

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2415

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2019

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, 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 “Wind Workforce Mod-
5 ernization and Training Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act
8 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 1107. WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
3 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a community college
4 or technical school that offers a wind training program.

5 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish a program under which the Secretary shall award
7 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to pur-
8 chase large pieces of wind component equipment (such as
9 nacelles, towers, and blades) for use in training wind tech-
10 nician students.

11 “(c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to
12 the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out
13 other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the
14 Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000
15 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2024.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
17 for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58;
18 119 Stat. 601) is amended by inserting after the item re-
19 lating to section 1106 the following:

“Sec. 1107. Wind technician training grant program.”.

20 **SEC. 3. VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act
22 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) (as amended by section
23 2(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 1108. VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
3 program to prepare veterans for careers in the wind en-
4 ergy industry that shall be modeled off of the Solar Ready
5 Vets pilot program formerly administered by the Depart-
6 ment of Energy and the Department of Defense.

7 “(b) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to
8 the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out
9 other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the
10 Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000
11 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2024.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
13 for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58;
14 119 Stat. 601) (as amended by section 2(b)) is amended
15 by inserting after the item relating to section 1107 the
16 following:

“Sec. 1108. Veterans in wind energy.”.

17 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON WIND TECHNICIAN WORK-**
18 **FORCE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (referred
20 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall convene a task
21 force comprised of 1 or more representatives of each of
22 the stakeholders described in subsection (b) that shall—

23 (1) conduct a study to assess the needs of wind
24 technicians in the workforce;

25 (2) create a comprehensive list that—

1 (A) lists each type of wind technician posi-
2 tion available in the United States; and

3 (B) describes the skill sets required for
4 each type of position listed under subparagraph
5 (A); and

6 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
7 actment of this Act, make publicly available and
8 submit to Congress a report that—

9 (A) describes the results of that study;

10 (B) includes the comprehensive list de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2); and

12 (C) provides recommendations—

13 (i) for creating a credentialing pro-
14 gram that may be administered by commu-
15 nity colleges, technical schools, and other
16 training institutions; and

17 (ii) that reflect best practices for wind
18 technician training programs, as identified
19 by representatives of the wind industry.

20 (b) STAKEHOLDERS DESCRIBED.—The stakeholders
21 referred to in subsection (a) are—

22 (1) the Department of Defense;

23 (2) the Department of Education;

24 (3) the Department of Energy;

25 (4) the Department of Labor;

- 1 (5) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
2 (6) technical schools and community colleges
3 that have wind technician training programs; and
4 (7) the wind industry.

5 (c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to the
6 Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out other
7 programs under the authority of the Secretary, the Sec-
8 retary shall use to carry out this section \$500,000.

○