

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 996

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. KIHUEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs.

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 “Service, Training,
5 Education, and Preparation for Veterans Act” or the
6 “STEP for Veterans Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO TRAIN VETERANS FOR LOCAL**
8 **JOBS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
10 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a

1 program to award competitive grants to eligible commu-
2 nity colleges (as described in subsection (b)) to train cov-
3 ered veterans for jobs in the local community.

4 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive
5 a grant under this section, a community college shall sub-
6 mit an application to the Secretary that demonstrates, to
7 the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the local community
8 in which the community college is located has—

9 (1) employment opportunities that require
10 trained workers; and

11 (2) a significant population of covered veterans
12 that might pursue the employment opportunities de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) if given access to necessary
14 training.

15 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A community college receiving
16 a grant under this section shall use amounts under the
17 grant to—

18 (1) conduct an analysis of—

19 (A) the demand for additional trained em-
20 ployees among local employers, including local
21 manufacturers; and

22 (B) the skills and training possessed by
23 covered veterans seeking employment with local
24 employers, including local manufacturers;

1 (2) carry out an existing, or develop and imple-
2 ment a new, certificate or degree program at the
3 community college that provides training to covered
4 veterans that addresses the demand for additional
5 trained employees among local employers, including
6 local manufacturers; and

7 (3) facilitate the establishment of an advisory
8 board that consists of representatives from the local
9 business community and the employee from the De-
10 partment of Veterans Affairs detailed under section
11 4—

12 (A) to provide assistance regarding the
13 training described in paragraph (2); and

14 (B) to assist covered veterans who have
15 successfully completed the training described in
16 paragraph (2) in their pursuit of local employ-
17 ment opportunities.

18 **SEC. 3. DETAIL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

19 **EMPLOYEE.**

20 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall detail an em-
21 ployee of the Department of Veterans Affairs to partici-
22 pate on the supervisory board established in section
23 2(c)(3).

1 **SEC. 4. GRANT AMOUNT.**

2 To the maximum extent practicable, the amount of
3 a grant under section 2 shall not exceed \$2,000,000.

4 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

5 Not later than one year after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
7 port—

8 (1) evaluating the success of the program estab-
9 lished under section 2; and

10 (2) making recommendations as to whether the
11 program should be continued, and if so, whether the
12 program should be expanded.

13 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The term “commu-
16 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior
17 or community college” in section 312(f) of the High-
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

19 (2) **COVERED VETERAN.**—The term “covered
20 veteran” means a veteran receiving educational as-
21 sistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States
22 Code.

23 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Labor.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the Secretary \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2018
4 to carry out this Act.

5 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
6 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
7 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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