

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4760

To bolster the domestic workforce by encouraging communication between career and technical education institutions and emphasizing potential employment opportunities, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain costs relating to career and technical education as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of section 529 programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and Small Business, 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 bolster the domestic workforce by encouraging communication between career and technical education institutions and emphasizing potential employment opportunities, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain costs relating to career and technical education as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of section 529 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Generating Real Op-
3 portunities for Workforce Training and Hiring Act” or the
4 “GROWTH Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON**
6 **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**
7 **SCHOOLS.**

8 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

9 (1) consistent communication between institu-
10 tions providing career and technical education, as
11 defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career
12 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
13 2302), and employment entities regarding cur-
14 riculum and industry need is paramount to pro-
15 ducing a truly skilled and viable domestic workforce;

16 (2) employment opportunities provided through
17 recognized postsecondary credentials, as defined in
18 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
19 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102), are as important to the
20 advancement of the economy of the United States as
21 any other domestic business sector; and

22 (3) elementary schools and secondary schools
23 (as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the El-
24 elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
25 U.S.C. 7801)) should highlight enrollment in career

1 and technical professions as desirable and often
2 high-skill, high-wage occupations.

3 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF TRANSPORTATION AND STUDENT**
4 **LOAN EXPENSES OF CAREER AND TECH-**
5 **NICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 529(e)
7 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new subparagraph:

9 “(C) CERTAIN COSTS OF CAREER AND
10 TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an
12 individual who is enrolled in (or, for pur-
13 poses of subclause (II), who is enrolled in
14 or has graduated from) career and tech-
15 nical education, such term shall also in-
16 clude—

17 “(I) costs for transportation in
18 the course of attendance of such pro-
19 gram, and

20 “(II) amounts paid by the indi-
21 vidual in repayment of a student loan
22 incurred to finance the individual’s
23 enrollment in such program.

24 “(ii) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-
25 CATION.—For purposes of this subpara-

1 graph, the term ‘career and technical edu-
2 cation’ means a program of organized edu-
3 cational activities which offers a sequence
4 of courses which—

5 “(I) provides individuals with co-
6 herent and rigorous content aligned
7 with challenging academic standards
8 and relevant technical knowledge and
9 skills needed to prepare for further
10 education and careers in current or
11 emerging professions,

12 “(II) provides technical skill pro-
13 ficiency, an industry-recognized cre-
14 dential, a certificate, or an associate
15 degree, and

16 “(III) includes competency-based
17 applied learning which contributes to
18 the academic knowledge, higher-order
19 reasoning and problem-solving skills,
20 work attitudes, general employability
21 skills, technical skills, occupation-spe-
22 cific skills, and knowledge of all as-
23 pects of an industry, including entre-
24 preneurship, of an individual.

1 Such program may include prerequisite
2 courses (other than a remedial course)
3 which meet the requirements of this
4 clause.”.

5 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply to distributions made after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**
9 **MENT INITIATIVES.**

10 Section 504 of title 23, United States Code, is
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(i) **HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE DEVEL-**
13 **OPMENT INITIATIVES.**—

14 “(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall
15 provide grants under this subsection to eligible enti-
16 ties described in paragraph (3) to establish highway
17 construction workforce development initiatives (re-
18 ferred to in this subsection as the ‘initiatives’) to at-
19 tract, train, and place workers into highway con-
20 struction careers.

21 “(2) **COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.**—The initiatives
22 established with a grant under this subsection shall
23 encourage cooperative efforts between—

24 “(A) the highway construction industry;

25 “(B) the Federal Highway Administration;

1 “(C) State departments of transportation;

2 “(D) State and local workforce develop-
3 ment boards;

4 “(E) community colleges and technical
5 schools; and

6 “(F) labor organizations.

7 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may
8 award a grant under this subsection to a public or
9 private entity for use in accordance with this sub-
10 section.

11 “(4) AUTHORIZED USES.—An eligible entity de-
12 scribed in paragraph (3) shall use a grant provided
13 under this subsection to carry out an initiative—

14 “(A) to promote highway construction
15 worker career opportunities;

16 “(B) to support relevant outreach and
17 awareness efforts;

18 “(C) to develop relevant education and
19 training materials;

20 “(D) to provide life skills training, includ-
21 ing rudimentary math and other basis skills;
22 and

23 “(E) for related support services.”.

1 **SEC. 5. MILITARY SPOUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
2 **INITIATIVES.**

3 (a) EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF REIMBURSE-
4 MENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UN-
5 DERGOING A PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION FOR PRO-
6 FESSIONAL RELICENSING COSTS OF ACCOMPANYING
7 SPOUSES.—

8 (1) EXTENSION.—Paragraph (4) of section
9 476(p) of title 37, United States Code, is amended
10 by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting
11 “December 31, 2024”.

12 (2) EXPANSION OF QUALIFYING RELICENSING
13 COSTS.—Paragraph (5)(A) of that section is amend-
14 ed by striking “the original duty station” and insert-
15 ing “a previous duty station or home of record”.

16 (b) EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF MYCAREER
17 ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM.—

18 (1) EXPANSION OF GRADES OF MEMBERS
19 WHOSE SPOUSES ARE ELIGIBLE.—The grades of
20 members of the Armed Forces whose spouses are eli-
21 gible for the MyCareer Advancement Account
22 (MyCAA) Program of the Department of Defense
23 shall include members in the additional grades as
24 follows:

25 (A) O–3.

26 (B) E–6.

1 (2) **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.**—The benefits
2 available under the MyCareer Advancement Account
3 Program shall include scholarships usable by mili-
4 tary spouses to attend or participate in any of the
5 following:

6 (A) Vocational school.

7 (B) Professional licensure classes or tests.

8 (C) Clinical supervision hours in connec-
9 tion with pursuit of a medical or health care de-
10 gree.

11 **SEC. 6. LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.**

12 Section 501(d)(3) of the Small Business Investment
13 Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695(d)(3)) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through
15 (L) as subparagraphs (B) through (M), respectively;

16 (2) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as re-
17 designated by paragraph (1), the following:

18 “(A) workforce development through work-
19 based or work-integrated training, which shall
20 be satisfied by demonstrating that a small busi-
21 ness concern that is a subject of the project
22 has—

23 “(i) a documented in-house training
24 program, the duration of which is not
25 shorter than 12 weeks; or

1 “(ii) entered into a contract with an
2 entity—

3 “(I) to provide trained applicants
4 for any open position of employment
5 at the small business concern; and

6 “(II) that ensures that any appli-
7 cant provided to the small business
8 concern under subclause (I) has un-
9 dergone not fewer than 12 weeks of
10 training that is relevant to the open
11 position described in that subclause,”;
12 and

13 (3) in the flush text following subparagraph
14 (M), as redesignated by paragraph (1), in the second
15 sentence, by striking “subparagraphs (J) and (K)”
16 and inserting “subparagraphs (K) and (L)”.

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