

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 17

To consolidate certain Federal job training programs by developing a system of vouchers to provide to dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged adults the opportunity to choose the type of job training that most closely meets the needs of such workers and adults, by establishing a one-stop career center system to provide high quality job training and employment-related services, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. REID, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

---

## A BILL

To consolidate certain Federal job training programs by developing a system of vouchers to provide to dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged adults the opportunity to choose the type of job training that most closely meets the needs of such workers and adults, by establishing a one-stop career center system to provide high quality job training and employment-related services, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Working Americans Opportunity Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—JOB TRAINING VOUCHERS

- Sec. 101. Establishment.
- Sec. 102. Individual choice.
- Sec. 103. Eligibility.
- Sec. 104. Obtaining a voucher.
- Sec. 105. Oversight and accountability.
- Sec. 106. Eligibility requirements for job training providers.
- Sec. 107. Evaluation of voucher system.
- Sec. 108. Apportionment of funds.

TITLE II—CONSOLIDATION OF FEDERAL JOB TRAINING  
PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Consolidation of programs.

TITLE III—EMPLOYMENT-RELATED INFORMATION AND SERVICES  
THROUGH ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS

- Sec. 301. One-stop career centers.
- Sec. 302. Access to information.
- Sec. 303. Direct loans to United States workers.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS

- Sec. 401. Consolidation and streamlining.
- Sec. 402. Report relating to income support.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 501. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 502. Effective date.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) increasing international competition, techno-  
9 logical advances, and structural changes in the econ-  
10 omy of the United States present new challenges to

1 private firms and public policymakers in creating a  
2 skilled workforce with the ability to adapt to change  
3 and progress;

4 (2) a substantial number of workers in the  
5 United States lose jobs due to the constantly chang-  
6 ing world and national economies rather than cycli-  
7 cal downturns, with more than 2,000,000 full-time  
8 workers permanently displaced annually due to plant  
9 closures, production cutbacks, and layoffs;

10 (3) the current response of the Federal Govern-  
11 ment to dislocation and structural employment is a  
12 patchwork of categorical programs, with varying eli-  
13 gibility requirements and different sets of services  
14 and benefits;

15 (4) the lack of coherence among existing Fed-  
16 eral job training programs creates administrative  
17 and regulatory obstacles that hamper the efforts of  
18 individuals who are seeking new jobs or reemploy-  
19 ment;

20 (5) enacted in 1944, the Servicemen's Readjust-  
21 ment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the "G.I.  
22 Bill of Rights"), helped millions of World War II  
23 veterans and, later, Korean and Vietnam War veter-  
24 ans, finance college educations and assisted in build-  
25 ing the middle class of the United States;

1           (6) restructuring the current job training sys-  
2           tem, with respect to dislocated and disadvantaged  
3           workers, in a manner that is conceptually similar to  
4           the G.I. Bill of Rights will help millions of workers  
5           in the United States to become more competitive in  
6           today's dynamic world economy, in which most of  
7           the workers—

8                   (A) can expect to move to new jobs a num-  
9                   ber of times, voluntarily or by layoff; and

10                   (B) must upgrade their skills continuously;

11           (7) success in this ever-changing environment  
12           depends, in part, on an individual's effective man-  
13           agement of the individual's career based on personal  
14           choice and reliable information;

15           (8) there is insufficient job market information  
16           and assistance regarding access to job training op-  
17           portunities that lead to good employment opportuni-  
18           ties;

19           (9) only a small fraction of individuals eligible  
20           for current Federal job training are now served, and  
21           by removing obstacles and layers of administrative  
22           costs, more funds will be made available to individ-  
23           uals to enable such individuals to receive the job  
24           training of their choice; and

1           (10) while the Federal Government proceeds to  
2           create a new marketplace for job training, the Fed-  
3           eral Government must also maintain a commitment  
4           to providing intensive services to assist individuals  
5           who are economically disadvantaged adults.

