S. 1978

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for community-based job training grants, to provide Federal assistance for community college modernization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

December 12, 2011

Mr. Blumenthal (for himself and Ms. Mikulski) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

- To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for community-based job training grants, to provide Federal assistance for community college modernization, 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,
 - 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
 - 4 This Act may be cited as the "Community College
 - 5 Innovation Act".

1 SEC. 2. COMMUNITY-BASED JOB TRAINING GRANTS.

2	Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
3	(29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the
4	following:
5	"(f) Community-Based Job Training Grants.—
6	"(1) Definitions.—In this subsection:
7	"(A) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term
8	'community college' means—
9	"(i) an institution of higher education,
10	as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher
11	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12	1001(a))—
13	"(I) that awards a 2-year degree
14	that is acceptable for full credit to-
15	ward a baccalaureate degree; and
16	"(II) at which that 2-year degree
17	is the primary degree, and the highest
18	degree, awarded by the institution; or
19	"(ii) a tribally controlled college or
20	university, as defined in section 2 of the
21	Tribally Controlled Colleges and Univer-
22	sities Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C.
23	1801).
24	"(B) Eligible entity.—The term 'eligi-
25	ble entity' means an entity that—

1	"(i) is a community college, a consor-
2	tium of community colleges, or a consor-
3	tium composed of a community college and
4	1 or more institutions of higher education;
5	and
6	"(ii) works with—
7	"(I) 1 or more local boards;
8	"(II) a business in a qualified in-
9	dustry, or an industry association in
10	the qualified industry, as identified in
11	the application of the entity; and
12	"(III) an economic development
13	entity.
14	"(C) Industry-recognized creden-
15	TIAL.—The term 'industry-recognized creden-
16	tial' means such a credential within the mean-
17	ing of section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career
18	and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
19	U.S.C. 2302).
20	"(D) Institution of higher edu-
21	CATION.—Except as otherwise provided in sub-
22	paragraph (A)(i), the term 'institution of higher
23	education' has the meaning given the term in
24	section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
25	1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001) and the meaning given

1	the term 'postsecondary vocational institution'
2	in section 102(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
3	1002(e)).
4	"(E) QUALIFIED INDUSTRY.—
5	"(i) In general.—The term 'quali-
6	fied industry' means an industry or eco-
7	nomic sector that has, or is projected to
8	have, significant demands for training
9	(which may include education) for middle-
10	and high-skill occupations, such as an in-
11	dustry or economic sector that—
12	"(I) is projected to add substan-
13	tial numbers of new jobs to the re-
14	gional economy;
15	"(II) has or is projected to have
16	significant impact on the regional
17	economy;
18	"(III) impacts or is projected to
19	impact the growth of other industries
20	or economic sectors in the regional
21	economy;
22	"(IV) is being transformed by
23	technology and innovation requiring
24	new knowledge or skill sets for work-
25	ers;

1	"(V) is a new or emerging indus-
2	try or economic sector that is pro-
3	jected to grow; or
4	"(VI) requires high skills and has
5	significant labor shortages in the re-
6	gional economy.
7	"(ii) Rule.—Consistent with section
8	1 of title 1, United States Code, a ref-
9	erence in this subsection to a qualified in-
10	dustry includes a reference to more than 1
11	qualified industry.
12	"(2) Demonstration project.—In addition
13	to the demonstration projects authorized under sub-
14	section (b), the Secretary may establish and imple-
15	ment a national demonstration project designed—
16	"(A) to develop local innovative solutions
17	to the workforce challenges facing qualified in-
18	dustries; and
19	"(B) to increase employment opportunities
20	for workers in qualified industries by estab-
21	lishing partnerships among education entities,
22	State workforce investment systems, and busi-
23	nesses in qualified industries (including eco-
24	nomic sectors).

