

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4174

To establish a program that promotes reforms in workforce education and skill training for manufacturing in States and metropolitan areas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. ASHFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish a program that promotes reforms in workforce education and skill training for manufacturing in States and metropolitan areas, 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 “Manufacturing Skills  
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1           (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2           ty” means a State or a metropolitan area.

3           (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
4           term “institution of higher education” means each  
5           of the following:

6                   (A) An institution of higher education, as  
7                   defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Edu-  
8                   cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

9                   (B) A postsecondary vocational institution,  
10                  as defined in section 102(e) of such Act (20  
11                  U.S.C. 1002(e)).

12           (3) MANUFACTURING SECTOR.—The term  
13           “manufacturing sector” means a manufacturing sec-  
14           tor classified in code 31, 32, or 33 of the most re-  
15           cent version of the North America Industry Classi-  
16           fication System developed under the direction the  
17           Office of Management and Budget.

18           (4) METROPOLITAN AREA.—The term “metro-  
19           politan area” means a standard metropolitan statis-  
20           tical area, as designated by the Director of the Of-  
21           fice of Management and Budget.

22           (5) PARTNERSHIP.—The term “Partnership”  
23           means the Manufacturing Skills Partnership estab-  
24           lished in section 101(a).

1           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
2           the several States of the United States, the Com-  
3           monwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia,  
4           Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin  
5           Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern  
6           Mariana Islands.

7           **TITLE I—MANUFACTURING**  
8           **SKILLS PROGRAM**

9           **SEC. 101. MANUFACTURING SKILLS PROGRAM.**

10          (a) MANUFACTURING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP.—The  
11          Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of  
12          Education, Secretary of the Department of Defense, and  
13          Director of the National Science Foundation shall jointly  
14          establish a Manufacturing Skills Partnership consisting of  
15          the Secretaries and the Director, or their representatives.

16          The Partnership shall—

17               (1) administer and carry out the program es-  
18               tablished under this title;

19               (2) establish and publish guidelines for the re-  
20               view of applications, and the criteria for selection,  
21               for grants under this title; and

22               (3) submit an annual report to Congress on—

23                       (A) the eligible entities that receive grants  
24                       under this title; and

1 (B) the progress such eligible entities have  
2 made in achieving the milestones identified in  
3 accordance with section 102(b)(2)(H).

4 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated  
6 to carry out this title, the Partnership shall award  
7 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to  
8 enable the eligible entities to carry out their pro-  
9 posals submitted in the application under section  
10 102(b)(2), in order to promote reforms in workforce  
11 education and skill training for manufacturing in the  
12 eligible entities.

13 (2) GRANT DURATION.—A grant awarded under  
14 paragraph (1) shall be for a 3-year period, with  
15 grant funds under such grant distributed annually in  
16 accordance with subsection (c)(2).

17 (3) SECOND GRANTS.—If amounts are made  
18 available to award grants under this title for subse-  
19 quent grant periods, the Partnership may award a  
20 grant to an eligible entity that previously received a  
21 grant under this title after such first grant period  
22 expires. The Partnership shall evaluate the perform-  
23 ance of the eligible entity under the first grant in  
24 determining whether to award the eligible entity a  
25 second grant under this title.

1 **SEC. 102. APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires to  
3 receive a grant under this title shall—

4 (1) establish a task force, consisting of leaders  
5 from the public, nonprofit, and manufacturing sec-  
6 tors, representatives of labor organizations, rep-  
7 resentatives of elementary schools and secondary  
8 schools, and representatives of institutions of higher  
9 education, to apply for and carry out a grant under  
10 this title; and

11 (2) submit an application at such time, in such  
12 manner, and containing such information as the  
13 Partnership may require.

14 (b) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—The application de-  
15 scribed in subsection (a)(2) shall include—

16 (1) a description of the task force that the eligi-  
17 ble entity has assembled to design the proposal de-  
18 scribed in paragraph (2);

19 (2) a proposal that—

20 (A) identifies, as of the date of the applica-  
21 tion—

22 (i) the current strengths of the State  
23 or metropolitan area represented by the el-  
24 igible entity in manufacturing; and

25 (ii) areas for new growth opportuni-  
26 ties in manufacturing;

1 (B) identifies, as of the date of the appli-  
2 cation, manufacturing workforce and skills chal-  
3 lenges preventing the eligible entity from ex-  
4 panding in the areas identified under subpara-  
5 graph (A)(ii), such as—

6 (i) a lack of availability of—

7 (I) strong career and technical  
8 education;

9 (II) educational programs in  
10 science, technology, engineering, or  
11 mathematics; or

12 (III) a skills training system; or

13 (ii) an absence of customized training  
14 for existing industrial businesses and sec-  
15 tors;

16 (C) identifies challenges faced within the  
17 manufacturing sector by underrepresented and  
18 disadvantaged workers, including veterans, in  
19 the State or metropolitan area represented by  
20 the eligible entity;

21 (D) provides strategies, designed by the el-  
22 igible entity, to address challenges identified in  
23 subparagraphs (B) and (C) through tangible  
24 projects and investments, with the deep and

1 sustainable involvement of manufacturing busi-  
2 nesses;

3 (E) identifies and leverages innovative and  
4 effective career and technical education or skills  
5 training programs in the field of manufacturing  
6 that are available in the eligible entity;

7 (F) leverages other Federal funds in sup-  
8 port of such strategies;

9 (G) reforms State or local policies and gov-  
10 ernance, as applicable, in support of such strat-  
11 egies; and

12 (H) holds the eligible entity accountable,  
13 on a regular basis, through a set of transparent  
14 performance measures, including a timeline for  
15 the grant period describing when specific mile-  
16 stones and reforms will be achieved; and

17 (3) a description of the source of the matching  
18 funds required under subsection (d) that the eligible  
19 entity will use if selected for a grant under this title.