6           (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

7           (1) enhance the choices available to dislocated  
8           workers, and economically disadvantaged adults, who  
9           want to upgrade their work skills and learn new  
10          skills to compete in a changing economy;

11          (2) enable individuals to make choices that are  
12          best for the careers of such individuals;

13          (3) consolidate job training programs and pro-  
14          vide a simple voucher system that relies on individ-  
15          ual choice and provides high quality job market in-  
16          formation;

17          (4) allow an individual to tailor job training and  
18          education to the personal needs of such individual so  
19          that such individual may remain in long-term em-  
20          ployment yet have the means to be flexible when  
21          necessary; and

22          (5) create a system that provides timely and re-  
23          liable information to individuals to use to assist such  
24          individuals in making the best choices with respect  
25          to the use of vouchers for job training.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act:

3 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The  
4 term “community-based organization” means a pri-  
5 vate nonprofit organization that—

6 (A) is representative of a community or a  
7 significant segment of a community; and

8 (B) provides job training and employment-  
9 related services.

10 (2) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—

11 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “dislocated  
12 worker” means an individual who—

13 (i) has been terminated or laid off, or  
14 has received a notice of termination or lay-  
15 off, from employment, is eligible for or has  
16 exhausted entitlement to unemployment  
17 compensation, and is unlikely to return to  
18 a previous industry or occupation;

19 (ii) has been terminated or laid off, or  
20 has received a notice of termination or lay-  
21 off, from employment as a result of any  
22 permanent closure of, or any substantial  
23 layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;

24 (iii) has been unemployed long-term  
25 and has limited opportunities for employ-  
26 ment or reemployment in the same or a

1 similar occupation in the area in which  
2 such individual resides, including an older  
3 individual who may have substantial bar-  
4 riers to employment by reason of age;

5 (iv) was self-employed (including a  
6 farmer, a rancher, and a fisher) and is un-  
7 employed as a result of general economic  
8 conditions in the community in which such  
9 individual resides or because of a natural  
10 disaster, subject to regulations prescribed  
11 by the Secretary; or

12 (v) is an employee of the Department  
13 of Defense or of a private defense contrac-  
14 tor who has been terminated or laid off, or  
15 has received a notice of termination or lay-  
16 off, from employment as a result of the  
17 closure or realignment of a military instal-  
18 lation, or a reduction in defense spending  
19 as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

20 (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED  
21 INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary of Labor shall  
22 establish categories of self-employed individuals  
23 and of economic conditions and natural disas-  
24 ters to which subparagraph (A)(iv) applies.

1 (C) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISPLACED HOME-  
 2 MAKERS.—The term “dislocated worker” shall,  
 3 for the purpose of applying provisions related to  
 4 job training and employment-related services  
 5 under titles I and III within a State, include a  
 6 displaced homemaker (as defined by the Sec-  
 7 retary of Labor in regulation), if the State de-  
 8 termines that such definition of the term is ap-  
 9 propriate and will not adversely affect the deliv-  
 10 ery of services to other dislocated workers in  
 11 the State.

12 (3) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED ADULT.—  
 13 The term “economically disadvantaged adult” means  
 14 an individual who is age 18 or older and who had  
 15 received an income, or is a member of a family that  
 16 had received a total family income, for the 6-month  
 17 period prior to application for the activity involved  
 18 (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child sup-  
 19 port payments, and welfare payments) that, in rela-  
 20 tion to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

21 (A) the poverty line (as defined by the Of-  
 22 fice of Management and Budget, and revised  
 23 annually in accordance with section 673(2) of  
 24 the Community Services Block Grant Act (42  
 25 U.S.C. 9902(2)), for an equivalent period; or



1 (B) 70 percent of the lower living standard  
2 income level, for an equivalent period.

3 (4) JOB TRAINING PROVIDER.—The term “job  
4 training provider” means a public agency, private  
5 nonprofit organization, or private for-profit entity  
6 that delivers job training.

7 (5) SERVICE DELIVERY AREA.—The term  
8 “service delivery area” means an area established  
9 under section 101 of the Job Training Partnership  
10 Act (29 U.S.C. 1511).

