

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1280

To direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mr. CARNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank.

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 “Skills Connection Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CREATION OF SEARCHABLE DATABASE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall
8 create a publicly available, easily navigable, and searchable
9 database containing the following:

1 (1) A registry of credentials (which may be cer-
2 tificates), for purposes of enabling programs that
3 lead to such a credential to receive priority under a
4 covered provision.

5 (2) A skills database, for purposes of enabling
6 programs that lead to such a credential to receive
7 priority under a covered provision.

8 (3) A jobs bank.

9 (b) CREDENTIALS REGISTRY.—In creating a registry
10 of credentials, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) list the credential in the registry if the cre-
12 dential is required by Federal or State law for an oc-
13 cupation (such as a credential required by a State
14 law regarding qualifications for a health care occu-
15 pation);

16 (2) list the credential, and list an updated cre-
17 dential, in the registry if the credential involved is
18 an industry-recognized, nationally portable credential
19 that is consistent with the Secretary’s established in-
20 dustry competency models and is consistently up-
21 dated through third party validation to reflect
22 changing industry competencies; and

23 (3) for each credential listed in the registry,
24 provide an assessment of which skills listed in the
25 skills database created under subsection (c) align

1 with or are related to the requirements of the cre-
2 dential.

3 (c) SKILLS DATABASE.—In creating a skills data-
4 base, the Secretary shall—

5 (1) list identifiable skills that are required for
6 employment in the manufacturing sector, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary—

8 (A) by using the Manufacturing Institute-
9 endorsed Skills Certification System or similar
10 resource; or

11 (B) by consulting with an organization
12 similar to the Manufacturing Institute;

13 (2) after consultation with the Manufacturing
14 Institute or similar organization and representatives
15 of the Armed Forces list identifiable skills developed
16 through service in the Armed Forces; and

17 (3) for each skill listed under paragraphs (1)
18 and (2), include information about how that skill
19 aligns with or is related to the requirements for the
20 credentials listed under the credentials registry cre-
21 ated under subsection (b).

22 (d) JOBS BANK.—In creating a jobs bank, the Sec-
23 retary shall—

24 (1) enable job seekers to—

1 (A) enter basic information through the
2 statewide employment statistics system estab-
3 lished under section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser
4 Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2) for their State of resi-
5 dence about their skills, experience, credentials,
6 and preferred area of employment; and

7 (B) browse job listings submitted by em-
8 ployers to such jobs bank that match the cre-
9 dentials, experience, or other qualifications en-
10 tered under subparagraph (A);

11 (2) automatically match available jobs with job
12 seekers who have matching qualifications; and

13 (3) enable information relating to shortages in
14 certain skills or credentials available to be utilized by
15 State workforce investment board established under
16 section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
17 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111) and others to inform
18 decisions about how to allocate workforce develop-
19 ment resources.

20 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
21 shall be construed—

22 (1) to require an entity with responsibility for
23 selecting or approving an education, training, or
24 workforce investment activities program with regard
25 to a covered provision, to select a program with a

1 credential listed in the registry described in sub-
2 section (b); or

3 (2) to be an endorsement of a skill listed under
4 the skills database described in subsection (c) by the
5 Secretary of Labor or the Federal Government.

6 (f) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—For each fiscal year,
7 funds shall be available from the amount appropriated for
8 each such fiscal year for the Workforce Innovation Fund
9 established under section 1801(a)(3) of title VIII of divi-
10 sion B of Public Law 112–10 for the costs of carrying
11 out the provisions of this Act.

12 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) ARMED FORCES.—The term “Armed
14 Forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Ma-
15 rine Corps.

16 (2) COVERED PROVISION.—The term “covered
17 provision” means any of sections 129 and 134 of the
18 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
19 U.S.C. 3164, 3174), section 122(c)(1)(B) of the
20 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
21 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)), and section
22 236 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296).

23 (3) INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The
24 term “industry-recognized”, used with respect to a
25 credential, means a credential that—

1 (A) is sought or accepted by companies
2 within the industry sector involved as recog-
3 nized, preferred, or required for recruitment,
4 screening, or hiring; and

5 (B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized
6 trade association or organization representing a
7 significant part of the industry sector.

8 (4) **NATIONALLY PORTABLE.**—The term “na-
9 tionally portable”, used with respect to a credential,
10 means a credential that is sought or accepted by
11 companies within the industry sector involved, across
12 multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required
13 for recruitment, screening, or hiring.

14 (5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Labor.

16 (6) **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—
17 The term “workforce investment activities” has the
18 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
19 force Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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