

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2269

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce by providing such individuals with support services, job training, and education, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2014

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico 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 prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce by providing such individuals with support services, job training, and education, 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 “Promoting Partner-
5 ships to Transform Opportunities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to provide resources to
 3 eligible institutions to prepare individuals with multiple
 4 barriers to employment, including underrepresented mi-
 5 norities, to enter the workforce by providing support serv-
 6 ices, job training, and education.

7 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MULTIPLE**
 8 **BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.**

9 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act
 10 of 1998 is amended by inserting after section 166 (29
 11 U.S.C. 2911) the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 166A. PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MULTIPLE**
 13 **BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.**

14 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
 15 support employment and training activities for individuals
 16 with multiple barriers to employment in order—

17 “(1) to develop more fully the academic, occu-
 18 pational, and literacy skills of such individuals;

19 “(2) to make such individuals more competitive
 20 in the workforce; and

21 “(3) to promote the economic and social devel-
 22 opment of the communities, including minority com-
 23 munities, of those individuals in accordance with the
 24 goals and values of the communities described in
 25 this paragraph.

26 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble institution’ means—

3 “(A) a historically Black college or univer-
4 sity;

5 “(B) a Hispanic-serving Institution;

6 “(C) a Tribal College or University; or

7 “(D) a Predominantly Black Institution.

8 “(2) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
9 term ‘Hispanic-serving institution’ has the meaning
10 given the term in section 502 of the Higher Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

12 “(3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
13 VERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or
14 university’ has the meaning given the term ‘part B
15 institution’ in section 322 of the Higher Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

17 “(4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
18 ‘nonprofit organization’ means a nonprofit organiza-
19 tion that focuses on preparing individuals with mul-
20 tiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce
21 by providing such individuals with support services,
22 job training, and education.

23 “(5) PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.—
24 The term ‘Predominantly Black Institution’ has the

1 meaning given the term in section 318 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e).

3 “(6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
4 term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the meaning
5 given the term in section 316 of the Higher Edu-
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e).

7 “(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall,
8 on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into con-
9 tracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible institutions
10 to carry out the authorized activities described in sub-
11 section (d). Such an eligible institution may carry out the
12 activities directly, or through a partnership with a non-
13 profit organization.

14 “(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible institu-
15 tion receiving a grant, contract, or agreement under sub-
16 section (c) shall use such funds to serve individuals with
17 multiple barriers to employment by carrying out one or
18 more of the following activities:

19 “(1) Education services, including postsec-
20 ondary education, English as a second language
21 courses, General Educational Development prepara-
22 tion, financial literacy workshops, access to informa-
23 tion technology workshops and courses, Generational
24 Diversity Awareness programs, and health and
25 wellness programs.

1 “(2) Activities that increase access to workforce
2 services, including on-the-job training, internships,
3 skills training, job placement, financial literacy
4 training, and personal development.

5 “(3) Additional support services, including
6 health and nutrition services, housing assistance,
7 transportation, child care, and clothing.

8 “(e) PROGRAM PLAN.—In order to receive a grant
9 or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under
10 subsection (c), an eligible institution shall submit to the
11 Secretary a program plan that describes a strategy for
12 meeting the needs of individuals with multiple barriers to
13 employment in the area served by such organization. Such
14 plan shall—

15 “(1) be consistent with the purpose of this sec-
16 tion;

17 “(2) identify the population to be served;

18 “(3) identify the education and employment
19 needs of the population to be served and the manner
20 in which the activities to be provided will strengthen
21 the ability of the individuals served to obtain or re-
22 tain unsubsidized employment;

23 “(4) describe the activities to be provided and
24 the manner in which such activities are to be inte-
25 grated with other appropriate activities; and

1 “(5) describe, after the eligible institution
 2 consults with the Secretary, the performance meas-
 3 ures to be used to assess the performance of the eli-
 4 gible institution, and any nonprofit organization that
 5 carries out authorized activities assisted under this
 6 section, in carrying out the activities.

7 “(f) PRIORITY.—In making grants or entering into
 8 contracts or cooperative agreements under subsection (c),
 9 the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible institution
 10 that—

11 “(1) proposes to carry out the authorized activi-
 12 ties through a partnership described in subsection
 13 (c); or

14 “(2) demonstrates that the institution is unable
 15 to carry out the activities through such a partner-
 16 ship because the institution is not within a reason-
 17 able distance (as determined by the Secretary) of a
 18 nonprofit organization.

19 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 20 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
 21 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
 22 2015 through 2019.”.

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