

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1439

To authorize the Secretary of Education to enter into a partnership with a qualified local educational agency to conduct a model school-to-work program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. ANDREWS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to enter into a partnership with a qualified local educational agency to conduct a model school-to-work program, 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Vocational Opportuni-
3 ties and Instruction through Cooperative Education Act
4 of 2005” or the “VOICE Act of 2005”.

5 **SEC. 2. MODEL SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM.**

6 (a) PARTNERSHIP.—The Secretary of Education may
7 enter into a partnership with a qualified local educational
8 agency to conduct a model school-to-work program de-
9 scribed in subsection (b) for the purpose of determining
10 whether such a program should be incorporated into public
11 secondary schools on a nationwide basis.

12 (b) MODEL SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The model school-to-work
14 program under this section shall provide course
15 credits to secondary school students who participate
16 in work-based learning experiences in the public or
17 private sector.

18 (2) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—To participate in
19 the model school-to-work program under this sec-
20 tion, a student—

21 (A) must have no criminal background;

22 (B) must have a grade point average of 2.0
23 or higher; and

24 (C) must have a record of school attend-
25 ance that is deemed satisfactory by the quali-
26 fied local educational agency.

1 (3) MINIMUM WAGE.—The model school-to-
2 work program under this section shall ensure that
3 students are paid at least the minimum wage under
4 the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.
5 201 et seq.) for work performed in connection with
6 such program.

7 (4) MAXIMUM HOURS.—The model school-to-
8 work program under this section shall not require,
9 or provide course credits for, any work experience in
10 excess of a total of 20 hours for any week.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education
13 shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of
14 the model school-to-work program under this section, in-
15 cluding recommendations on whether such a program
16 should be incorporated into public secondary schools on
17 a nationwide basis.

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

19 (1) The term “qualified local educational agen-
20 cy” means a local educational agency that—

21 (A) is located in a Midwestern urban dis-
22 trict; and

23 (B) serves at least 400,000 students, of
24 whom at least 70 percent are eligible for free or
25 reduced-price lunches under the Richard B.

1 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1751 et seq.).

3 (2) The terms “local educational agency” and
4 “secondary school” have the meanings give to those
5 terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
6 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

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