

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3964

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program.

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 “Career and Technical
5 Education Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.**

7 The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001
8 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 481(b), by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(5)(A) For purposes of parts D and E, the term
2 ‘eligible program’ includes a program of not less than 250
3 clock hours of instruction, offered during a minimum of
4 5 weeks of instruction that leads an industry-recognized
5 credential.

6 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘industry-recognized
7 credential’ means an industry-recognized credential that—

8 “(i) is demonstrated to be of high quality by the
9 institution offering the program in the program par-
10 ticipation agreement under section 487;

11 “(ii) meets the current, as of the date of the de-
12 termination, or projected needs of a local or regional
13 workforce for recruitment, screening, hiring, reten-
14 tion, or advancement purposes—

15 “(I) as determined by the State in which
16 the program is located, in consultation with
17 business entities; or

18 “(II) as demonstrated by the institution of-
19 fering the program leading to the credential;
20 and

21 “(iii) is, where applicable, endorsed by a nation-
22 ally recognized trade association or organization rep-
23 resenting a significant part of the industry or sec-
24 tor.”; and

1 (2) in section 487(a), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(30) In the case of an institution that offers
4 a program of not less than 250 clock hours of in-
5 struction, offered during a minimum of 5 weeks of
6 instruction that leads an industry-recognized creden-
7 tial, as provided under section 481(b)(5), the institu-
8 tion will demonstrate to the Secretary that the in-
9 dustry-recognized credential is of high quality.”.

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