11 (6) STATE.—The term “State”, used to refer to  
12 a jurisdiction, means any of the several States of the  
13 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
14 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
15 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-  
16 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Repub-  
17 lic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of  
18 Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

19 (7) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ENTITY.—The  
20 term “workforce development entity” means a pri-  
21 vate industry council as described in section 102 of  
22 the Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1512),  
23 or such successor entity as may be established by  
24 Federal statutory law specifically to serve as such  
25 entity.

# **TITLE I—JOB TRAINING VOUCHERS**

## **3 SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4       The Secretary of Labor shall, pursuant to the re-  
5 quirements of this title, establish a job training system  
6 that provides vouchers to individuals for the purpose of  
7 enabling the individuals to obtain job training.

## **8 SEC. 102. INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon notification of approval of  
10 an application submitted under section 104, an individual  
11 may receive a voucher for a 2-year period, beginning on  
12 the date on which the application is approved.

## **13 (b) USE OF VOUCHERS FOR JOB TRAINING.—**

14       (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is a recip-  
15 ient of a voucher under subsection (a) may use such  
16 voucher to pay for job training obtained from a job  
17 training provider that meets the requirements of sec-  
18 tion 106.

19       (2) AUTHORIZED JOB TRAINING.—The job  
20 training described in paragraph (1) may include  
21 training through—

22               (A) associate degree and nondegree pro-  
23 grams at—

24                       (i) two- and four-year colleges;

- 1 (ii) vocational and technical education  
2 schools;  
3 (iii) private for-profit and not-for-  
4 profit training organizations;  
5 (iv) public agencies and schools; and  
6 (v) community-based organizations;  
7 (B) employer work-based training pro-  
8 grams; and  
9 (C) in the case of individuals who are eco-  
10 nomically disadvantaged adults, preemployment  
11 training programs.

12 **SEC. 103. ELIGIBILITY.**

13 An individual shall be eligible to receive a voucher  
14 under this title if such individual is—

- 15 (1) a dislocated worker; or  
16 (2) an economically disadvantaged adult.

17 **SEC. 104. OBTAINING A VOUCHER.**

18 (a) APPLICATION.—An individual who desires to re-  
19 ceive a voucher under this title shall submit an application  
20 to the State at such time, in such manner, and accom-  
21 panied by such information as the State may reasonably  
22 require.

23 (b) ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—

1           (1) ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS.—Each one-  
 2 stop career center established under section 301  
 3 shall—

4                   (A) provide applications for vouchers under  
 5 this title to interested individuals, assist such  
 6 individuals in completing such applications, and  
 7 collect completed applications for determination  
 8 of eligibility;

9                   (B) provide performance-based information  
 10 to the applicants relating to job training provid-  
 11 ers eligible to receive payment by vouchers in  
 12 accordance with section 106;

13                   (C) provide information to the applicants  
 14 on—

15                           (i) the local economy and availability  
 16 of employment;

17                           (ii) profiles of local industries; and

18                           (iii) details of local labor market de-  
 19 mand; and

20                   (D) carry out such other duties relating to  
 21 the voucher system as may be specified in regu-  
 22 lations issued by the Secretary of Labor.

23           (2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS.—The  
 24 Secretary of Labor shall issue regulations establish-  
 25 ing procedures to ensure that a one-stop career cen-

1       ter that is operated by an entity that is concurrently  
2       an eligible job training provider under the voucher  
3       system provides information to the applicants relat-  
4       ing to the other eligible job training providers in the  
5       service delivery area in an objective and equitable  
6       manner.

