

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1920

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to develop and submit to Congress a biennial report on the current state of the skills gap in the United States, as of the date of the report, that includes an analysis of the effectiveness of efforts to close the skills gap and policy recommendations to improve such efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2015

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. HELLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to develop and submit to Congress a biennial report on the current state of the skills gap in the United States, as of the date of the report, that includes an analysis of the effectiveness of efforts to close the skills gap and policy recommendations to improve such efforts, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Biennial Report on
3 the Skills Gap Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SKILLS GAP.**

5 In this Act, the term “skills gap” means the dif-
6 ference or gap between the specific skills set of employees
7 and the skills that are desired by employers in the work-
8 force.

9 **SEC. 3. BIENNIAL REPORT.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, and every other year
12 thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States
13 shall develop and submit to Congress a report on the cur-
14 rent state of the skills gap in the United States, as of
15 the date of the report, that includes—

- 16 (1) an analysis of the effectiveness of efforts to
17 close the skills gap; and
18 (2) policy recommendations to improve such ef-
19 forts.

20 (b) CONTENT OF REPORT.—Each report required
21 under subsection (a) may include the following:

- 22 (1) An analysis of employer participation in ap-
23 prenticeships and on-the-job training in the United
24 States.

- 25 (2) An assessment of the Registered Appren-
26 ticeship program of the Department of Labor (Act

1 of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “Na-
2 tional Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter
3 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.)) to determine if the pro-
4 gram can be better utilized.

5 (3) An analysis of the prevalence and port-
6 ability of recognized postsecondary credentials, in-
7 cluding industry-recognized credentials, that align
8 with occupations that are in demand.

9 (4) A comparison of policies and strategies ad-
10 dressing the current skills gap in the United States,
11 as of the date of the report, with the policies and
12 strategies employed by other large countries.

13 (5) An analysis of the specific barriers pre-
14 venting the United States workforce from acquiring
15 the skills desired by United States employers, in-
16 cluding an assessment of opportunities to reduce
17 those barriers.

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