

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 709

To provide for various capital investments in technology education in the
United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, and Ways and Means, 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 provide for various capital investments in technology
education 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 “Technology Education
5 Capital Investment Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the high technology industry is one of the
9 fastest growing areas in the United States economy;

1 (2) the United States is a world leader in the
2 high technology industries, and especially in the in-
3 formation technology industry;

4 (3) the continued growth and prosperity of the
5 high technology industry is important to the contin-
6 ued prosperity of the United States economy;

7 (4) an adequate supply of highly-skilled tech-
8 nology workers is essential for the success of ad-
9 vanced technologies and business entities that use
10 information technology;

11 (5) as of the date of enactment of this Act,
12 there is a shortage of information technology work-
13 ers and workers in other high technology industries;
14 and

15 (6) in the absence of a concerted effort by busi-
16 ness entities, the Federal Government, the govern-
17 ments of States and political subdivisions thereof,
18 and educational institutions, the shortage of infor-
19 mation technology workers will continue to be a
20 problem.

21 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION EDUCATION PRO-**
22 **GRAMS.**

23 (a) INFORMAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS.—(1) There are
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the Na-
25 tional Science Foundation to conduct informal science and

1 math education programs \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
2 years 2000 and 2001.

3 (2)(A) The National Science Foundation shall expand
4 the informal science and math education programs con-
5 ducted by the Foundation that promote the understanding
6 of science and technology through voluntary, self-directed,
7 and life-long learning opportunities by fostering commu-
8 nity-based and institutional math and science education
9 programs. In expanding such programs, the Director may
10 give priority to providing for organizations, projects, or
11 programs that provide inquiry-based and hands-on sci-
12 entific learning opportunities for students at pre-kinder-
13 garten through secondary education levels.

14 (B) Of the amount appropriated in paragraph (1),
15 there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director
16 of the National Science Foundation to carry out subpara-
17 graph (A) \$14,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 and
18 2001.

19 (b) EXPANSION OF NATIONAL ADVANCED SCI-
20 ENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the
22 National Science Foundation to carry out the national ad-
23 vanced scientific and technical education program under
24 section 3(a) of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology
25 Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i(a))—

1 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and

2 (2) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

3 **SEC. 4. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION STATE STIMULUS**

4 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education may
6 make grants to States to provide supplementary scholar-
7 ships to students for study leading to a postsecondary de-
8 gree in science, math, engineering, or a related field. Such
9 scholarships may be awarded by a State entity such as
10 the State higher education system, the State scholarship
11 commission, or an equivalent State entity.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) A scholarship awarded under
13 subsection (a) may be applied to any technology-related
14 degree program offered at an accredited institution of
15 higher learning, including a college, university, community
16 college, or vocational-training institution.

17 (2) A scholarship awarded under subsection (a) may
18 not, when combined with other sources of financial assist-
19 ance, exceed the cost of tuition and related expenses of
20 the qualified degree program of the recipient.

21 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of
22 Education may not make a grant to a State under sub-
23 section (a) unless such State provides not less than one-
24 half of the cost of the program for which the grant is pro-
25 vided from State funds.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Edu-
3 cation a total of \$50,000,000 for grants under this sub-
4 section.

5 **SEC. 5. HANDS-ON STUDENT TRAINING (H.O.S.T.) PARTNER-**
6 **SHIP GRANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may
8 make start-up grants to institutions of higher learning to
9 develop industry-sponsored internship programs that pro-
10 vide opportunities for undergraduate engineering students
11 to receive hands-on training at local businesses.

12 (b) PRIORITIES.—Special emphasis shall be given
13 under this section to those programs that—

14 (1) demonstrate a long-term financial commit-
15 ment from industry participants for initiation and
16 long-term operation of the program;

17 (2) involve extensive input and participation by
18 all industry participants;

19 (3) adequately financially compensate student
20 participants; and

21 (4) encourage technology education.

22 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—(1) Not more than one grant
23 may be awarded to an entity under subsection (a).

24 (2) Awards under subsection (a) may be applied to
25 expenses related to the creation of the programs described

1 in that subsection, including the recruitment of businesses
 2 or organizations to participate in such programs.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-
 5 merce a total of \$2,000,000 for grants under this sub-
 6 section.

7 **SEC. 6. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF EMPLOYER-PROVIDED**
 8 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE; RESTORATION**
 9 **OF EXCLUSION FOR GRADUATE LEVEL AS-**
 10 **SISTANCE.**

11 (a) EXCLUSION MADE PERMANENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 127 of the Internal
 13 Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to educational as-
 14 sistance programs) is amended by striking sub-
 15 section (d).

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
 17 by paragraph (1) shall apply to taxable years begin-
 18 ning after May 31, 1998.

19 (b) RESTORATION OF EXCLUSION FOR GRADUATE
 20 LEVEL ASSISTANCE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The last sentence of section
 22 127(c)(1) of such Code is amended by striking all
 23 that follows “hobbies” and inserting a period.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
 25 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to ex-

1 penses relating to courses beginning after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 7. TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

5 (1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term “business
6 entity” means a firm, corporation, association, part-
7 nership, consortium, joint venture, or other form of
8 enterprise.

9 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
10 means the Technology Workforce Commission estab-
11 lished under subsection (b).

12 (3) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term
13 “information technology” has the meaning given
14 that term in section 5002 of the Information Tech-
15 nology Management Reform Act of 1996 (110 Stat.
16 679).

17 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
18 the several States of the United States, the terri-
19 tories of the United States, and the District of Co-
20 lumbia.

21 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE
22 COMMISSION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a com-
24 mission to be known as the Technology Workforce
25 Commission.