7   **SEC. 105. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the  
9       date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall  
10      issue regulations that—

11           (1) specify the—

12                   (A) voucher application requirements;

13                   (B) form of the vouchers;

14                   (C) use of the vouchers;

15                   (D) method of redemption of the vouchers;

16                   (E) most expeditious and effective process  
17                   of distribution (consistent with the findings and  
18                   purposes of this Act) of the vouchers to eligible  
19                   individuals; and

20                   (F) the arrangements necessary to phase  
21                   in the voucher system in each State in a timely  
22                   manner;

23           (2) specify the duties and responsibilities of job  
24       training providers under a voucher system under  
25       this title;

1           (3) specify the Federal and State responsibil-  
 2           ities in oversight of job training providers, including  
 3           the enforcement responsibilities and the determina-  
 4           tion of administrative costs with respect to the  
 5           voucher system under this title; and

6           (4) specify the manner in which economically  
 7           disadvantaged adults will receive adequate counsel-  
 8           ing and support services necessary to take full ad-  
 9           vantage of voucher assistance under this title.

10          (b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In issuing regulations under  
 11          subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor shall provide an op-  
 12          portunity for comment from the public, including the busi-  
 13          ness community, labor organizations, and community-  
 14          based organizations.

15       **SEC. 106. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR JOB TRAINING**  
 16                               **PROVIDERS.**

17          (a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A job training  
 18          provider shall be eligible to receive payment by vouchers  
 19          under this title if such provider—

20               (1) is—

21                       (A) eligible to participate in programs  
 22                       under title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
 23                       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); or

24                       (B) determined to be eligible under the  
 25                       procedure described in subsection (b); and

1           (2) provides the performance-based information  
2       required pursuant to subsection (c).

3       (b) ALTERNATIVE ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURE.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—The State shall establish an  
5       alternative eligibility procedure for job training pro-  
6       viders desiring to receive payment by vouchers under  
7       this title, but that are not eligible to participate in  
8       programs under title IV of the Higher Education  
9       Act of 1965.

10          (2) PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.—In establish-  
11       ing the procedure described in paragraph (1), the  
12       State shall establish minimum acceptable levels of  
13       performance for job training providers based on fac-  
14       tors and guidelines developed by the Secretary of  
15       Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-  
16       cation. Such factors shall be comparable in rigor and  
17       scope to the provisions of part H of title IV of the  
18       Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099a et  
19       seq.) that are used to determine the eligibility of an  
20       institution of higher education to participate in pro-  
21       grams under such title and are appropriate to the  
22       type of job training provider seeking eligibility under  
23       this subsection and the nature of the job training to  
24       be provided.

1           (3) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
 2           (1), if the participation of an institution of higher  
 3           education in any of the programs under title IV of  
 4           the Higher Education Act of 1965 is terminated,  
 5           such institution shall not be eligible to receive funds  
 6           under this title for a period of 2 years beginning on  
 7           the date of such termination.

8           (c) PERFORMANCE-BASED INFORMATION.—

9           (1) CONTENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall  
 10          identify performance-based information that is to be  
 11          submitted by job training providers desiring to re-  
 12          ceive payment by vouchers under this title. Such in-  
 13          formation may include information relating to—

14                 (A) the percentage of students completing  
 15                 the programs conducted by a job training pro-  
 16                 vider;

17                 (B) the rates of licensure of graduates of  
 18                 the programs conducted by such job training  
 19                 provider;

20                 (C) the percentage of graduates of the pro-  
 21                 grams conducted by such job training provider  
 22                 that meet industry-specific skill standards;

23                 (D) the rates of placement and retention in  
 24                 employment, and earnings of, the graduates of



1 the programs conducted by such job training  
2 provider;

3 (E) the percentage of graduates of the pro-  
4 grams conducted by such job training provider  
5 who obtained employment in an occupation re-  
6 lated to such programs conducted by such pro-  
7 vider; and

8 (F) the warranties or guarantees provided  
9 by such job training provider relating to the  
10 skill levels or employment to be attained by  
11 graduates of the programs conducted by such  
12 provider.

13 (2) ADDITIONS.—The State may, pursuant to  
14 the approval of the Secretary of Labor, prescribe ad-  
15 ditional performance-based information that shall be  
16 submitted by job training providers pursuant to this  
17 subsection.

