

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2923

To provide funding for summer and year-round youth jobs and training programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 22, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide funding for summer and year-round youth jobs and training programs.

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 “Youth Jobs Act of
5 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND YOUTH JOBS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) a \$1,500,000,000 investment in summer
9 and year-round employment for youth, through the
10 program supported under this section, can create up

1 to 450,000 temporary jobs and meaningful work ex-
2 periences for economically disadvantaged youth and
3 stimulate local economies;

4 (2) there is a serious and growing need for em-
5 ployment opportunities for economically disadvan-
6 taged youth (including young adults), as dem-
7 onstrated by statistics from the Bureau of Labor
8 Statistics stating that, in November 2009—

9 (A) the unemployment rate increased to 10
10 percent, as compared to 6.8 percent in Novem-
11 ber 2008;

12 (B) the unemployment rate for 16- to 19-
13 year-olds rose to 26.7 percent, as compared to
14 20.4 percent in November 2008; and

15 (C) the unemployment rate for African-
16 American 16- to 19-year-olds increased to 49.4
17 percent, as compared to 32.2 percent in Novem-
18 ber 2008;

19 (3) research from Northwestern University has
20 shown that every \$1 a youth earns has an accel-
21 erator effect of \$3 on the local economy;

22 (4) summer and year-round jobs for youth help
23 supplement the income of families living in poverty;

1 (5) summer and year-round jobs for youth pro-
2 vide valuable work experience for economically dis-
3 advantaged youth;

4 (6) often, a summer or year-round job provided
5 under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is an
6 economically disadvantaged youth's introduction to
7 the world of work;

8 (7) according to the Center for Labor Market
9 Studies at Northeastern University, early work expe-
10 rience is a very powerful predictor of success and
11 earnings in the labor market, and early work experi-
12 ence raises earnings over a lifetime by 10 to 20 per-
13 cent;

14 (8) participation in a youth jobs program can
15 contribute to a reduction in criminal and high-risk
16 behavior for youth; and

17 (9)(A) youth jobs programs benefit both youth
18 and communities when designed around principles
19 that promote mutually beneficial programs;

20 (B) youth benefit from jobs that provide them
21 with work readiness skills and that help them make
22 the connection between responsibility on the job and
23 success in adulthood; and

1 (C) communities benefit when youth are en-
 2 gaged productively, providing much-needed services
 3 that meet real community needs.

4 (b) REFERENCES.—

5 (1) CERTIFICATE; CREDENTIAL.—In subsection
 6 (d), references to the terms “certificate” and “cre-
 7 dential” have the meanings prescribed by the Sec-
 8 retary of Labor.

9 (2) YOUTH-RELATED REFERENCES.—In this
 10 Act, and in the provisions referred to in subsections
 11 (c) and (d) for purposes of this Act—

12 (A) a reference to a youth refers to an in-
 13 dividual who is not younger than age 14 and
 14 not older than age 24, and meets any other re-
 15 quirements for that type of youth; and

16 (B) a reference to a youth activity refers
 17 to an activity covered in subsection (d)(1) that
 18 is carried out for a youth described in subpara-
 19 graph (A).

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 21 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Labor
 22 for youth activities under the Workforce Investment Act
 23 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), \$1,500,000,000, which
 24 shall be available for the period of January 1, 2010,

1 through June 30, 2011, under the conditions described in
2 subsection (d).

3 (d) CONDITIONS.—

4 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available
5 under subsection (c) shall be used for youth jobs and
6 training programs, to provide opportunities referred
7 to in subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of sec-
8 tion 129(c)(2) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2854(c)(2))
9 and, as appropriate, opportunities referred to in sub-
10 paragraphs (A) and (G) of such section, except that
11 no such funds shall be spent on unpaid work experi-
12 ences and the opportunities may include learning de-
13 scribed in paragraph (3)(B).

14 (2) LIMITATION.—Such funds shall be distrib-
15 uted in accordance with sections 127 and 128 of
16 such Act (29 U.S.C. 2852, 2853), except that no
17 portion of such funds shall be reserved to carry out
18 128(a) or 169 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2853(a),
19 2914).

20 (3) PRIORITY.—In using funds made available
21 under subsection (c), a local area (as defined in sec-
22 tion 101 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2801))—

23 (A) shall give priority to providing—

24 (i) work experiences in viable, emerg-
25 ing, or demand industries, or work experi-

ences in the public or nonprofit sector that
fulfill a community need; and

(ii) job referral services for youth to
work experiences described in clause (i) in
the private sector, for which the employer
involved agrees to pay the wages and bene-
fits, consistent with Federal and State
child labor laws; and

(B) may give priority to providing—

(i) work experiences combined with
linkages to academic and occupational
learning, so that the experiences and learn-
ing provide opportunities for youth to earn
a short-term certificate or credential that
has value in the labor market; and

(ii) work experiences combined with
learning that are designed to encourage
and maximize the likelihood of a partici-
pant's return to, or completion of, a pro-
gram of study leading to a recognized sec-
ondary or postsecondary degree, certificate,
or credential.

(4) MEASURE OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The effec-
tiveness of the activities carried out with such funds
shall be measured, under section 136 of such Act

1 (29 U.S.C. 2871), only with performance measures
2 based on the core indicators of performance de-
3 scribed in section 136(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of such Act (29
4 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)), applied to all youth
5 served through the activities.

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