

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2403

To ensure that programs of training services under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 make better use of participants' prior learning so as to better assist the participants in obtaining degrees and other recognized postsecondary credentials, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2014

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

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## A BILL

To ensure that programs of training services under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 make better use of participants' prior learning so as to better assist the participants in obtaining degrees and other recognized postsecondary credentials, 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 “Leverage Prior Skills  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) A recognized postsecondary credential is key  
2           to an individual's self-sufficiency and upward mobil-  
3           ity, and to higher levels of family well-being.

4           (2) Jobseekers often come to programs pro-  
5           viding training services with skills acquired through  
6           noncredit employment and training programs, such  
7           as corporate or military training programs, work-  
8           place-based learning programs, volunteer activities,  
9           and other activities.

10          (3) Workforce investment systems do not take  
11          into account prior learning. Workers and students  
12          who have persisted through demanding noncredit  
13          employment and training programs often have to re-  
14          peat courses when they attempt to earn a recognized  
15          postsecondary credential through a workforce invest-  
16          ment system, wasting both money and time.

17          (4) At a time when unemployment remains rel-  
18          atively high, training services should be geared to  
19          allow participants to quickly achieve recognized post-  
20          secondary credentials that lead directly to employ-  
21          ment.

22          (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to encour-  
23          age States and local boards to develop competency-based  
24          workforce investment systems, to validate learning

1 through noncredit employment and training programs and  
2 to award recognized postsecondary credentials.

3 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.**

4 Section 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
5 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(D)—

7 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the  
8 end;

9 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period  
10 and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(iv) if the provider proposes to pro-  
13 vide a program of training services that  
14 leads to a recognized postsecondary cre-  
15 dential, shall include in the application in-  
16 formation on the quality of the services  
17 that lead to the credential.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)(5)(A), by inserting “the  
19 information described in subsection (b)(2)(D)(iv)  
20 (for a program described in that subsection) and”  
21 after “submit”.

22 **SEC. 4. COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING.**

23 Section 134(a)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment  
24 Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

25 (1) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end;

1           (2) in clause (iv), by striking the period and in-  
2       serting “; and”; and

3           (3) by adding at the end the following:

4                   “(vii) identifying and implementing a  
5           process by which local boards will enter  
6           into contracts with providers of training  
7           services under subsection (d)(4), or iden-  
8           tify providers as eligible providers of train-  
9           ing services under section 122, only if the  
10          providers involved agree to—

11                   “(I) use direct assessments to as-  
12           sess, to the extent practical, the prior  
13           learning of the participants in non-  
14           credit employment and training pro-  
15           grams; and

16                   “(II) take that prior learning  
17           into account, to the extent practical,  
18           when determining whether such a par-  
19           ticipant has earned credit hours or  
20           made progress toward earning a de-  
21           gree from at an institution of higher  
22           education, or has earned or made  
23           progress towards earning a recognized  
24           postsecondary credential.”.

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