18 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

19 (1) STATE AGENCY.—The Governor shall des-  
20 ignate a State agency to collect, verify, and dissemi-  
21 nate the performance-based information submitted  
22 pursuant to subsection (c).

23 (2) APPLICATION.—A job training provider de-  
24 siring to be eligible to receive funds under this title  
25 shall submit the information required under sub-

1 section (c) to the State agency designated under  
2 paragraph (1) at such time and in such form as  
3 such State agency may require.

4 (3) LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—The State  
5 agency designated under paragraph (1) shall compile  
6 a list of eligible job training providers, accompanied  
7 by the performance-based information submitted,  
8 and disseminate such list and information to the  
9 one-stop career centers established under section  
10 301, and other appropriate entities within the State.

11 (4) ACCURACY OF INFORMATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the State agency de-  
13 termines that a job training provider submitted  
14 inaccurate performance-based information  
15 under this subsection, such provider shall be  
16 disqualified from receiving funds under this  
17 title for a period of 2 years beginning on the  
18 date of such determination, unless such pro-  
19 vider can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the  
20 State agency designated pursuant to paragraph  
21 (1), that the information was provided in good  
22 faith.

23 (B) APPEAL.—The State shall establish a  
24 procedure for a job training provider to appeal  
25 a determination by a State agency that results

1 in a disqualification under subparagraph (A).  
 2 Such procedure shall provide an opportunity for  
 3 a hearing and include appropriate time limits to  
 4 ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

5 (5) ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING INFORMA-  
 6 TION.—The State agency designated under para-  
 7 graph (1) may provide technical assistance to a job  
 8 training provider in developing the performance-  
 9 based information required under subsection (c).  
 10 Such assistance may include facilitating the utiliza-  
 11 tion of State administrative records, such as unem-  
 12 ployment compensation wage records, and conduct-  
 13 ing other appropriate coordination activities.

14 (6) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Labor  
 15 shall consult with the Secretary of Education re-  
 16 garding the eligibility of institutions of higher edu-  
 17 cation to participate in programs under this title.

18 **SEC. 107. EVALUATION OF VOUCHER SYSTEM.**

19 The Secretary of Labor shall annually—

20 (1) monitor the effectiveness of the voucher sys-  
 21 tem;

22 (2) evaluate the benefit of such system to  
 23 voucher recipients under this title and the taxpayer;  
 24 and

1           (3) submit information obtained from such eval-  
2           uation to the appropriate committees of Congress.

3   **SEC. 108. APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall,  
5           without in any way reducing the commitment of, or the  
6           level of effort by, the Federal Government to improve the  
7           job training, employment, and earnings of all workers and  
8           jobseekers (particularly in hard-to-serve communities), ap-  
9           portion sums appropriated under section 501 to each  
10          State for each fiscal year in accordance with subsections  
11          (b) and (c), to enable States and service delivery areas  
12          in the States to carry out this title and title III.

13          (b) ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY.—

14               (1) FUNDING FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS.—  
15          From the sums appropriated pursuant to section  
16          501 for each fiscal year, the Secretary of Labor shall  
17          determine the portion of the sums to be made avail-  
18          able for providing job training and employment-re-  
19          lated services for dislocated workers under this title  
20          and title III, which shall be not less than the total  
21          amount made available to the States for such pur-  
22          pose for fiscal year 1997. The Secretary shall appor-  
23          tion such portion among the States, based on consid-  
24          eration of factors described in subsection (c), as ap-  
25          propriate.

1           (2) FUNDING FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVAN-  
2           TAGED ADULTS.—From the sums appropriated pur-  
3           suant to section 501 for each fiscal year, the Sec-  
4           retary of Labor shall determine the portion of the  
5           sums to be made available for providing job training  
6           and employment-related services for economically  
7           disadvantaged adults under this title and title III.  
8           The Secretary shall apportion such total amount  
9           among the States, based on consideration of factors  
10          described in subsection (c), as appropriate.

