

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3963

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HECK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. BONAMICI) 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 encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions.

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 referred to as the “Manufacturing
5 Jobs for Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—To en-
4 courage the employment of eligible veterans in manufac-
5 turing, the Secretary of Labor, as part of the Veteran’s
6 Workforce Investment Program, shall carry out a pilot
7 program to be known as the “Veterans Manufacturing
8 Employment Program”. Under the pilot program, the Sec-
9 retary shall award competitive grants to three States for
10 the establishment and administration of a State program
11 to make grants to manufacturing employers and labor-
12 management organizations that provide covered training,
13 on-job training, apprenticeships, and certification classes
14 to eligible veterans. Such a program shall be known as
15 a “State Manufacturing Employment Program”.

16 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible to re-
17 ceive a grant under the pilot program, a State shall submit
18 to the Secretary an application that includes each of the
19 following:

20 (1) A proposal for the expenditure of grant
21 funds to establish and administer a public-private
22 partnership program designed to provide covered
23 training, on-job training, apprenticeships, and cer-
24 tification classes to a significant number of eligible
25 veterans and ensure lasting and sustainable employ-
26 ment in well-paying jobs in manufacturing.

1 (2) Evidence that the State has—

2 (A) a population of eligible veterans of an
3 appropriate size to carry out the State program;

4 (B) a robust and diverse manufacturing in-
5 dustry; and

6 (C) the ability to carry out the State pro-
7 gram described in the proposal under para-
8 graph (1).

9 (3) Such other information and assurances as
10 the Secretary may require.

11 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that is the recipient
12 of a grant under this section shall use the grant for the
13 following purposes:

14 (1) Making grants to manufacturing employers
15 and labor-management organizations to reimburse
16 such employers and organizations for the cost of
17 providing covered training, on-job training, appren-
18 ticeships, and certification classes to eligible vet-
19 erans.

20 (2) Conducting outreach to inform manufac-
21 turing employers, labor-management organizations,
22 and veterans, including veterans in rural areas, of
23 their eligibility or potential eligibility for participa-
24 tion in the State program.

1 (d) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, each
2 grant to a State shall be subject to the following condi-
3 tions:

4 (1) The State shall repay to the Secretary, on
5 such date as shall be determined by the Secretary,
6 any amount received under the pilot program that is
7 not used for the purposes described in subsection
8 (c).

9 (2) The State shall submit to the Secretary, at
10 such times and containing such information as the
11 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of grant
12 funds.

13 (e) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive
14 a grant made by a State under the pilot program, a manu-
15 facturing employer shall—

16 (1) submit to the administrator of the State
17 Manufacturing Employment Program an application
18 that includes—

19 (A) the rate of pay for each eligible vet-
20 eran proposed to be trained using grant funds;

21 (B) the average rate of pay for an indi-
22 vidual employed by the manufacturing employer
23 in a similar position who is not an eligible vet-
24 eran; and

1 (C) such other information and assurances
2 as the administrator may require; and

3 (2) agree to submit to the administrator, for
4 each quarter, a report containing such information
5 as the Secretary may specify.

6 (f) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available
7 to a manufacturing employer through a grant under the
8 pilot program may be used to provide training of any kind
9 to a person who is not an eligible veteran.

10 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Together with the re-
11 port required to be submitted annually under section
12 4107(c) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary
13 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program
14 for the year covered by such report. The report on the
15 pilot program shall include a detailed description of activi-
16 ties carried out under this section and an evaluation of
17 the program.

18 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING COSTS.—Of
19 the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
20 of appropriations under subsection (j), 2 percent shall be
21 made available to the Secretary for administrative costs
22 associated with implementing and evaluating the pilot pro-
23 gram under this section and for preparing and submitting
24 the report required under subsection (f). The Secretary
25 shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of each

1 grant awarded under this section that may be used by the
2 recipient for administrative and reporting costs.

3 (i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

4 (1) The term “covered training, on-job training,
5 apprenticeships, and certification classes” means
6 training, on-job training, apprenticeships, and cer-
7 tification classes that are—

8 (A) designed to provide the veteran with
9 skills that are particular to manufacturing and
10 not directly transferable to employment in an-
11 other industry; and

12 (B) approved as provided in paragraph (1)
13 or (2), as appropriate, of subsection (a) of sec-
14 tion 3687 of title 38, United States Code.

15 (2) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
16 eran, as that term is defined in section 101(3) of
17 title 38, United States Code, who is employed by a
18 manufacturing employer and enrolled or partici-
19 pating in a covered training, on-job training, appren-
20 ticeship, or certification class.

21 (3) The term “manufacturing employer” means
22 a business concern—

23 (A) that employs individuals in a trade or
24 business in manufacturing;

1 (B) the production facilities of which are
2 located in the United States; and

3 (C) the primary business of which is classi-
4 fied in sector 31, 32, or 33 of the North Amer-
5 ican Industrial Classification System.

6 (j) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-
7 propriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
8 years 2019 through 2023, for the purpose of carrying out
9 the pilot program.

○