1	"(3) Grants.—In carrying out the national
2	demonstration project authorized under this sub-
3	section, the Secretary shall award grants, on a com-
4	petitive basis, for 2, 3, or 4 years, to eligible entities
5	to enable the eligible entities to pay for the Federal
6	share of the cost of carrying out programs of activi-
7	ties authorized under this subsection.
8	"(4) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
9	grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
10	submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
11	in such manner, and containing such information as
12	the Secretary may require, including—
13	"(A) a description of the eligible entity
14	that will offer training under the grant;
15	"(B) a demonstration of the need for funds
16	to create or expand a program to carry out the
17	activities described in paragraph (6);
18	"(C) an economic analysis of the local
19	labor market to identify—
20	"(i) a qualified industry;
21	"(ii) the workforce issues faced by
22	such industries; and
23	"(iii) potential participants in pro-
24	grams funded under this subsection;

1	"(D) a description of the qualified industry
2	for which the training will occur, the availability
3	of competencies on which the training will be
4	based, how the grant will help workers acquire
5	the competencies and skills necessary for em-
6	ployment in the qualified industry, a description
7	of the training programs, leading to an indus-
8	try-recognized credential, that will be provided
9	through the grant, and a description of any in-
10	dustry-recognized curriculum involved;
11	"(E) a description of the involvement of
12	the local boards and businesses, including small
13	businesses, in the geographic area where the
14	proposed grant program will be implemented;
15	"(F) performance measures for the activi-
16	ties funded under the grant, that include the
17	core indicators of performance described in sec-
18	tion $136(b)(2)(A)$;
19	"(G) a description of how the activities
20	funded by the grant will be coordinated with ac-
21	tivities provided through the one-stop center in
22	the local area; and
23	"(H) a description of the local or private
24	resources that will—

1	"(i) support the activities carried out
2	under this subsection; and
3	"(ii) enable the entity to carry out
4	such activities after the expiration of the
5	grant.
6	"(5) Factors for award of grant.—
7	"(A) In General.—In awarding a grant
8	under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
9	sider—
10	"(i) the extent of public and private
11	collaboration, including existing partner-
12	ships (as of the date of submission of the
13	application) among a qualified industry,
14	the eligible entity, and the workforce in-
15	vestment system;
16	"(ii) the extent to which the program
17	carried out through the grant will provide
18	jobseekers with high-quality training for
19	employment in a qualified industry;
20	"(iii) the extent to which the program
21	will expand the capacity of the eligible en-
22	tity and the one-stop centers in the local
23	area to be demand-driven and responsive
24	to local economic needs:

1	"(iv) the extent to which local busi-
2	nesses commit to hire, retain, or advance
3	individuals who receive training through
4	the program; and
5	"(v) the extent to which the eligible
6	entity commits to make any products de-
7	veloped as a result of the program, such as
8	skill standards, assessments, or industry-
9	recognized training curricula, available for
10	dissemination nationally.
11	"(B) Leveraging of resources.—In
12	awarding grants under this subsection, the Sec-
13	retary shall also consider—
14	"(i) the extent to which local or pri-
15	vate resources will be made available to
16	support the program of activities carried
17	out under this subsection, taking into ac-
18	count the resources of the eligible entity
19	and the entity's partners; and
20	"(ii) the ability of an eligible entity to
21	continue to carry out and expand such ac-
22	tivities after the expiration of the grant pe-
23	riod.
24	"(C) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—In
25	awarding grants under this subsection, the Sec-

1	retary shall ensure an equitable distribution of
2	such grants across diverse industries and geo-
3	graphic areas.
4	"(6) Use of funds.—An eligible entity that
5	receives a grant under this subsection—
6	"(A) shall use the grant funds for—
7	"(i) the development or expansion by
8	the community college that is a part of the
9	eligible entity in collaboration with other
10	partners identified in the application, and,
11	if applicable, other representatives of quali-
12	fied industries, of rigorous training (which
13	may be education) programs leading to an
14	industry-recognized credential or degree
15	from the community college, and employ-
16	ment in the qualified industry; and
17	"(ii) training of adults, incumbent
18	workers, dislocated workers, or out-of-
19	school youth in the programs described in
20	clause (i); and
21	"(B) may use the grant funds for—
22	"(i) disseminating information, on
23	training (including training provided
24	through the program) available for high-
25	growth, high-demand occupations in quali-

1	fied industries, through the one-stop deliv-
2	ery system to prospective participants,
3	businesses, business intermediaries, and
4	community-based organizations in the re-
5	gion;
6	"(ii) referring individuals trained
7	under the grant for employment in a quali-
8	fied industry;
9	"(iii) enhancing integration of com-
10	munity colleges, training (which may be
11	education) with businesses, and the one-
12	stop system to meet the training needs of
13	a qualified industry for new and incumbent
14	workers;
15	"(iv) providing training and relevant
16	job skills to small business owners or oper-
17	ators to facilitate small business develop-
18	ment in a qualified industry; or
19	"(v) creating or expanding programs
20	for distance, evening, weekend, modular, or
21	compressed learning opportunities that
22	provide training and relevant job skills for
23	high-growth, high-demand occupations.
24	"(7) Authority to require non-federal
25	SHARE.—The Secretary may require that recipients