20 (c) AWARD BASIS.—

21 (1) SELECTION BASIS AND MAXIMUM NUMBER  
22 OF GRANTS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Partnership shall  
24 award grants under this title, by not earlier  
25 than January 1, 2016, and not later than

1 March 31, 2016, to the eligible entities that  
2 submit the strongest and most comprehensive  
3 proposals under subsection (b)(2).

4 (B) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GRANTS.—For  
5 any grant period, the Partnership shall award  
6 not more than 5 grants under this title to eligi-  
7 ble entities representing States and not more  
8 than 5 grants to eligible entities representing  
9 metropolitan areas.

10 (2) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Partnership shall  
12 award grants under this title in an amount that  
13 averages, for all grants issued for a 3-year  
14 grant period, \$10,000,000 for each year, sub-  
15 ject to subparagraph (C) and paragraph (3).

16 (B) AMOUNT.—In determining the amount  
17 of each grant for an eligible entity, the Partner-  
18 ship shall take into consideration the size of the  
19 industrial base of the eligible entity.

20 (C) INSUFFICIENT APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
21 any grant period for which the amounts avail-  
22 able to carry out this title are insufficient to  
23 award grants in the amount described in sub-  
24 paragraph (A), the Partnership shall award



1 grants in amounts determined appropriate by  
2 the Partnership.

3 (3) FUNDING CONTINGENT ON PERFORM-  
4 ANCE.—In order for an eligible entity to receive  
5 funds under a grant under this title for the second  
6 or third year of the grant period, the eligible entity  
7 shall demonstrate to the Partnership that the eligi-  
8 ble entity has achieved the specific reforms and mile-  
9 stones required under the timeline included in the el-  
10 ible entity’s proposal under subsection (b)(2)(H).

11 (4) CONSULTATION WITH POLICY EXPERTS.—  
12 The Partnership shall assemble a panel of manufac-  
13 turing policy experts and manufacturing leaders  
14 from the private sector to serve in an advisory ca-  
15 pacity in helping to oversee the competition and re-  
16 view the competition’s effectiveness.

17 (d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving  
18 a grant under this title shall provide matching funds to-  
19 ward the grant in an amount of not less than 50 percent  
20 of the costs of the activities carried out under the grant.  
21 Matching funds under this subsection shall be from non-  
22 Federal sources and shall be in cash or in-kind.

1 **SEC. 103. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
3 priated to carry out this title such sums as may be nec-  
4 essary for fiscal year 2016.

5 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under this  
6 section shall remain available until expended.

7 **TITLE II—AUDIT OF FEDERAL**  
8 **EDUCATION AND SKILLS**  
9 **TRAINING**

10 **SEC. 201. AUDIT OF FEDERAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS**  
11 **TRAINING.**

12 (a) AUDIT.—By not later than March 31, 2016, the  
13 Director of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
14 nology, acting through the Advanced Manufacturing Na-  
15 tional Program Office, shall conduct an audit of all Fed-  
16 eral education and skills training programs related to  
17 manufacturing to ensure that States and metropolitan  
18 areas are able to align Federal resources to the greatest  
19 extent possible with the labor demands of their primary  
20 manufacturing industries. In carrying out the audit, the  
21 Director shall work with States and metropolitan areas to  
22 determine how Federal funds can be more tailored to meet  
23 their different needs.

24 (b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—By not later  
25 than March 31, 2017, the Director of the National Insti-

1 tute of Standards and Technology shall prepare and sub-  
2 mit a report to Congress that includes—

3 (1) a summary of the findings from the audit  
4 conducted under subsection (a); and

5 (2) recommendations for such legislative and  
6 administrative actions to reform the existing funding  
7 for Federal education and skills training programs  
8 related to manufacturing as the Director determines  
9 appropriate.

## 10 **TITLE III—OFFSET**

### 11 **SEC. 301. RESCISSION OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FUNDS.**

12 (a) RESCISSION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any  
13 other provision of law, an amount equal to the amount  
14 of funds made available to carry out title I for a fiscal  
15 year shall be rescinded, in accordance with subsection (b),  
16 from the unobligated discretionary funds available to the  
17 Secretary from prior fiscal years.

18 (b) RETURN OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other  
19 provision of law, by not later than 15 days after funds  
20 are appropriated or made available to carry out title I,  
21 the Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
22 shall—

23 (1) identify from which appropriations accounts  
24 available to the Secretary of Labor the rescission de-  
25 scribed in subsection (a) shall apply; and

- 1           (2) determine the amount of the rescission that
- 2           shall apply to each account.

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