

Union Calendar No. 705

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2685

[Report No. 118–864]

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2023

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BOST, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mr. WITTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. AMODEI

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 18, 2023]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, 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 “Technology Grants to*
 5 *Strengthen Domestic Mining Education Act of 2024” or the*
 6 *“Mining Schools Act of 2024”.*

7 **SEC. 2. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC**
 8 **MINING EDUCATION.**

9 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

10 *(1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Min-*
 11 *ing Professional Development Advisory Board estab-*
 12 *lished by subsection (d)(1).*

13 *(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The*
 14 *term “institution of higher education” has the mean-*
 15 *ing given the term in section 101 of the Higher Edu-*
 16 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

17 *(3) MINING INDUSTRY.—The term “mining in-*
 18 *dustry” means the mining industry of the United*
 19 *States, consisting of the search for, and extraction,*
 20 *beneficiation, refining, smelting, processing, reprocess-*
 21 *ing, and recycling of, naturally occurring metal and*
 22 *nonmetal minerals from the earth.*

23 *(4) MINING PROFESSION.—The term “mining*
 24 *profession” means the body of jobs directly relevant*
 25 *to—*

1 (A) the exploration, planning, execution,
2 and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining
3 sites; and

4 (B) the extraction, including the separation,
5 refining, alloying, smelting, concentration, proc-
6 essing, reprocessing, and recycling of mineral
7 ores.

8 (5) MINING SCHOOL.—The term “mining school”
9 means—

10 (A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or
11 mineral engineering program accredited by the
12 Accreditation Board for Engineering and Tech-
13 nology, Inc., that is located at an institution of
14 higher education, including a Tribal College or
15 University; or

16 (B) a geology or engineering program or de-
17 partment that is located at a 4-year public insti-
18 tution of higher education located in a State the
19 gross domestic product of which in 2021 was not
20 less than \$2,000,000,000 in the combined cat-
21 egories of “Mining (except oil and gas)” and
22 “Support activities for mining”, according to the
23 Bureau of Economic Analysis.

24 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Energy.

1 (7) *TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.*—*The term*
 2 *“Tribal College or University” has the meaning given*
 3 *the term in section 316(b) of the Higher Education*
 4 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).*

5 (b) *DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING*
 6 *PROGRAM.*—*The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-*
 7 *retary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the*
 8 *United States Geological Survey), shall—*

9 (1) *establish a grant program to strengthen do-*
 10 *mestic mining education; and*

11 (2) *under the program established under para-*
 12 *graph (1), award competitive grants to mining*
 13 *schools for the purpose of recruiting and educating the*
 14 *next generation of mining engineers and other quali-*
 15 *fied professionals to meet the future energy and min-*
 16 *eral needs of the United States.*

17 (c) *GRANTS.*—

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In carrying out the grant*
 19 *program established under subsection (b)(1), the Sec-*
 20 *retary shall award not more than 10 grants each year*
 21 *to mining schools.*

22 (2) *SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.*—

23 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*To the maximum extent*
 24 *practicable, the Secretary shall select recipients*
 25 *for grants under paragraph (1) to ensure geo-*

1 *graphic diversity among grant recipients to en-*
2 *sure that region-specific specialties are developed*
3 *for region-specific geology.*

4 (B) *TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall award*
5 *the grants under paragraph (1) by not later than*
6 *the later of—*

7 (i) *the date that is 180 days after the*
8 *start of the applicable fiscal year; and*

9 (ii) *the date that is 180 days after the*
10 *date on which the Act making full-year ap-*
11 *propriations for the Department of Energy*
12 *for the applicable fiscal year is enacted.*

13 (3) *RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—*

14 (A) *IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients*
15 *for grants under paragraph (1) and determining*
16 *the amount of each grant, the Secretary, to the*
17 *maximum extent practicable, shall take into con-*
18 *sideration the recommendations of the Board*
19 *under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection*
20 *(d)(3).*

21 (B) *SELECTION STATEMENT.—In selecting*
22 *recipients for grants under paragraph (1), the*
23 *Secretary shall—*

1 (i) in response to a recommendation
2 from the Board, submit to the Board a
3 statement that describes—

4 (I) whether the Secretary accepts
5 or rejects, in whole or in part, the rec-
6 ommendation of the Board; and

7 (II) the justification and rationale
8 for any rejection, in whole or in part,
9 of the recommendation of the Board;
10 and

11 (ii) not later than 15 days after
12 awarding a grant for which the Board sub-
13 mitted a recommendation, publish the state-
14 ment submitted under clause (i) on the De-
15 partment of Energy website.

