

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2449

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Energy
5 Workforce Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the
2 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board es-
3 tablished under section 3(a).

4 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
5 means the Department of Energy.

6 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
7 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
8 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
9 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

10 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
11 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
12 tution of higher education eligible to receive funds
13 under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

15 (5) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
16 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given the term
17 in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
18 U.S.C. 15801).

19 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Energy.

21 **SEC. 3. 21ST CENTURY ENERGY WORKFORCE ADVISORY**
22 **BOARD.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
24 a board, to be known as the “21st Century Energy Work-

1 force Advisory Board”, to develop a strategy for the sup-
2 port and development of a skilled energy workforce that—

3 (1) meets the current and future industry and
4 labor needs of the energy sector;

5 (2) provides opportunities for students to be-
6 come qualified for placement in traditional energy
7 sector and clean energy sector jobs;

8 (3) aligns apprenticeship programs and work-
9 force development programs to provide industry-rec-
10 ognized certifications and credentials;

11 (4) encourages leaders in the education system
12 of the United States to equip students with the
13 skills, mentorships, training, and technical expertise
14 necessary to fill the employment opportunities vital
15 to managing and operating the energy- and manu-
16 facturing-related industries of the United States;

17 (5) appropriately supports other Federal agen-
18 cies;

19 (6) strengthens and more fully engages work-
20 force training programs of the Department and the
21 National Laboratories in carrying out the Minorities
22 in Energy Initiative of the Department and other
23 Department workforce priorities;

24 (7) supports the design and replication of exist-
25 ing model energy curricula, particularly in new and

1 emerging technologies, that leads to industry-wide
2 credentials;

3 (8) develops plans to support and retrain dis-
4 placed and unemployed energy sector workers; and

5 (9) makes a Department priority to provide
6 education and job training to underrepresented
7 groups, including ethnic minorities, Indian tribes,
8 women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvan-
9 tagged individuals.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be com-
12 posed of 9 members, with the initial members of the
13 Board to be appointed by the Secretary not later
14 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

15 (2) NOMINATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the President's
17 Council of Advisors on Science and Technology shall
18 nominate for appointment to the Board under para-
19 graph (1) not fewer than 18 individuals who meet
20 the qualifications described in paragraph (3).

21 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each individual nomi-
22 nated for appointment to the Board under para-
23 graph (1) shall—

24 (A) be eminent in the field of economics or
25 workforce development;

1 (B) have expertise in relevant traditional
2 energy industries or clean energy industries;

3 (C) have expertise in secondary or postsec-
4 ondary education;

5 (D) have expertise in energy workforce de-
6 velopment or apprentice programs of States or
7 units of local government;

8 (E) have expertise in relevant organized
9 labor organizations; or

10 (F) have expertise in bringing underrep-
11 resented groups, including ethnic minorities,
12 women, veterans, and socioeconomically dis-
13 advantaged individuals, into the workforce.

14 (4) REPRESENTATION.—The membership of the
15 Board shall be representative of the broad range of
16 the energy industry, labor organizations, workforce
17 development, education, minority participation, cy-
18 bersecurity, and economics disciplines related to ac-
19 tivities carried out under this section.

20 (5) LIMITATION.—No individual shall be nomi-
21 nated for appointment to the Board who is an em-
22 ployee of an entity applying for a grant under sec-
23 tion 4.

24 (c) ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW AND RECOMMENDA-
25 TIONS.—

1 (1) DETERMINATION BY BOARD.—In developing
2 the strategy required under subsection (a), the
3 Board shall—

4 (A) determine whether there are opportuni-
5 ties to more effectively and efficiently use the
6 capabilities of the Department in the develop-
7 ment of a skilled energy workforce;

8 (B) identify ways in which the Department
9 could work with other relevant Federal agen-
10 cies, States, units of local government, edu-
11 cational institutions, labor, and industry in the
12 development of a skilled energy workforce;

13 (C) identify ways in which the Department
14 and National Laboratories can—

15 (i) increase outreach to minority-serv-
16 ing institutions; and

17 (ii) make resources available to in-
18 crease the number of skilled minorities and
19 women trained to go into the energy- and
20 manufacturing-related sectors;

21 (D) identify ways in which the Department
22 and National Laboratories can—

23 (i) increase outreach to displaced and
24 unemployed energy sector workers; and

1 (ii) make resources available to pro-
 2 vide training to displaced and unemployed
 3 energy sector workers to reenter the en-
 4 ergy workforce; and

5 (E) identify the energy sectors in greatest
 6 need of workforce training and develop guide-
 7 lines for the skills necessary to develop a work-
 8 force trained to work in those energy sectors.