11          (c) CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS FOR APPORTION-  
12          MENT TO STATES.—The apportionment of the portions  
13          described in subsection (b) by the Secretary to each State  
14          shall be based on the following factors:

15               (1) The relative number of unemployed individ-  
16               uals who reside in each State as compared to the  
17               total number of unemployed individuals in all the  
18               States.

19               (2) The relative excess number of unemployed  
20               individuals who reside in each State as compared to  
21               the total excess number of unemployed individuals in  
22               all the States.

23               (3) The relative number of individuals who have  
24               been unemployed for 15 weeks or more and who re-

side in each State as compared to the total number of such individuals in all the States.

(4) The relative number of economically disadvantaged adults who reside in each State as compared to the total number of such adults in all the States.

(d) STATE RESERVE.—

(1) DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDS.—From the amount apportioned to each State from the portion described in subsection (b)(1), the State may reserve to carry out State activities, including rapid response assistance (as described in section 314(b) of the Job Training Partnership Act, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act (29 U.S.C. 1661c(b))) and State administration, an amount that is not greater than the proportion of funds reserved for State activities under title III of the Job Training Partnership Act, as in existence on such date (29 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) for fiscal year 1997.

(2) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED ADULTS.—From the amount apportioned to each State from the portion described in subsection (b)(2), the State may reserve to carry out State activities, including State administration, an amount that is not greater than the proportion of funds re-

1 served for State activities under part A of title II of  
2 the Job Training Partnership Act, as in existence on  
3 the date of enactment of this Act (29 U.S.C. 1601  
4 et seq.) for fiscal year 1997.

5 (e) CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS FOR APPORTION-  
6 MENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS.—The apporportion-  
7 ment of amounts received by each State under subsection  
8 (c), and not reserved under subsection (d), to service deliv-  
9 ery areas within such State shall be based on the following  
10 factors:

11 (1) The relative number of unemployed individ-  
12 uals who reside in each service delivery area within  
13 the State as compared to the total number of unem-  
14 ployed individuals in all such service delivery areas.

15 (2) The relative excess number of unemployed  
16 individuals who reside in each service delivery area  
17 within the State as compared to the total excess  
18 number of unemployed individuals in all such service  
19 delivery areas.

20 (3) The relative number of individuals who have  
21 been unemployed for 15 weeks or more and who re-  
22 side in each service delivery area within the State as  
23 compared to the total number of such individuals in  
24 all such service delivery areas.

1           (4) The relative number of economically dis-  
 2           advantaged adults who reside in each service delivery  
 3           area within the State as compared to the total num-  
 4           ber of such adults in all such service delivery areas.

5           (f) FUNDS FOR VOUCHERS.—Not less than 75 per-  
 6           cent of funds apportioned to a service delivery area under  
 7           subsection (e) and used for job training under this Act  
 8           by the service delivery area shall be made available in the  
 9           form of vouchers to individuals in such area who are eligi-  
 10          ble under section 103.

11          (g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
 12          term “excess number of unemployed individuals” means  
 13          the number that represents unemployed individuals in ex-  
 14          cess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in a State  
 15          or service delivery area, as appropriate.

## 16   **TITLE   II—CONSOLIDATION   OF** 17       **FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PRO-** 18       **GRAMS**

### 19   **SEC. 201. CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.**

20          (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
 21          gress that the consolidation and streamlining of Federal  
 22          job training programs should be accomplished without in  
 23          any way reducing the commitment of, or the level of effort  
 24          provided by, the Federal Government to improve the job



1 training, employment, and earnings of all workers and job-  
2 seekers (particularly in hard-to-serve communities).

3 (b) REPEALS OF FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PRO-  
4 GRAMS.—The following provisions are repealed:

5 (1) Section 6(d)(4) of the Food Stamp Act of  
6 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)).

7 (2) Section 106(b)(7) of the Job Training Part-  
8 nership Act (29 U.S.C. 1516(b)(7)).

9 (3) Section 123 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1533).

10 (4) Section 204(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
11 1604(d)).