16 (4) *USE OF FUNDS.*—A mining school receiving
17 a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant
18 funds—

19 (A) to recruit students to the mining school;

20 and

21 (B) to enhance and support programs re-
22 lated to, as applicable—

23 (i) mining, mineral extraction effi-
24 ciency, and related processing technology;

1 (ii) *emphasizing critical mineral and*
2 *rare earth element exploration, extraction,*
3 *and refining;*

4 (iii) *reclamation technology and prac-*
5 *tices for active mining operations;*

6 (iv) *the development of reprocessing*
7 *systems and technologies that facilitate rec-*
8 *lamation that fosters the recovery of re-*
9 *sources at abandoned mine sites;*

10 (v) *mineral extraction, refining, proc-*
11 *essing, reprocessing, and recycling methods*
12 *that reduce environmental and human im-*
13 *pacts;*

14 (vi) *technologies to extract, refine, sep-*
15 *arate, melt, produce, or recycle minerals,*
16 *including rare earth elements;*

17 (vii) *reducing dependence on foreign*
18 *energy and mineral supplies through in-*
19 *creased domestic critical mineral produc-*
20 *tion and recycling;*

21 (viii) *enhancing the competitiveness of*
22 *United States energy and mineral tech-*
23 *nology exports;*

24 (ix) *the extraction or processing of co-*
25 *inciding mineralization, including rare*

1 *earth elements, within coal or other ores,*
2 *coal or mineral processing byproduct, over-*
3 *burden, or residue from coal, minerals, or*
4 *other ores;*

5 *(x) enhancing technologies and prac-*
6 *tices relating to mitigation of acid mine*
7 *drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in*
8 *the reclamation of land and water resources*
9 *adversely affected by mining;*

10 *(xi) enhancing exploration and charac-*
11 *terization of new or novel deposits, includ-*
12 *ing rare earth elements and critical min-*
13 *erals within phosphate rocks, uranium-bear-*
14 *ing deposits, and other nontraditional*
15 *sources;*

16 *(xii) meeting challenges of extreme*
17 *mining conditions, such as deeper deposits*
18 *or cold region mining;*

19 *(xiii) mineral economics, including*
20 *analysis of supply chains, future mineral*
21 *needs, and unconventional mining re-*
22 *sources; and*

23 *(xiv) mining practices that reduce en-*
24 *vironmental impact, including mining*
25 *practices that reduce water usage, mitigate*

1 *surface disturbance, and promote overall re-*
2 *source efficiency.*

3 (d) *MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY*
4 *BOARD.—*

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.—There is established an advi-*
6 *sory board, to be known as the “Mining Professional*
7 *Development Advisory Board”.*

8 (2) *COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed*
9 *of 6 members, to be appointed by the Secretary not*
10 *later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this*
11 *Act, of whom—*

12 (A) *3 shall be individuals who are actively*
13 *working in the mining profession and for the*
14 *mining industry; and*

15 (B) *3 shall have experience in academia im-*
16 *plementing and operating professional skills*
17 *training and education programs in the mining*
18 *sector.*

19 (3) *DUTIES.—The Board shall—*

20 (A) *evaluate grant applications received*
21 *under subsection (c) and make recommendations*
22 *to the Secretary for selection of grant recipients*
23 *under that subsection;*

1 (B) propose the amount of the grant for
2 each applicant recommended to be selected under
3 subparagraph (A); and

4 (C) perform oversight to ensure that grant
5 funds awarded under subsection (c) are used for
6 the purposes described in paragraph (4) of that
7 subsection.

8 (4) *TERM.*—A member of the Board shall serve
9 for a term of 4 years.

10 (5) *VACANCIES.*—A vacancy on the Board—

11 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Board;
12 and

13 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
14 the original appointment was made by not later
15 than 180 days after the date on which the va-
16 cancy occurs.

17 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF THE MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES**
18 **RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT OF 1984.**

19 Public Law 98–409 (30 U.S.C. 1221 *et seq.*) is re-
20 pealed.

21 **SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

22 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
23 requirements of this Act, and the activities authorized by
24 this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations
25 made in advance for such purposes.

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