1	of grants under this subsection provide the non-Fed-
2	eral share, from either cash or noncash resources,
3	fairly evaluated, of the cost of carrying out programs
4	of activities under a grant awarded under this sub-
5	section.
6	"(8) Performance accountability and
7	EVALUATION.—
8	"(A) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—
9	The Secretary shall require an eligible entity
10	that receives a grant under this subsection to
11	submit interim and final reports to the Sec-
12	retary on the impact on business partners and
13	employment outcomes obtained by individuals
14	receiving training under this subsection, using
15	the performance measures identified in the eli-
16	gible entity's grant application.
17	"(B) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
18	require that an eligible entity that receives a
19	grant under this subsection participate in an
20	evaluation of activities carried out under this
21	subsection, including an evaluation using the
22	techniques described in section 172(c).".
23	SEC. 3. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
24	MODERNIZATION.

(a) In General.—

1	(1) Program authorized.—From the amount
2	made available under subsection (k), the Secretary
3	shall award grants to States to modernize, renovate,
4	or repair existing facilities at community colleges.
5	(2) Allocation.—
6	(A) Reservations.—From the amount
7	made available to carry out this section for a
8	fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—
9	(i) not more than 0.25 percent for
10	grants to institutions that are eligible to
11	receive a grant under section 316 of the
12	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13	1059c) to provide for modernization, ren-
14	ovation, and repair activities described in
15	this section; and
16	(ii) not more than 0.25 percent for
17	grants to the outlying areas to provide for
18	modernization, renovation, and repair ac-
19	tivities described in this section.
20	(B) Allocation.—
21	(i) In general.—Except as provided
22	in clause (ii), from the funds made avail-
23	able to carry out this section for a fiscal
24	year and not reserved under subparagraph
25	(A), the Secretary shall allocate, to each

1	State that has an application approved by
2	the Secretary, an amount that bears the
3	same relation to such funds as—
4	(I) the sum of—
5	(aa) the total number of stu-
6	dents in such State who are en-
7	rolled in institutions described in
8	subsection (j)(1)(A); and
9	(bb) the number of students
10	who are estimated to be enrolled
11	in and pursuing a degree or cer-
12	tificate that is not a bacca-
13	laureate, master's, professional,
14	or other advanced degree at insti-
15	tutions described in subsection
16	(j)(1)(B), based on the propor-
17	tion of degrees or certificates
18	awarded by such institutions that
19	are not baccalaureate, master's,
20	professional, or other advanced
21	degrees, as reported to the Inte-
22	grated Postsecondary Data Sys-
23	tem; bears to

1	(II) the estimated total number
2	of students described in items (aa)
3	and (bb) of subclause (I) in all States.
4	(ii) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—No State
5	shall receive an allocation under clause (i)
6	for a fiscal year that is less than
7	\$2,500,000.
8	(C) Reallocation.—Amounts not allo-
9	cated under this section to a State because the
10	State either did not submit an application
11	under subsection (b), the State submitted an
12	application that the Secretary determined did
13	not meet the requirements of such subsection,
14	or the State cannot demonstrate to the Sec-
15	retary a sufficient demand for projects to war-
16	rant the full allocation of the funds, shall be
17	proportionately reallocated under this para-
18	graph to the other States that have a dem-
19	onstrated need for, and are receiving, alloca-
20	tions under this section.
21	(D) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State
22	that receives a grant under this section may use
23	not more than 1 percent of such grant for ad-

ministration costs.

