

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2726

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to train individuals for employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. EVANS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to train individuals for employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries.

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 “Renewable Energy
5 Jobs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRAINING AND EMPLOY-**
7 **MENT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Labor shall
9 carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to

1 States to train individuals for careers in the renewable en-
2 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

3 (b) GRANT AWARDS.—The Secretary shall award
4 grants under the pilot program to the five States with the
5 highest installed alternative energy power capacity.

6 (c) APPLICATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that desires a grant
8 under the pilot program shall submit an application
9 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
10 accompanied by such information as the Secretary
11 may reasonably require.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—A grant application under the
13 pilot program shall include the following:

14 (A) Evidence of the installed alternative
15 energy power capacity for wind, solar, and geo-
16 thermal facilities in that State.

17 (B) A description of how the funds will be
18 used to establish and administer a program de-
19 signed to provide skills training or on-the-job
20 training for a significant number of individuals
21 and ensure lasting and sustainable employment
22 in the renewable energy and energy efficiency
23 industries.

24 (C) A description of the State's option to
25 coordinate with its State and local workforce in-

1 vestment boards and Energy Efficiency Indus-
2 try Councils in carrying out a program funded
3 by a grant under this Act, including through
4 partnerships of local boards with renewable en-
5 ergy and energy efficiency employers and other
6 appropriate providers of training services.

7 (D) A description of the skills training, on-
8 the-job training, or both that may be offered to
9 individuals by grant recipients, and how this
10 training will lead to an industry-recognized cer-
11 tificate or similar credential.

12 (E) A description of how the State plans
13 to prioritize grants among grant recipients.

14 (F) A description of how the grant may be
15 used to support existing programs focused on
16 renewable energy job creation.

17 (d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure
18 that grants are of sufficient size to enable States to carry
19 out all required activities.

20 (e) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-
21 tion shall be for a period of 3 years.

22 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—A State receiving a grant under
23 this section shall use the grant funds to—

1 (1) reimburse a renewable energy and energy
2 efficiency employer for the cost of providing on-the-
3 job training;

4 (2) reimburse any of the following entities for
5 the cost of providing skills training (or on-the-job
6 training if in partnership with an energy efficient
7 employer)—

8 (A) a labor organization;

9 (B) a postsecondary educational institu-
10 tion; or

11 (C) nonprofit organizations; and

12 (3) conduct outreach to inform renewable en-
13 ergy and energy efficiency employers, labor organiza-
14 tions, postsecondary educational institutions, non-
15 profit organizations, and the general public, includ-
16 ing individuals in rural areas and Indian tribes, of
17 their eligibility or potential eligibility for participa-
18 tion in the program.

19 (g) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, a grant
20 to a State shall be subject to the following conditions:

21 (1) The State shall repay to the Secretary, on
22 such date as shall be determined by the Secretary,
23 any amount received under the pilot program that is
24 not used for the purposes described in subsection (f).

1 (2) The State shall submit to the Secretary, at
2 such times and containing such information as the
3 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of grant
4 funds.

5 (3) The State shall ensure that any employer or
6 other entity receiving a grant under this Act shall
7 pay each individual receiving on-the-job training pro-
8 vided by such employer or entity not less than the
9 applicable minimum wage for the State or locality in
10 which such training is provided.

11 (h) REQUIREMENTS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In
12 order to receive a grant made by a State under the pilot
13 program, an entity described in subsection (f) shall—

14 (1) submit an application to the State that in-
15 cludes such other information and assurances as the
16 State may require; and

17 (2) agree to submit to the State, for each quar-
18 ter, a report containing such information as the Sec-
19 retary may specify.

20 (i) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

21 (1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—Of the
22 amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
23 of appropriations under subsection (l), 2 percent
24 shall be made available to the Secretary for adminis-
25 trative costs associated with implementing and eval-

uating the pilot program under this section and for preparing and submitting the report required under subsection (j).

(2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of each grant awarded under this section that may be used by the recipient for administrative and reporting costs.

(j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot program for each year of the grant period. The report on the pilot program shall include a detailed description of activities carried out under this section and an evaluation of the program, and how many participants were employed by renewable energy and energy efficiency employers within 6 months of completing the training.

(k) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, for the purpose of carrying out the pilot program.

(l) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a).

1 (2) The term “installed alternative energy
2 power capacity” means the amount of wind, solar,
3 and geothermal power generation, expressed in
4 megawatts, installed in a State.

5 (3) The term “labor organization” has the
6 meaning given such term in section 2 of the Na-
7 tional Labor Relations Act.

8 (4) The term “on-the-job training” means
9 training by renewable energy and energy efficiency
10 employers, a labor organization, a postsecondary
11 educational institution, or a nonprofit organization
12 that is provided to a paid participant while engaged
13 in productive work that—

14 (A) provides knowledge or skills essential
15 to the full and adequate performance of the job;

16 (B) provides reimbursement to the em-
17 ployer for the costs of providing the training
18 and additional supervision related to the train-
19 ing; and

20 (C) is limited in duration as appropriate to
21 the occupation for which the participant is
22 being trained, taking into account the content
23 of the training, the prior work experience of the
24 participant, and the service strategy of the par-
25 ticipant, as appropriate.

1 (5) The term “postsecondary educational insti-
2 tution” has the meaning given such term in section
3 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
4 U.S.C. 2801).

5 (6) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-
6 ficiency employer” means an entity that employs in-
7 dividuals in a trade or business in the renewable en-
8 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

9 (7) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-
10 ficiency industries” means any of the following in-
11 dustries:

12 (A) The energy-efficient building, construc-
13 tion, or retrofits industry.

14 (B) The renewable electric power industry,
15 including the wind, solar, and geothermal en-
16 ergy industries.

17 (C) The energy efficiency assessment in-
18 dustry that serves the residential, commercial,
19 or industrial sectors.

20 (8) The term “skills training” means training
21 by a labor organization, a postsecondary educational
22 institution, or a nonprofit organization that provides
23 the knowledge and skills essential to specific jobs in
24 the renewable energy and energy efficiency indus-
25 tries.

1 (9) The term “State” includes each of the sev-
2 eral States, the District of Columbia, the Common-
3 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Com-
4 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
5 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the
6 Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the ter-
7 ritories and possessions of the United States.

8 (10) The term “workforce investment board”
9 refers to a State or local workforce investment board
10 established pursuant to the Workforce Investment
11 Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or its suc-
12 cessor statute, the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
13 tunity Act, that coordinates job training programs
14 for that State or local area under that Act.

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