareness  
5           about the economic potential of apprenticeships  
6           in qualified apprenticeship programs;

7           (F) a description that outlines how the  
8           State entity will increase opportunities for pre-  
9           apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in quali-  
10          fied apprenticeship programs, among members  
11          of minority groups, youth, individuals with dis-  
12          abilities, veterans, and individuals with barriers  
13          to employment;

14          (G) a description of—

15           (i) how the State entity will ensure  
16           that the qualified apprenticeship program  
17           meets certain performance measures and  
18           quality standards, including that the quali-  
19           fied apprenticeship program has been in  
20           existence for not fewer than 6 months  
21           prior to the application date;

22           (ii) the targeted outreach strategies  
23           that the State entity will use for popu-  
24           lations previously underserved through ap-  
25           prenticeships; and



1 (iii) any State performance measures  
2 and goals that the State will use, at the  
3 election of the State, to measure the effec-  
4 tiveness of the project; and

5 (H) in the case of a State that has already  
6 received a grant under this subsection for a  
7 project, information indicating that the State  
8 met the performance measures with respect to  
9 the project.

10 (3) APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.—A joint  
11 team of employees from the Department of Labor  
12 and the Department of Education shall—

13 (A) review such an application; and

14 (B) make recommendations to the Sec-  
15 retary regarding approval of the application.

16 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a  
17 grant under this subsection shall use the funds made  
18 available through the grant to defray any of the fol-  
19 lowing costs of related instruction:

20 (A) Tuition and fees.

21 (B) Cost of textbooks, equipment, cur-  
22 riculum development, and other required edu-  
23 cational materials.

24 (C) Costs of any other item or service de-  
25 termined by the State to be necessary.

1           (5) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The State may  
2 use not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for  
3 administrative costs relating to carrying out the  
4 project described in paragraph (1).

5           (6) PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION.—The  
6 Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of  
7 Education, shall—

8                   (A) establish performance measures based  
9 on indicators set by the Administrator of the  
10 Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of  
11 Labor; and

12                   (B) establish an evaluation system aligned  
13 with the performance measures, and reporting  
14 requirements for the program carried out under  
15 this subsection.

16       (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the  
18 cost described in subsection (b)(1) shall be not less  
19 than 20 percent and not more than 50 percent.

20           (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The State may  
21 make the non-Federal share available—

22                   (A) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, in-  
23 cluding plant, equipment, or services; and

24                   (B) directly or through donations from  
25 public or private entities.

1 (d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and sub-  
2 mit to Congress, not later than September 30, 2024, a  
3 report—

4 (1) detailing the results of the evaluation de-  
5 scribed in subsection (b)(6)(B); and

6 (2) analyzing the extent to which States have  
7 used grant funds effectively under this section.

8 (e) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the pol-  
9 icy of the United States that funds made available under  
10 this section should be used to supplement and not sup-  
11 plant other funds available under the Workforce Innova-  
12 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and  
13 other Federal and State funds available to the State to  
14 support workforce development programs.

15 **SEC. 3. IDENTIFYING IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.**

16 The Secretary shall—

17 (1) identify in-demand occupations nationally  
18 and regionally that lack the use of apprenticeships;

19 (2) analyze the use of the qualified apprentice-  
20 ship program model in those identified in-demand  
21 occupations; and

22 (3) prepare and submit to States and Congress  
23 a report that contains the analysis described in para-  
24 graph (2).

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
4 2025.

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