

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10375

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 to strengthen the critical minerals workforce in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. STEVENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 to strengthen the critical minerals workforce in the United States.

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 “Critical Minerals
5 Workforce Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENGINEERS WORKING IN MINING, REFINING, PROC-**
2 **ESSING, AND RECYCLING OF CRITICAL MIN-**
3 **ERALS.**

4 Section 203(b)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nation-
5 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(2)(B)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 “(iii) The Secretary of Homeland Se-
8 curity may grant a national interest waiver
9 pursuant to clause (i) on behalf of any
10 alien engineer with respect to whom a peti-
11 tion for preference classification has been
12 filed under subparagraph (A) if the alien
13 engineer agrees to work full-time for a
14 business or Federal or State agency to ad-
15 vance the production (including extrac-
16 tion), processing (including refining), or
17 recycling (including reuse) of critical min-
18 erals (as such term is defined in section
19 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30
20 U.S.C. 1606(a))).”.

21 **SEC. 3. MULTINATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.**

22 Section 102 of the Mutual Educational and Cultural
23 Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2452) is amended by
24 striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

25 “(b) EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES RELATING TO CRIT-
26 ICAL MINERALS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may support
2 and promote educational exchanges to advance the
3 study of the production, processing, and recycling of
4 critical minerals, and the professional development
5 of individuals in mining or clean energy sectors re-
6 lating to the production, processing, reclamation, or
7 recycling of critical minerals, including by—

8 “(A) providing opportunities for United
9 States citizens to study in and obtain degrees
10 and certifications from schools and institutions
11 of learning located outside the United States
12 that offer specialized instruction in the produc-
13 tion, processing, reclamation, or recycling of
14 critical minerals;

15 “(B) facilitating the enrollment of citizens
16 of foreign countries in schools and institutions
17 of learning located in the United States to pur-
18 sue degrees and certifications in a field related
19 to the production, processing, reclamation, or
20 recycling of critical minerals;

21 “(C) supporting the development of edu-
22 cational partnerships and exchange programs
23 focused on critical minerals between United
24 States institutions and foreign institutions, in-
25 cluding research collaborations, joint degree

1 programs, and training initiatives to address
2 global challenges relating to the production,
3 processing, reclamation, or recycling of critical
4 minerals; and

5 “(D) encouraging and providing funding
6 for scholarships, fellowships, and grants for stu-
7 dents and professionals engaged in international
8 studies or training related to the production,
9 processing, reclamation, or recycling of critical
10 minerals.

11 “(2) CRITICAL MINERALS DEFINED.—In this
12 subsection, the term ‘critical minerals’ has the
13 meaning given such term in section 7002(a) of the
14 Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).”.

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