

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3258

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mrs. BUSTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment.

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 “Workers Opportunity
5 and Retraining Competitive Grant Program Act of 2015”
6 or the “WORC Grant Program Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING WORKER TRANSITION SCHOLAR-**
2 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle D of title I of the Work-
4 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 2916)
5 is amended by adding after section 171 the following new
6 section:

7 **“SEC. 171A. MANUFACTURING WORKER TRANSITION**
8 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
10 manufacturing worker scholarship program to award
11 States competitive grants to be used to provide scholar-
12 ships to dislocated workers or unemployed individuals
13 through State and local boards to support worker’s en-
14 deavors to transition into manufacturing positions.

15 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

16 “(1) WORKER ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for
17 the scholarship program established under this sec-
18 tion, dislocated workers or unemployed individuals
19 shall be enrolled in a qualifying manufacturing
20 training course designed to provide skills for employ-
21 ment in manufacturing.

22 “(2) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—State or local
23 boards participating in the scholarship program es-
24 tablished under this section shall—

1 “(A) have formal agreements or partner-
2 ships with qualifying manufacturing training
3 course providers; and

4 “(B) have commitments from local employ-
5 ers, community leaders, and State or local eco-
6 nomic development initiatives to mentor dis-
7 located workers or unemployed individuals in
8 order to aid their transition into manufacturing
9 industries.

10 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Activities to be carried out
12 under the scholarship program established under
13 this section shall be coordinated by State or local
14 boards, including transferring scholarship awards to
15 qualifying manufacturing training course providers
16 on behalf of the dislocated workers or unemployed
17 individuals receiving scholarships.

18 “(2) STATE AND LOCAL BOARD DISCRETION.—
19 For purposes of scholarship awards distributed by a
20 State or local board, such board shall define the
21 term ‘manufacturing’.

22 “(3) REPAYMENT UPON ELIGIBILITY VIOLA-
23 TIONS.—If a dislocated worker or unemployed indi-
24 vidual does not complete the qualifying manufac-
25 turing training course or substitutes non-manufac-

1 turing courses for manufacturing courses, the
2 amount of the awarded scholarship shall be repaid to
3 the State or local board.

4 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

5 “(1) MONETARY AWARD LIMIT.—Scholarship
6 funding for any dislocated worker or unemployed in-
7 dividual may not exceed \$2,000 per year.

8 “(2) ELIGIBILITY LIMIT.—Scholarship funding
9 for any dislocated worker or unemployed individual
10 may not exceed 2 years.

11 “(3) SCHOLARSHIP USE LIMIT.—A scholarship
12 awarded under this section may only be used for
13 payment towards qualifying manufacturing training
14 courses.

15 “(4) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES LIMIT.—A scholar-
16 ship awarded under this section may not be used for
17 supportive services.

18 “(e) QUALIFYING MANUFACTURING TRAINING
19 COURSE DEFINED.—The term ‘qualifying manufacturing
20 training course’—

21 “(1) means any course or job training activity
22 that is offered by a postsecondary educational insti-
23 tution, area vocational education school, or other eli-
24 gible provider that—

1 “(A) provides knowledge and skills related
2 to manufacturing in emerging industries or in-
3 dustries where there are jobs available in the
4 community, as determined by a State or local
5 board; and

6 “(B) offers credits or other credentials to
7 enrollees for completion of the program; and

8 “(2) may include internships or apprenticeships
9 that provide credit or other credentials for comple-
10 tion of the program.”.

11 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
12 of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Innovation
13 and Opportunity Act is amended by inserting after the
14 item relating to section 171 the following new item:

“Sec. 171A. Manufacturing worker transition scholarship program.”.

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