

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3554

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to create a pilot program to award grants to units of general local government and community-based organizations to create jobs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. FUDGE) 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 create a pilot program to award grants to units of general local government and community-based organizations to create jobs, 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 “Jobs Now Act of
5 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERN-**
2 **MENT.**

3 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding after section 172 the following:

6 **“SEC. 173. PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Notwithstanding sec-
8 tion 181(e), from the amounts appropriated under sub-
9 section (h), the Secretary shall carry out a 2-year pilot
10 program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to units
11 of general local government or community-based organiza-
12 tions to retain, employ, or train employees providing a
13 public service for a unit of general local government.

14 “(b) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT DE-
15 FINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘unit of
16 general local government’ means any general purpose po-
17 litical subdivision of a State, or the United States Virgin
18 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of
19 the Northern Mariana Islands, the freely associated states
20 of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated
21 States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau, that has
22 the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general
23 corporate and police powers.

24 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

25 “(1) REQUIRED USES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), a unit of general local government
3 or community-based organization shall use not
4 less than 50 percent of the grant funds received
5 under this section to—

6 “(i) in the case of a unit, retain em-
7 ployees of such unit who are providing a
8 public service for the unit and who would
9 otherwise be laid off as a consequence of
10 budget cuts; and

11 “(ii) in the case of an organization,
12 retain employees of the organization who
13 are providing a public service for the unit
14 in which the organization is located and
15 who would otherwise be laid off as a con-
16 sequence of budget cuts.

17 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In a case in which 50
18 percent of a grant amount received under this
19 section would exceed the amount needed for a
20 unit or organization to retain the employees de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (A), the unit or organi-
22 zation may use only the amount needed to re-
23 tain such employees for such purpose.

24 “(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—After using grant
25 funds received under this section in accordance with

1 paragraph (1), a unit of general local government or
2 community-based organization may use any remain-
3 ing grant funds provided under this section to—

4 “(A) in the case of a unit of general local
5 government—

6 “(i) employ individuals in new posi-
7 tions providing a public service for the
8 unit; or

9 “(ii) train individuals for new public
10 service positions for the unit; and

11 “(B) in the case of a community-based or-
12 ganization—

13 “(i) employ individuals in new posi-
14 tions that would provide a public service
15 for the unit in which the organization is lo-
16 cated or services in the private sector; or

17 “(ii) train individuals for any such po-
18 sitions.

19 “(d) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—The
20 Secretary shall encourage each unit of general local gov-
21 ernment and each community-based organization receiving
22 a grant under this section to use such grant funds to re-
23 tain, employ, or train—

24 “(1) veterans;

25 “(2) individuals with disabilities;

1 “(3) individuals who are receiving unemploy-
2 ment benefits; or

3 “(4) dislocated workers.

4 “(e) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN UNITS AND ORGANIZA-
5 TIONS.—

6 “(1) UNITS.—In awarding grants to units of
7 general local government under this section, the Sec-
8 retary shall give priority to units of general local
9 government with high unemployment, foreclosure,
10 and poverty rates as compared to other units of gen-
11 eral local government applying to receive a grant
12 under this section.

13 “(2) ORGANIZATIONS.—In awarding grants to
14 units of general local government under this section,
15 the Secretary shall give priority to community-based
16 organizations located in units of general local gov-
17 ernment with high unemployment, foreclosure, and
18 poverty rates as compared to other units of general
19 local government applying to receive a grant under
20 this section.

21 “(f) APPLICATION.—Each unit of general local gov-
22 ernment or community-based organization desiring to re-
23 ceive a grant under this section shall submit an application
24 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
25 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

1 “(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the first
2 appropriation of funds under subsection (h), the Secretary
3 shall submit to Congress, a report on—

4 “(1) the number and percentage of individuals
5 hired or trained, and the number and percentage of
6 employees of units retained, as a result of a grant
7 under this section; and

8 “(2) best practices in carrying out a grant pro-
9 gram to hire, train, or retain employees of units of
10 general local government.

11 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000,000 to carry
13 out this section for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.”.

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