

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1769

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2019

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, 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 “Offshore Wind Jobs
5 and Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE WIND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
9 merce of the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Natural Resources
11 of the House of Representatives.

12 (2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
13 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior
14 or community college” in section 312 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

16 (3) DISLOCATED WORKER.—The term “dis-
17 located worker” has the meaning given the term in
18 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
19 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

20 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
21 ty” means an entity that is—

22 (A) an institution of higher education; or

23 (B) a labor organization.

1 (5) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
2 gram” means the grant program established under
3 subsection (d).

4 (6) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means an
5 eligible entity that has received a grant under this
6 section.

7 (7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOY-
8 MENT.—The term “individual with a barrier to em-
9 ployment” has the meaning given the term in section
10 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
11 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 (8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
13 term “institution of higher education” has the
14 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (9) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term “lead appli-
17 cant” means the eligible entity that is primarily re-
18 sponsible for the preparation, conduct, and adminis-
19 tration of the project for which a grant is awarded
20 under this section.

21 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
22 means the Secretary of Energy.

23 (11) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
24 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
25 United States Code.

1 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER
2 TRAINING NEEDS.—Not later than 120 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
4 tion with representatives from the offshore wind industry,
5 eligible entities, including eligible entities that are commu-
6 nity colleges, State and local governments, labor organiza-
7 tions, ports, and nonprofit organizations, shall identify the
8 educational and career training needs with respect to the
9 offshore wind industry, including needs relating to manu-
10 facturing, construction, installation, operation, engineer-
11 ing training and education, and maintenance activities
12 with respect to the offshore wind industry.

13 (c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) issue guidelines for the submission of grant
16 proposals under this section, which shall include a
17 list of the educational and career training needs
18 identified under subsection (b); and

19 (2) publish and maintain the guidelines de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) on a public website of the
21 Secretary.

22 (d) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not
23 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
24 the Secretary shall establish a grant program under which
25 the Secretary may award offshore wind career training

1 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of developing,
 2 offering, or improving educational or career training pro-
 3 grams that provide individuals who are enrolled in those
 4 programs with skills that are necessary for employment
 5 in the offshore wind industry.

6 (e) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—

7 (1) LIMITATION ON GRANT QUANTITY AND
 8 SIZE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
 9 may not award to an eligible entity—

10 (A) more than 1 grant for which the eligi-
 11 ble entity is the lead applicant; or

12 (B) a grant that is in an amount that is
 13 more than \$2,500,000.

14 (2) ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES.—

15 The Secretary shall ensure that, in a fiscal year, not
 16 less than 25 percent of the total amount that the
 17 Secretary awards in grants under this section is
 18 awarded to eligible entities that are community col-
 19 leges.

20 (f) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity seeking to re-
 21 ceive a grant under this section may partner with 1 or
 22 more of the following:

23 (1) Another eligible entity, including an eligible
 24 entity that is a community college.

25 (2) A State or local government.

1 (3) A nonprofit organization.

2 (g) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity may use a
3 grant awarded under this section to carry out—

4 (1) occupational skills training, including cur-
5 riculum development, on-the-job training, safety and
6 health training, and classroom training;

7 (2) incumbent worker and career ladder train-
8 ing and retraining, including skill upgrading and
9 transitional job strategizing;

10 (3) individual referral and tuition assistance for
11 a training program offered by a nonprofit organiza-
12 tion through which an individual may attain a recog-
13 nized postsecondary credential (as defined in section
14 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
15 (29 U.S.C. 3102));

16 (4) customized training in conjunction with an
17 existing registered apprenticeship program, intern-
18 ship, or labor-management partnership; and

19 (5) other activities that the Secretary deter-
20 mines meet the purposes of this section.

21 (h) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR GRANT PRO-
22 POSALS.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a grant
23 under this section shall submit a grant proposal to the
24 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and, in accord-

1 ance with the guidelines issued under subsection (c)(1),
 2 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

3 (i) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
 5 appropriations, the Secretary may award a grant
 6 under this section only after an evaluation of—

7 (A) the merits of the grant proposal with
 8 respect to the grant;

9 (B) the likely employment opportunities
 10 available to individuals who complete the edu-
 11 cational or career training program that the eli-
 12 gible entity applying for the grant proposes to
 13 develop, offer, or improve;

14 (C) prior demand for educational or career
 15 training programs in the community served by
 16 the eligible entity applying for the grant; and

17 (D) the availability and capacity of existing
 18 educational or career training programs in the
 19 community described in subparagraph (C) to
 20 meet future demand for the educational or ca-
 21 reer training programs.

22 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
 23 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
 24 entities that—

25 (A) are—

1 (i) institutions of higher education
 2 that have formed partnerships with labor
 3 organizations; or

4 (ii) labor organizations that have
 5 formed partnerships with institutions of
 6 higher education;

7 (B) have entered into a memorandum of
 8 understanding with an employer in the offshore
 9 wind industry to foster workforce development;
 10 or

11 (C) will use the grant funds to assist indi-
 12 viduals who are—

13 (i) dislocated workers, with a focus on
 14 workers displaced from the offshore oil and
 15 gas, onshore fossil fuel, nuclear energy, or
 16 fishing industry;

17 (ii) veterans, members of the reserve
 18 components of the Armed Forces, or
 19 former members of those reserve compo-
 20 nents; or

21 (iii) individuals with a barrier to em-
 22 ployment.

23 (j) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A grant awarded
 24 under this section may not be used to satisfy any non-

1 Federal funds matching requirement under any other pro-
2 vision of law.

3 (k) GRANTEE DATA COLLECTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee shall collect and
5 report to the Secretary on an annual basis the fol-
6 lowing information regarding the educational or ca-
7 reer training program for which the grantee receives
8 a grant under this section:

9 (A) The number of participants in the edu-
10 cational or career training program (referred to
11 in this subsection as “participants”).

12 (B) The services received in that program
13 by the participants, including a description of
14 training, educational, and supportive services.

15 (C) The rate of job placement of partici-
16 pants in the offshore wind industry or related
17 fields that have completed the educational or
18 career training program.

19 (D) The rate at which participants are re-
20 tained in positions of employment 1 year after
21 the date on which the participant has completed
22 the program.

23 (l) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18
25 months after the date on which the grant program

1 is established, the Secretary shall submit to the ap-
2 propriate committees of Congress an initial report
3 describing the results of the grant program, includ-
4 ing a description of—

5 (A) the grantees that were awarded a
6 grant under this section; and

7 (B) the activities for which the grantees
8 described in subparagraph (A) used a grant
9 awarded under this section.

10 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2
11 years after the date on which the initial report is
12 submitted under paragraph (1), and every 2 years
13 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appro-
14 priate committees of Congress a report describing
15 the results of the grant program for the 2-year pe-
16 riod preceding the report.

17 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

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