

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 876

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. GARDNER) 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 require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, 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 “Energy Jobs for our
5 Heroes Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENERGY-READY VETS PROGRAM.**

2 Title XI of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
3 16411 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 1107. ENERGY-READY VETS PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
7 sure that veterans have the credentials and training nec-
8 essary to secure careers in the energy industry.

9 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERV-
11 ICE.—The term ‘active military, naval, or air service’
12 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of
13 title 38, United States Code.

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘eligi-
15 ble participant’ means a veteran who—

16 “(A) was discharged or released from serv-
17 ice in the active military, naval, or air service
18 during the most recent 1-year period; or

19 “(B)(i) was discharged or released from
20 service in the active military, naval, or air serv-
21 ice during the 2-year period immediately pre-
22 ceding the most recent 1-year period; and

23 “(ii) receives the approval of the Secretary
24 to participate in the program.

1 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
2 the Energy-Ready Vets Program established under
3 subsection (c)(1).

4 “(4) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term ‘uni-
5 formed services’ has the meaning given such term in
6 section 10(a) of title 10, United States Code.

7 “(5) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the
8 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38,
9 United States Code.

10 “(c) ESTABLISHMENT; IMPLEMENTATION.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
12 tablish a program, to be known as the ‘Energy-
13 Ready Vets Program’, to prepare eligible partici-
14 pants for careers in the energy industry.

15 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall
16 ensure that the program is implemented by an ad-
17 ministrator, to be appointed by the Secretary from
18 among individuals with experience relating to mili-
19 tary service.

20 “(d) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in partner-
22 ship with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out
23 the program through the SkillBridge program of the
24 Department of Defense, under which the Secretary
25 shall provide standardized training courses, based, to

1 the maximum extent practicable, on existing indus-
2 try-recognized certification and training programs,
3 to prepare eligible participants in the program for
4 careers in the energy industry, including—

5 “(A) in the solar energy industry, ca-
6 reers—

7 “(i) as solar photovoltaic system in-
8 stallers;

9 “(ii) as solar technicians;

10 “(iii) as system inspectors; and

11 “(iv) in other areas relating to the
12 solar energy industry;

13 “(B) in the wind energy industry, ca-
14 reers—

15 “(i) in wind energy operations;

16 “(ii) in wind energy development;

17 “(iii) in wind energy manufacturing;

18 “(iv) as wind energy technicians;

19 “(v) in the support of all parts of the
20 wind energy supply chain; and

21 “(vi) in other areas relating to the
22 wind energy industry;

23 “(C) in the cybersecurity sector of the en-
24 ergy industry, careers in—

25 “(i) cybersecurity preparedness;

1 “(ii) cyber incident response and re-
2 covery;

3 “(iii) grid modernization, security,
4 and maintenance;

5 “(iv) resilience planning; and

6 “(v) other areas relating to the cyber-
7 security sector of the energy industry;

8 “(D) careers in other low-carbon emissions
9 sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy
10 industry identified by the Secretary; and

11 “(E) careers in sectors that plan, develop,
12 construct, maintain, and expand energy indus-
13 try infrastructure.

14 “(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
16 program, the Secretary shall ensure that the
17 courses described in paragraph (1)—

18 “(i) provide—

19 “(I) job training;

20 “(II) employment skills training,
21 including providing comprehensive
22 wraparound support services to eligi-
23 ble participants that—

24 “(aa) enhance the training
25 experience and promote the pro-

1 professional development of eligible
2 participants; and

3 “(bb) help eligible partici-
4 pants transition into the work-
5 force; and

6 “(III) opportunities for intern-
7 ships of not longer than 180 days;
8 and

9 “(ii) are carried out primarily
10 through—

11 “(I) internships; or

12 “(II) applied, work-based train-
13 ing.

14 “(B) EXAM REQUIREMENT.—As a require-
15 ment for completing a course described in para-
16 graph (1), the Secretary shall require each eligi-
17 ble participant in the course to earn an applica-
18 ble industry-recognized entry-level certificate or
19 other credential.

20 “(e) RECOGNITION OF ENTITIES.—The Secretary
21 and the administrator of the program appointed under
22 subsection (c)(2), working jointly, shall establish and carry
23 out a program to recognize commercial entities that hire
24 eligible participants who receive certifications or other cre-

1 dentials under the program, based on the proportion
2 that—

3 “(1) the number of such eligible participants
4 hired by the commercial entity; bears to

5 “(2) the number of such eligible participants
6 hired by all commercial entities.

7 “(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
8 CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection
10 (d), if an appropriate industry-recognized certifi-
11 cation and training program does not exist, the Sec-
12 retary shall establish a grant program to assist the
13 industry in developing such an industry-recognized
14 certification and training program.

15 “(2) FUNDING.—Out of the amounts made
16 available under subsection (g)(1), the Secretary shall
17 use such sums as are necessary to carry out para-
18 graph (1).

19 “(g) FUNDING.—

20 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
21 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this
23 section.

24 “(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Secretary shall allocate to each
3 facility of the Department of Defense partici-
4 pating in the program an amount based on a
5 percentage of how many participants enroll in
6 courses at the facility.

7 “(B) APPLICATIONS.—A facility of the De-
8 partment of Defense participating in the pro-
9 gram and desiring funding under subparagraph
10 (A) shall annually submit an application for
11 such funding.

12 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 on which the program is established, and annually there-
14 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report de-
15 scribing the activities carried out under, and accomplish-
16 ments of, the program.”.

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