

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3270

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide grants to improve the job skills necessary for employment in specific industries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington, Mr. SAWYER, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, and Mr. RUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide grants to improve the job skills necessary for employment in specific industries.

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 “Regional Skills Train-
5 ing Alliances Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, act-
8 ing through the Director of the National Institute of
9 Standards and Technology, and in consultation with the

1 Secretary of Labor, shall provide grants to eligible entities
2 described in subsection (b) to assist such entities to im-
3 prove the job skills necessary for employment in specific
4 industries.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity described
7 in this subsection is a consortium that—

8 (A) shall consist of representatives from
9 not less than 10 businesses (or a nonprofit or-
10 ganization that represents not less than 10
11 businesses); and

12 (B) may consist of representatives from
13 one or more of the following:

14 (i) Labor organizations.

15 (ii) State and local government.

16 (iii) Educational institutions.

17 (iv) Nonprofit organizations that rep-
18 resent businesses.

19 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—To the maxi-
20 mum extent practicable, each business, organization,
21 or government that forms an eligible entity under
22 paragraph (1) shall be located in the same geo-
23 graphic region of the United States.

24 (c) PRIORITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—In provid-
25 ing grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give

1 priority to eligible entities that consist of a majority of
2 representatives from small businesses.

3 (d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of
4 a grant provided to an eligible entity under subsection (a)
5 may not exceed \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year.

6 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION.**

7 The Secretary may not provide a grant under section
8 2 to an eligible entity unless such entity submits to the
9 Secretary an application containing such information as
10 the Secretary may reasonably require.

11 **SEC. 4. USE OF AMOUNTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide a
13 grant under section 2 to an eligible entity unless such en-
14 tity agrees to use amounts received from such grant to
15 improve the job skills necessary for employment by busi-
16 nesses in the industry with respect to which such entity
17 was established.

18 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
20 described in subsection (a), the eligible entity may
21 provide for—

22 (A) an assessment of training and job skill
23 needs for the industry;

1 (B) development of a sequence of skill
2 standards that are benchmarked to advanced
3 industry practices;

4 (C) development of curriculum and train-
5 ing methods;

6 (D) purchase, lease, or receipt of donations
7 of training equipment;

8 (E) identification and development of
9 training providers;

10 (F) development of apprenticeship pro-
11 grams; and

12 (G) development of training programs for
13 dislocated workers.

14 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In carrying
15 out the program described in subsection (a), the eli-
16 gible entity shall provide for development and track-
17 ing of performance outcome measures.

18 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The eligible entity
19 may use not more than 50 percent of the amount of a
20 grant to pay for administrative costs associated with the
21 program described in subsection (a).

22 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

23 The Secretary may not provide a grant under section
24 2 to an eligible entity unless such entity agrees that—

1 (1) it will make available non-Federal contribu-
2 tions toward the costs of carrying out activities
3 under section 4 in an amount that is not less than
4 \$2 for each \$1 of Federal funds provided under a
5 grant under section 2; and

6 (2) of such non-Federal contributions, not less
7 than \$1 of each such \$2 shall be from businesses
8 participating in the eligible entity.

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

10 For purposes of this Act, the term “Secretary”
11 means the Secretary of Commerce.

12 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14 this Act \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999,
15 2000, and 2001.

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