

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1121

To encourage online workforce training.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To encourage online workforce training.

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 “Online Job Training
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

7 Section 169 of the Workforce Investment and Oppor-
8 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 “(d) ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM.—

11 “(1) NATIONAL ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING
12 GRANTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount ap-
2 propriated under subparagraph (G), the Sec-
3 retary shall award National Online Workforce
4 Training Grants on a competitive basis to eligi-
5 ble entities to enable such entities to carry out
6 workforce training programs using distance-
7 learning technologies, such as the Internet. An
8 entity may leverage such grant with other Fed-
9 eral, State, local, and private resources, in
10 order to expand the participation of businesses,
11 employees, and other individuals in such train-
12 ing programs.

13 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For
14 purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible
15 entity’ means an educational institution, com-
16 munity-based organization, nonprofit organiza-
17 tion, State board or local board, or unit of gen-
18 eral local government, which provides online
19 workforce training.

20 “(C) PRIORITY.—Priority in awarding
21 grants under this paragraph shall be given to
22 eligible entities that—

23 “(i) have demonstrated experience in
24 implementing and operating online work-
25 force training and education programs;

1 “(ii) have demonstrated experience co-
2 ordinating activities, where appropriate,
3 with the workforce investment system; and

4 “(iii) conduct training for occupations
5 with national or local shortages.

6 “(D) DATA COLLECTION.—Each eligible
7 entity receiving a grant under this paragraph
8 shall collect and report information on—

9 “(i) the number of participants in the
10 workforce training program funded under
11 this paragraph;

12 “(ii) the services received by the par-
13 ticipants;

14 “(iii) program completion rates;

15 “(iv) factors determined as signifi-
16 cantly interfering with program participa-
17 tion or completion;

18 “(v) the rate of job placement; and

19 “(vi) other information as determined
20 as needed by the Secretary.

21 “(E) OUTREACH.—Each eligible entity re-
22 ceiving a grant under this paragraph shall con-
23 duct outreach activities to disseminate informa-
24 tion to workforce investment boards, local gov-

ernments, educational institutions, and other
workforce training organizations about—

“(i) the workforce training program
funded under this paragraph; and

“(ii) the results of such, and the best
practices with respect to workforce training
identified as a result of, program.

“(F) PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—The Sec-
retary shall establish indicators of performance
that will be used to evaluate the performance of
eligible entities under this paragraph in car-
rying out the activities required under this
paragraph. Prior to awarding a grant under
this paragraph to an eligible entity, the Sec-
retary shall negotiate and reach agreement with
the entity regarding the levels of performance
expected to be achieved by the entity on the in-
dicators of performance.

“(G) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
priated to the Secretary to carry out this para-
graph \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2016
through 2026.

“(2) ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM CLEARING-
HOUSE.—

1 “(A) DESCRIPTION OF GRANT.—From the
2 amounts appropriated under subparagraph (D),
3 the Secretary shall award one grant to an eligi-
4 ble institution of higher education to provide
5 the services described in this paragraph.

6 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to re-
7 ceive a grant under this paragraph, an institu-
8 tion of higher education shall—

9 “(i) have demonstrated the ability to
10 disseminate research on best practices for
11 implementing workforce investment activi-
12 ties; and

13 “(ii) be a national leader in producing
14 cutting-edge research on technology related
15 to workforce development systems under
16 this title.

17 “(C) SERVICES.—The postsecondary edu-
18 cational institution that receives a grant under
19 this paragraph shall use such grant—

20 “(i) to provide technical assistance to
21 entities that receive grants under para-
22 graph (1);

23 “(ii) to collect and nationally dissemi-
24 nate the data gathered by entities that re-
25 ceive grants under paragraph (1); and

1 “(iii) to disseminate best practices
2 identified by the Secretary.

3 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
4 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
6 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal years 2016
7 through 2026.”.

8 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 The amendment made by section 2 shall take effect
10 as if enacted as part of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
11 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

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