12 (5) Part A of title II of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
13 1601 et seq.).

14 (6) Section 302(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
15 1652(c)).

16 (7) Part A of title III of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
17 1661 et seq.).

18 (8) Section 325 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1662d).

19 (9) Section 325A of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
20 1662d–1).

21 (10) Section 326 of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
22 1662e).

23 (11) Sections 301 through 303 of such Act (29  
24 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.).

1           (12) The Displaced Homemakers Self-Suffi-  
2           ciency Assistance Act (29 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

3           (13) Subtitle C of title VII of the Stewart B.  
4           McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
5           11441 et seq.).

6           (14) Subchapter I of chapter 421 of title 49,  
7           United States Code.

8           (15) Title II of Public Law 95-250 (92 Stat.  
9           172).

10 **TITLE III—EMPLOYMENT-RELAT-**  
11 **ED INFORMATION AND SERV-**  
12 **ICES THROUGH ONE-STOP CA-**  
13 **REER CENTERS**

14 **SEC. 301. ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS.**

15       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each service delivery area re-  
16 ceiving funds under this Act shall develop and implement  
17 a network of one-stop career centers for the area to pro-  
18 vide access for jobseekers, workers, and businesses to a  
19 comprehensive array of high quality job training described  
20 in section 102(b)(2) and employment-related services (in-  
21 cluding provision of information) described in subsections  
22 (f) and (g).

23       (b) PROCEDURES.—Each workforce development en-  
24 tity for a service delivery area, in conjunction with the ap-  
25 propriate local chief elected official for the area, shall ne-

1 negotiate with the State a method for establishing one-stop  
2 career centers (including designating one-stop career cen-  
3 ter operators) for the area, consistent with criteria estab-  
4 lished by the Secretary of Labor.

5 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Each entity within the  
6 service delivery area that provides the services specified  
7 in subsection (f) or (g) shall be eligible to be designated  
8 as a one-stop career center operator.

9 (d) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary of  
10 Labor shall establish a performance standard system for  
11 assessing the performance of each one-stop career center  
12 operator.

13 (e) PERIOD OF SELECTION.—Each one-stop career  
14 center operator shall be designated for 2-year period.  
15 Every 2 years, the workforce development entity for a  
16 service delivery area shall reevaluate the designation of  
17 one-stop career center operators for the area, based on  
18 performance under the standards established under sub-  
19 section (d).

20 (f) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES TO INDIVID-  
21 UALS.—Each one-stop career center for a service delivery  
22 area may make available—

23 (1) outreach to make individuals aware of, and  
24 encourage the use of, services available from

1 workforce development programs operating in the  
2 service delivery area;

3 (2) intake and orientation to the information  
4 and services available through the one-stop career  
5 center;

6 (3) assistance in filing initial claims for unem-  
7 ployment compensation;

8 (4) initial assessments (including appropriate  
9 testing) of the skill levels and service needs of indi-  
10 viduals, including basic skills, occupational skills,  
11 work experience, employability, interest, aptitude,  
12 and supportive service needs;

13 (5) job search assistance, including resume and  
14 interview preparation and workshops;

15 (6) information relating to the supply, demand,  
16 price, and quality of job training available in each  
17 service delivery area in the State involved, including  
18 performance-based information provided pursuant to  
19 section 106(c);

20 (7) job market information, including—

21 (A) data on the local economy and avail-  
22 ability of employment;

23 (B) profiles of local industries;

24 (C) details of local labor market demand;

25 and

1 (D) local demographic and socioeconomic  
2 characteristics;

3 (8) referral to appropriate job training and em-  
4 ployment services, and to other services described in  
5 this subsection, in the service delivery area;

6 (9) supportive services, including child care;

7 (10) job development; and

8 (11) counseling.