1	(3) Supplement, not supplant.—Funds
2	made available under this section shall be used to
3	supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
4	and local funds that would otherwise be expended to
5	modernize, renovate, or repair existing community
6	college facilities.
7	(b) APPLICATION.—A State that desires to receive a
8	grant under this section shall submit an application to the
9	Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
10	such information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
11	quire. Such application shall include a description of—
12	(1) how the funds provided under this section
13	will improve—
14	(A) instruction at community colleges in
15	the State, including how faculty and staff will
16	be consulted regarding uses of funds for
17	projects that will improve instruction at com-
18	munity colleges in the State; and
19	(B) the ability of such colleges to educate
20	and train students to meet the workforce needs
21	of employers in the State;
22	(2) the projected start date of each project; and
23	(3) the estimated number of persons who will
24	be employed through each project.
25	(c) Prohibited Uses of Funds.—

1	(1) In general.—Funds awarded under this
2	section shall not be used for—
3	(A) routine or janitorial costs;
4	(B) construction, modernization, renova-
5	tion, and repair of stadiums or other facilities
6	primarily used for athletic contests or exhibi-
7	tions or other events for which admission is
8	charged to the general public; or
9	(C) construction, modernization, renova-
10	tion, and repair of facilities—
11	(i) used for sectarian instruction, reli-
12	gious worship, or a school or department
13	of divinity; or
14	(ii) in which a substantial portion of
15	the functions of the facilities are subsumed
16	in a religious mission.
17	(2) 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.—Funds awarded to
18	a 4-year public institution of higher education under
19	this section shall not be used for any facility, service,
20	or program of the institution that is not available to
21	students who are pursuing a degree or certificate
22	that is not a baccalaureate, master's, professional, or
23	other advanced degree.
24	(d) Green Projects.—In providing assistance to
25	community college projects under this section, the State

shall consider the extent to which a community college's 2 project involves activities that are certified, verified, or 3 consistent with the applicable provisions of— 4 (1) the LEED Green Building Rating System; (2) Energy Star; 6 (3) the CHPS Criteria, as applicable; 7 (4) Green Globes; or 8 (5) an equivalent program adopted by the State 9 or the State higher education agency that includes 10 a verifiable method to demonstrate compliance with 11 such program. 12 (e) Application of GEPA.—Section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232b) shall apply to funds available under this section. 14 15 (f) Reports.—Each State that receives a grant under this section, shall, not later than September 30, 16 2012, and annually thereafter for each fiscal year in which the State expends funds received under this section, sub-18 mit to the Secretary a report that includes— 19 20 (1) a description of the projects for which the 21 grant was, or will be, used; 22 (2) a description of the amount and nature of

the assistance provided to each community college

under this section; and

23

- 1 (3) the number of jobs created by the projects
- 2 funded under this section.
- 3 (g) Buy American.—Section 1605 of division A of
- 4 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- 5 (Public Law 111–5) shall apply to funds made available
- 6 under this section in the same manner as such section ap-
- 7 plies to funds made available under such Act.
- 8 (h) Compliance With Davis-Bacon Act.—All la-
- 9 borers and mechanics employed by contractors and sub-
- 10 contractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in
- 11 whole or in part pursuant to this section shall be paid
- 12 wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects
- 13 of a character similar in the locality as determined by the
- 14 Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of
- 15 chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code. With respect
- 16 to the labor standards specified in this section, the Sec-
- 17 retary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set
- 18 forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64
- 19 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40,
- 20 United States Code.
- 21 (i) Reports.—The Secretary shall submit to the ap-
- 22 propriations committees and the authorizing committees
- 23 (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act
- 24 of 1965 (U.S.C. 1003)) of the House of Representatives
- 25 and the Senate an annual report regarding the grants

1	made under this section, including the information de-
2	scribed in subsection (f).
3	(j) Definitions.—In this section:
4	(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term "commu-
5	nity college" means—
6	(A) a junior or community college, as that
7	term is defined in section 312(f) of the Higher
8	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)); or
9	(B) a 4-year public institution of higher
10	education (as defined in section 101 of the
11	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12	1001)) that awards a significant number of de-
13	grees and certificates, as determined by the
14	Secretary, that are not—
15	(i) baccalaureate degrees (or an equiv-
16	alent); or
17	(ii) master's, professional, or other
18	advanced degrees.
19	(2) CHPS CRITERIA.—The term "CHPS Cri-
20	teria" means the green building rating program de-
21	veloped by the Collaborative for High Performance
22	Schools.
23	(3) Energy Star.—The term "Energy Star"
24	means the Energy Star program of the Department

