

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6756

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants for workforce grants to assist incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants for workforce grants to assist incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals.

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 “Workforce Opportunity
5 for Returning Citizens Act” or the “WORC Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO ASSIST INCARCERATED OR PRE-**
2 **VIOUSLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**

3 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 172 as section 173;

6 and

7 (2) by inserting after section 171, the following:

8 **“SEC. 172. GRANTS TO ASSIST INCARCERATED OR PRE-**
9 **VIOUSLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
11 under subsection (g), the Secretary shall award grants to
12 eligible entities to develop or expand education or work-
13 force training programs that lead to employment opportu-
14 nities for incarcerated individuals or previously incarcer-
15 ated individuals and reduce recidivism.

16 “(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,
17 the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that
18 will use the grants to develop or expand training programs
19 described in subsection (a) that will lead participants of
20 such programs—

21 “(1) to jobs in skilled trade (such as jobs in
22 construction, plumbing, welding, heating and air
23 conditioning, or masonry); or

24 “(2) to the attainment of recognized postsec-
25 ondary credentials.

1 “(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To receive a
2 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit
3 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
4 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
5 require.

6 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that re-
7 ceives a grant under this section shall use such grant to
8 develop or expand a training program described in sub-
9 section (a).

10 “(e) REPORTS.—Each eligible entity that receives a
11 grant under this section shall annually prepare and submit
12 to the Secretary a report on—

13 “(1) the amount of the grant awarded to the el-
14 ible entity for the preceding grant year, and how
15 such grant was used; and

16 “(2) the progress, as described in section 116,
17 of the eligible entity with respect to the training pro-
18 gram developed or expanded with such grant, includ-
19 ing the relative rate of recidivism of the participants
20 of such program.

21 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—

22 “(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
23 ‘correctional institution’ has the meaning given the
24 term in section 225(e)(1).

1 “(2) EDUCATION OR WORKFORCE TRAINING
2 PROGRAM.—The term ‘education or workforce train-
3 ing program’ includes—

4 “(A) an apprenticeship program;

5 “(B) an on-the-job training program, or

6 “(C) a program providing classroom in-
7 struction.

8 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
9 tity’ means—

10 “(A) a local board;

11 “(B) an area career and technical edu-
12 cation school;

13 “(C) an intermediary;

14 “(D) an institution of higher education, in-
15 cluding a 2-year institution of higher education;

16 or

17 “(E) a consortium of the entities described
18 in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

19 “(4) INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term
20 ‘incarcerated individual’ means an adult or juvenile
21 who is in the custody of a correctional institution.

22 “(5) PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED INDI-
23 VIDUAL.—The term ‘previously incarcerated indi-
24 vidual’ means an adult or juvenile who has been an

1 incarcerated individual at any time during the pre-
2 ceding 36-month period.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.”.

6 **SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce
8 Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended by striking
9 the item relating to section 172 and inserting the fol-
10 lowing:

“Sec. 172. Grants to assist incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals.

“Sec. 173. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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