1 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 (A) COMPOSITION.—(i) The Commission
3 shall be composed of 21 members to be ap-
4 pointed as follows:

5 (I) Seven members shall be appointed
6 by the President, and shall be individuals
7 who are officers or employees of the Fed-
8 eral Government.

9 (II) Four members shall be appointed
10 by the Speaker of the House of Represent-
11 atives, of whom one shall be a Member of
12 Congress.

13 (III) Three members shall be ap-
14 pointed by the minority leader of the
15 House, of whom one shall be a Member of
16 Congress.

17 (IV) Four members shall be appointed
18 by the majority leader of the Senate, of
19 whom one shall be a Member of Congress.

20 (V) Three members shall be appointed
21 by the minority leader of the Senate, of
22 whom one shall be a Member of Congress.

23 (ii) Of the members appointed under
24 clauses (i)(II) through (i)(V)—

1 (I) Seven shall be individuals em-
2 ployed in high technology business entities;
3 and

4 (II) Three shall be representatives of
5 State governments.

6 (B) DATE.—The appointments of the
7 members of the Commission shall be made by
8 the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act.

10 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—
11 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Com-
12 mission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not
13 affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same
14 manner as the original appointment.

15 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
16 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
17 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
18 its first meeting.

19 (5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
20 the call of the Chairperson.

21 (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
22 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
23 lesser number of members may hold hearings.

1 (7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

2 The Commission shall select a chairperson and vice
3 chairperson from among its members.

4 (c) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

5 (1) STUDY.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
7 conduct a thorough study of all matters relating
8 to the shortage of technology workers in the
9 United States.

10 (B) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters
11 studied by the Commission shall include an ex-
12 amination of—

13 (i) the causes of the shortage of tech-
14 nology workers in the United States;

15 (ii) possible solutions to address the
16 shortage referred to in clause (i); and

17 (iii) the relative efficacy of programs
18 in the United States and foreign countries
19 to provide for an increase in the number of
20 technology workers, with special emphasis
21 on programs that provide for secondary
22 education or postsecondary education in a
23 program other than a 4-year baccalaureate
24 program (including associate degree pro-
25 grams and graduate degree programs).

1 (C) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—As part of the
2 study conducted under this subsection, the
3 Commission shall hold public hearings concern-
4 ing the issues referred to in clauses (i) and (ii)
5 of subparagraph (B).

6 (D) EXISTING INFORMATION.—To the ex-
7 tent practicable, in carrying out the study
8 under this subsection, the Commission shall
9 identify and use existing information related to
10 the issues referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) of
11 subparagraph (B).

12 (E) CONSULTATION WITH CHIEF INFORMA-
13 TION OFFICERS COUNCIL.—In carrying out the
14 study under this subsection, the Commission
15 shall consult with the Chief Information Offi-
16 cers Council established under Executive Order
17 No. 13011.

18 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
19 initial meeting of the Commission, the Commission
20 shall submit a report to the President and the Con-
21 gress which shall contain a detailed statement of the
22 findings and conclusions of the Commission, to-
23 gether with its recommendations for such legislation
24 and administrative actions as it considers appro-
25 priate.

1 (3) FACILITATION OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMA-
2 TION.—In carrying out the study under this sub-
3 section, the Commission shall, to the extent prac-
4 ticable, facilitate the exchange of information con-
5 cerning the issues that are the subject of the study
6 among—

7 (A) officials of the Federal Government
8 and the governments of States and political
9 subdivisions thereof; and

10 (B) educators from Federal, State, and
11 local institutions of higher education and sec-
12 ondary schools.

13 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

14 (1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold
15 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
16 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
17 the Commission considers advisable to carry out the
18 purposes of this Act.

19 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
20 The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-
21 eral department or agency such information as the
22 Commission considers necessary to carry out the
23 provisions of this Act. Upon request of the Chair-
24 person of the Commission, the head of such depart-

1 ment or agency shall furnish such information to the
2 Commission.

3 (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may
4 use the United States mails in the same manner and
5 under the same conditions as other departments and
6 agencies of the Federal Government.

7 (4) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use,
8 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-
9 erty.

10 (e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

11 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Except as
12 provided in paragraph (2), each member of the Com-
13 mission who is not an officer or employee of the
14 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-
15 tion. All members of the Commission who are offi-
16 cers or employees of the United States shall serve
17 without compensation in addition to that received for
18 their services as officers or employees of the United
19 States.

20 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
21 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
22 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
23 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of
24 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while

1 away from their homes or regular places of business
2 in the performance of services for the Commission.

3 (3) STAFF.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
5 Commission may, without regard to the civil
6 service laws and regulations, appoint and termi-
7 nate an executive director and such other addi-
8 tional personnel as may be necessary to enable
9 the Commission to perform its duties. The em-
10 ployment of an executive director shall be sub-
11 ject to confirmation by the Commission.

12 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of
13 the Commission may fix the compensation of
14 the executive director and other personnel with-
15 out regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and
16 subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United
17 States Code, relating to classification of posi-
18 tions and General Schedule pay rates, except
19 that the rate of pay for the executive director
20 and other personnel may not exceed the rate
21 payable for level V of the Executive Schedule
22 under section 5316 of such title.

23 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

24 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed
25 to the Commission without reimbursement, and such

1 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil
2 service status or privilege.

3 (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-
4 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-
5 mission may procure temporary and intermittent
6 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
7 States Code, at rates for individuals which do not
8 exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
9 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive
10 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

11 (f) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-
12 sion shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the
13 date on which the Commission submits its report under
14 this subsection.

15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
17 appropriated \$750,000 for fiscal year 2000 to the
18 Commission to carry out the purposes of this Act.

19 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated
20 under the authorization contained in this section
21 shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation,
22 until expended.

○