1	of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agen-
2	cy.
3	(4) Green Globes.—The term "Green
4	Globes" means the Green Building Initiative envi-
5	ronmental design and rating system referred to as
6	Green Globes.
7	(5) LEED GREEN BUILDING RATING SYS-
8	TEM.—The term "LEED Green Building Rating
9	System" means the United States Green Building
10	Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental
11	Design green building rating standard referred to as
12	the LEED Green Building Rating System.
13	(6) Modernization, renovation, and re-
14	PAIR.—The term "modernization, renovation, and
15	repair" means—
16	(A) comprehensive assessments of facilities
17	to identify—
18	(i) facility conditions or deficiencies
19	that could adversely affect student and
20	staff health, safety, performance, or pro-
21	ductivity or energy, water, or materials ef-
22	ficiency; and
23	(ii) needed facility improvements;
24	(B) repairing, replacing, or installing roofs
25	(which may be extensive, intensive, or semi-in-

tensive "green" roofs), electrical wiring, water supply and plumbing systems, sewage systems, storm water runoff systems, lighting systems (or components of such systems), or building envelopes, windows, ceilings, flooring, or doors, including security doors;

- (C) repairing, replacing, or installing heating, ventilation, or air conditioning systems, or components of those systems (including insulation), including by conducting indoor air quality assessments;
- (D) repairing, replacing, or installing an interior or exterior system that may include paint or coatings, wall covering, drywall or plaster, ceiling, baseboards, or floor covering;
- (E) compliance with fire, health, seismic, and safety codes, including professional installation of fire and life safety alarms, and modernizations, renovations, and repairs that ensure that facilities are prepared for such emergencies as acts of terrorism, campus violence, and natural disasters, such as improving building infrastructure to accommodate security measures and installing or upgrading tech-

nology to ensure that a community college or incident is able to respond to such emergencies;

- (F) making modifications necessary to make educational facilities accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), except that such modifications shall not be the primary use of a grant or subgrant;
- (G) abatement, removal, or interim controls of asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, mold, mildew, or lead-based hazards, including lead-based paint hazards;
- (H) retrofitting necessary to increase energy efficiency, which may include insulation or reducing heating and cooling costs through thermal coating of community college facility roofs;
- (I) measures, such as selection and substitution of products and materials, and implementation of improved maintenance and operational procedures, such as "green cleaning" programs, to reduce or eliminate potential student or staff exposure to—

1	(i) volatile organic compounds;
2	(ii) particles such as dust and pollens
3	or
4	(iii) combustion gases;
5	(J) modernization, renovation, or repair
6	necessary to reduce the consumption of coal
7	electricity, land, oil, or water;
8	(K) installation or upgrading of edu-
9	cational technology infrastructure;
10	(L) installation or upgrading of renewable
11	energy generation and heating systems, includ-
12	ing solar, photovoltaic, wind, biomass (including
13	wood pellet and woody biomass), waste-to-en-
14	ergy, solar-thermal, fuel cell, and geothermal
15	systems, and energy audits;
16	(M) modernization, renovation, or repair
17	activities related to energy efficiency and renew-
18	able energy, including—
19	(i) insulation of systems functioning
20	as heating, venting, or air conditioning
21	and
22	(ii) improvements to building infra-
23	structures to accommodate bicycle and pe-
24	destrian access:

1	(N) required environmental remediation re-
2	lated to facilities modernization, renovation, or
3	repair activities described in subparagraphs (A)
4	through (M);
5	(O) ground improvements, storm water
6	management, landscaping and environmental
7	clean-up when necessary;
8	(P) other modernization, renovation, or re-
9	pair to—
10	(i) improve teachers' ability to teach
11	and students' ability to learn;
12	(ii) ensure the health and safety of
13	students and staff; or
14	(iii) improve classroom, laboratory,
15	and vocational facilities in order to en-
16	hance the quality of science, technology,
17	engineering, and mathematics instruction;
18	and
19	(Q) measures designed to reduce or elimi-
20	nate human exposure to classroom noise and
21	environmental noise pollution.
22	(7) Outlying Area.—The term "outlying
23	area" means each of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam,
24	American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
25	ern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

- 1 (8) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means 2 the Secretary of Education.
 - (9) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the 50 States of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

(k) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

- (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to carry out this section (in addition to any other amounts appropriated to carry out this section and out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated), \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.
- (2) Funds available for obligation by community colleges only during the period that ends 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act.