

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6064

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive pilot program
for STEM education or career training programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive
pilot program for STEM education or career training
programs.

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 “Partnerships for the
5 Future Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNER-**
7 **SHIPS STEM PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall
9 establish a competitive grant pilot program to award
10 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of developing,

1 offering, improving, or providing STEM education or ca-
2 reer training programs for workers.

3 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this Act, an
5 “eligible entity” means one of the following in part-
6 nership with employers or an association of employ-
7 ers:

8 (A) A junior or community college (as de-
9 fined in section 312(f) of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(f))).

11 (B) A postsecondary vocational institution
12 (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))).

14 (C) A 4-year public institution of higher
15 education (as defined in section 101 of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1001)) that offers two-year degrees, will use
18 funds provided under this section for activities
19 at the certificate and associate degree levels,
20 and is not reasonably close, as determined by
21 the Secretary of Labor, to a community college.

22 (D) A tribal college or university (as de-
23 fined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

1 (E) At the discretion of the Secretary of
2 Labor, a private, not-for-profit, 2-year institu-
3 tion of higher education in Puerto Rico, Guam,
4 the United States Virgin Islands, American
5 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern
6 Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall
7 Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or
8 the Republic of Palau.

9 (F) A consortium of any of the entities de-
10 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

11 (2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible
12 entity described in paragraph (1) may partner with
13 any of the following:

14 (A) An adult education provider or institu-
15 tion of higher education (as defined in section
16 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
17 U.S.C. 1001)).

18 (B) A community-based organization, a
19 nonprofit organization, or other public or pri-
20 vate entity with a demonstrated record of suc-
21 cessfully meeting student and family needs.

22 (C) A joint labor-management partnership.

23 (D) Any other organization that the Sec-
24 retary of Labor considers appropriate.

1 (3) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—Any
2 such partnership shall collaborate with, and may in-
3 clude, the State board or local board.

4 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant
5 under this section shall submit a grant proposal to the
6 Secretary of Labor at such time and containing such infor-
7 mation as the Secretary may require. The proposal shall
8 include, at a minimum, a detailed description of—

9 (1) the specific project for which the grant pro-
10 posal is submitted, including the manner in which
11 the grant will be used to develop, offer, improve, or
12 provide a STEM education or career training pro-
13 gram;

14 (2) the extent to which the project will meet the
15 STEM education or career training needs of workers
16 in the area served by the eligible entity;

17 (3) the extent to which the project will meet the
18 needs of employers in the region for skilled workers
19 in in-demand industry sectors and in-demand occu-
20 pations, including high technology areas, nanotech-
21 nology, and advanced manufacturing;

22 (4) the extent to which the project fits within
23 any overall strategic plan developed by an eligible
24 entity; and

1 (5) any previous experience of the eligible entity
2 in providing STEM education or career training pro-
3 grams, the absence of which shall not automatically
4 disqualify an eligible institution from receiving a
5 grant under this section.

6 (d) SPECIFICATIONS OF GRANTS.—

7 (1) DURATION.—A grant shall be awarded
8 under this section for a period of up to 36 months
9 in duration.

10 (2) SIZE OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant
11 awarded under this subsection may not exceed
12 \$3,000,000 for an individual entity and \$20,000,000
13 for a consortium.

14 (e) CRITERIA FOR AWARD.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section
16 shall be awarded based on—

17 (A) a determination of the merits of the
18 grant proposal submitted by the eligible entity
19 to develop, offer, improve, or provide STEM
20 education or career training programs to be
21 made available to workers;

22 (B) an assessment of the likely employ-
23 ment opportunities available in the region to in-
24 dividuals who complete a STEM education or

1 career training program that the eligible entity
2 proposes to develop, offer, improve, or provide;

3 (C) an assessment of prior demand for
4 STEM training programs by individuals eligible
5 for training served by the eligible entity as well
6 as availability and capacity of existing STEM
7 training programs to meet future demand for
8 STEM training programs; and

9 (D) any additional criteria established by
10 the Secretary of Labor.

11 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary of Labor shall
12 give priority to eligible entities that—

13 (A) include a partnership with a business
14 or industry or sector partnership that—

15 (i) pays a portion of the costs of such
16 programs; or

17 (ii) agrees to hire individuals who
18 have completed a particular postsecondary
19 degree, certificate, or credential resulting
20 from the training program of the eligible
21 entity;

22 (B) enter into a partnership with a labor
23 organization or labor-management training pro-
24 gram that provides technical expertise for occu-
25 pationally specific education necessary for a rec-

1 ognized postsecondary STEM credential leading
2 to an occupation in an in-demand industry sec-
3 tor;

4 (C) are focused on serving individuals with
5 barriers to employment, particularly individuals
6 who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or
7 longer;

8 (D) are community colleges serving areas
9 with high unemployment rates, including rural
10 areas; and

11 (E) are eligible entities that include an in-
12 stitution of higher education eligible for assist-
13 ance under title III or V of the Higher Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965.

15 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
16 tion shall be used for one or more of the following:

17 (1) The development, offering, improvement, or
18 provision of STEM academic programs or training
19 programs that provide relevant job training for
20 skilled occupations that will meet the needs of em-
21 ployers in in-demand industry sectors, which may in-
22 clude registered apprenticeship programs, on-the-job
23 training programs, and programs that support em-
24 ployers in upgrading the skills of their workforce.

1 (2) The development and implementation of
2 policies and programs to expand opportunities for
3 students to earn a recognized postsecondary STEM
4 credential or degree in in-demand industry sectors
5 and in-demand occupations, including by—

6 (A) facilitating the transfer of academic
7 credits between institutions of higher education,
8 including the transfer of academic credits for
9 courses in the same field of study;

10 (B) expanding articulation agreements and
11 policies that guarantee transfer between such
12 institutions, including through common course
13 numbering and general core curriculum; and

14 (C) developing or enhancing student sup-
15 port services programs.

16 (3) The creation of workforce programs that
17 provide a sequence of education and occupational
18 training that leads to a recognized postsecondary
19 STEM credential or degree, including programs
20 that—

21 (A) blend basic skills and occupational
22 training;

23 (B) facilitate means of transitioning from
24 noncredit occupational, basic skills, or develop-

1 mental coursework to for-credit coursework
2 within and across institutions;

3 (C) build or enhance linkages including the
4 development of dual enrollment programs and
5 early college high schools between secondary
6 education or adult education programs (includ-
7 ing programs established under the Carl D.
8 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
9 2006);

10 (D) implement other innovative programs
11 designed to increase the provision of training
12 for students, including students who are vet-
13 eran members of the National Guard or Re-
14 serves, to enter skilled occupations in in-de-
15 mand industry sectors; and

16 (E) support paid internships that will allow
17 students to simultaneously earn credit for work-
18 based learning and gain relevant employment
19 experience in an in-demand industry sector or
20 in-demand occupation, which shall include op-
21 portunities that transition individuals into em-
22 ployment.

23 (4) The support of regional or national in-de-
24 mand industry sectors to develop skills consortia

1 that will identify pressing workforce needs and de-
2 velop solutions such as—

3 (A) standardizing industry certifications;

4 (B) developing new training technologies;

5 and

6 (C) collaborating with industry employers

7 to define and describe how specific skills lead to

8 particular jobs and career opportunities.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
11 Labor \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through
12 2019 to carry out this section.

13 (h) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

14 (1) The terms “in-demand industry sector or
15 occupation”, “local board”, and “State board” have
16 the meanings given the terms in section 3 of the
17 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
18 U.S.C. 3102).

19 (2) The term “STEM” means science, tech-
20 nology, education, and mathematics.

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