

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8039

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to address
workforce gaps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2026

Mrs. BICE (for herself and Ms. JACOBS) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
to address workforce gaps, 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 “Workforce and Edu-
5 cation Partnership Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION**
7 **AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.**

8 (a) YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
9 FOR HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.—Section 129(b)(2) of

1 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
2 3164(b)(2)) is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (D)(v), by striking “and”
4 at the end;

5 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period
6 and inserting “; and”; and

7 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

8 “(F) developing partnerships between edu-
9 cational institutions (including area career and
10 technical education schools and institutions of
11 higher education) and employers to create or
12 improve workforce development programs to ad-
13 dress the identified education and skill needs of
14 the workforce and the employment needs of em-
15 ployers in the regions of the State, as deter-
16 mined based on the most recent analysis con-
17 ducted under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of
18 section 102(b)(1).”.

19 (b) STATEWIDE ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
20 PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.—Section
21 134(a)(3)(A) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(3)(A)) is
22 amended—

23 (1) in clause (xiii), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (2) in clause (xiv), by striking the period and
2 inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

4 “(xv) developing partnerships between
5 educational institutions (including area ca-
6 reer and technical education schools and
7 institutions of higher education) and em-
8 ployers to create or improve workforce de-
9 velopment programs to address the identi-
10 fied education and skill needs of the work-
11 force and the employment needs of employ-
12 ers in the regions of the State, as deter-
13 mined based on the most recent analysis
14 conducted under subparagraphs (B) and
15 (C) of section 102(b)(1).”.

16 (c) LOCAL ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRO-
17 GRAMS FOR HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.—Section
18 134(d)(1)(A) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(1)(A)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the end;

21 (2) in clause (xii), by striking the period and in-
22 serting “; and”; and

23 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

24 “(xiii) the development of partner-
25 ships between educational institutions (in-

1 cluding area career and technical education
2 schools and institutions of higher edu-
3 cation) and employers to create or improve
4 workforce development programs to ad-
5 dress the identified education and skill
6 needs of the workforce and the employ-
7 ment needs of employers in the region, as
8 determined based on the most recent anal-
9 ysis conducted by the local board under
10 section 107(d)(2).”.

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