9 (g) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES TO EMPLOY-  
10 ERS.—Each one-stop career center for a service delivery  
11 area may provide to employers, at the request of the em-  
12 ployers—

13 (1) information relating to supply, demand,  
14 price, and quality of job training available in each  
15 service delivery area in the State;

16 (2) customized screening and referral of individ-  
17 uals for employment;

18 (3) customized assessment of skills of the work-  
19 ers of the employer;

20 (4) an analysis of the skill needs of the em-  
21 ployer; and

22 (5) other specialized employment and training  
23 services.

1   **SEC. 302. ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**

2           (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that accurate, timely,  
3   and relevant data regarding employment, job training, job  
4   skills, and job training opportunities are useful for individ-  
5   uals making choices about the careers of such individuals.

6           (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Labor is author-  
7   ized to make arrangements to develop and provide through  
8   one-stop career centers and other appropriate mechanisms  
9   relevant job market information to interested individuals,  
10   including voucher recipients under title I, jobseekers, em-  
11   ployers, and workers.

12   **SEC. 303. DIRECT LOANS TO UNITED STATES WORKERS.**

13           (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the William D.  
14   Ford Federal Direct Loan Program authorized by part D  
15   of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
16   1087a et seq.), is a valuable financing tool for United  
17   States workers who desire to take advantage of training  
18   and education programs, consistent with the goals of such  
19   workers, to learn new skills for careers that may bring  
20   higher salaries and improved quality of life.

21           (b) AWARENESS.—The Department of Education  
22   shall endeavor to make known the value and availability  
23   of direct loans through the William D. Ford Federal Di-  
24   rect Loan Program authorized by part D of title IV of  
25   the Higher Education Act of 1965 through cooperative ar-  
26   rangements with one-stop career centers, training and

1 educational training programs, State agencies, and other  
2 Federal agencies.

## 3 **TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS**

### 4 **SEC. 401. CONSOLIDATION AND STREAMLINING.**

5 (a) REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING NONCOVERED FED-  
6 ERAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Not later than Janu-  
7 ary 1, 1998, and each year thereafter, the Secretary of  
8 Labor shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that  
9 describes how additional Federal job training programs  
10 not covered by this Act can be consolidated into a more  
11 integrated and accountable workforce development system  
12 that better meets the needs of jobseekers, workers, and  
13 business.

14 (b) PLAN ON USE OF COMMON DEFINITIONS, MEAS-  
15 URES, STANDARDS, AND CYCLES.—Not later than 180  
16 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
17 of Labor shall develop a plan that, wherever practicable,  
18 requires the Federal job training programs to use common  
19 definitions, common outcome measures, common eligibility  
20 standards, and common funding cycles in order to make  
21 such training programs more accessible.

### 22 **SEC. 402. REPORT RELATING TO INCOME SUPPORT.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24 gress that—

1           (1) many dislocated workers and economically  
2       disadvantaged adults are unable to enroll in long-  
3       term job training because such workers and adults  
4       lack income support after unemployment compensa-  
5       tion is exhausted;

6           (2) evidence suggests that long-term job train-  
7       ing is among the most effective adjustment service  
8       in assisting dislocated workers and economically dis-  
9       advantaged adults to obtain employment and en-  
10      hance wages; and

11          (3) there is a need to identify options relating  
12      to how income support may be provided to enable  
13      dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged  
14      adults to participate in long-term job training.

15      (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
16 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall pre-  
17 pare and submit to Congress a report that—

18          (1) examines the need for income support to en-  
19      able dislocated workers and economically disadvan-  
20      taged adults to participate in long-term job training;

21          (2) identifies options relating to how such in-  
22      come support may be provided to such workers and  
23      adults; and

24          (3) contains such recommendations as the Sec-  
25      retary of Labor determines are appropriate.



1 **TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

2 **SEC. 501. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
4 priated to carry out titles I and III such sums as may  
5 be necessary for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

6 (b) PROGRAM YEAR.—Appropriations for any fiscal  
7 year for activities carried out under this Act shall be avail-  
8 able for obligation only on the basis of a program year.  
9 The program year shall begin on July 1 in the fiscal year  
10 for which the appropriation is made.

11 **SEC. 502. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1998.

○