9 (2) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.—In developing the
 10 strategy required under subsection (a), the Board
 11 shall analyze the effectiveness of—

12 (A) existing Department-directed support;
 13 and

14 (B) developing energy workforce training
 15 programs.

16 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
 17 date on which the Board is established under this
 18 section, and each year thereafter, the Board shall
 19 submit to the Secretary and Congress, and make
 20 public, a report containing, with respect to the strat-
 21 egy required under subsection (a)—

22 (A) the findings of the Board; and

23 (B) model energy curricula.

24 (d) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 18
 25 months after the date on which the Board is established

1 under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
2 mittee on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy
3 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
4 on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy and
5 Commerce of the House of Representatives a report
6 that—

7 (1) describes whether the Secretary approves or
8 disapproves the recommendations of the Board
9 under subsection (c)(3); and

10 (2) provides an implementation plan for rec-
11 ommendations approved by the Board under para-
12 graph (1).

13 (e) CLEARINGHOUSE.—Based on the recommenda-
14 tions of the Board under subsection (c)(3), the Secretary
15 shall establish a clearinghouse—

16 (1) to maintain and update information and re-
17 sources on training and workforce development pro-
18 grams for energy- and manufacturing-related jobs;
19 and

20 (2) to act as a resource, and provide guidance,
21 for secondary schools, institutions of higher edu-
22 cation (including community colleges and minority-
23 serving institutions), workforce development organi-
24 zations, labor management organizations, and indus-
25 try organizations that would like to develop and im-

1 plement energy- and manufacturing-related training
2 programs.

3 (f) OUTREACH TO MINORITY-SERVING INSTITU-
4 TIONS.—In developing the strategy under subsection (a),
5 the Board shall—

6 (1) give special consideration to increasing out-
7 reach to minority-serving institutions, including—

8 (A) part B institutions (as defined in sec-
9 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 1061));

11 (B) Predominantly Black institutions (as
12 defined in section 371(c) of the Higher Edu-
13 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)));

14 (C) Hispanic-serving institutions (as de-
15 fined in section 502(a) of the Higher Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))); and

17 (D) Tribal Colleges or Universities (as de-
18 fined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)));

20 (2) make resources available to minority-serving
21 institutions with the objective of increasing the num-
22 ber of skilled minorities and women trained to go
23 into the energy and manufacturing sectors; and

24 (3) encourage industry to improve the opportu-
25 nities for students of minority-serving institutions to

1 participate in industry internships and cooperative
2 work-study programs.

3 (g) SUNSET.—The Board shall remain in effect until
4 September 30, 2022.

5 **SEC. 4. ENERGY WORKFORCE PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
8 tion with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of
9 Education, shall establish a pilot program to award grants
10 on a competitive basis to eligible entities for job training
11 programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
13 under this section, an entity shall be a public or nonprofit
14 organization or a consortium of public or nonprofit organi-
15 zations that—

16 (1) includes an advisory board of proportional
17 participation, as determined by the Secretary, of rel-
18 evant organizations, including—

19 (A) relevant energy industry organizations,
20 including public and private employers;

21 (B) labor organizations;

22 (C) postsecondary education organizations;

23 and

24 (D) workforce development boards;

1 (2) demonstrates experience in implementing
2 and operating job training and education programs;

3 (3) demonstrates the ability to recruit and sup-
4 port individuals who plan to work in the energy in-
5 dustry in the successful completion of relevant job
6 training and education programs; and

7 (4) provides students who complete the job
8 training and education program with an industry-
9 recognized credential.

10 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Eligible entities desiring a grant
11 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
12 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
13 information as the Secretary may require.

14 (d) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive
15 grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize ap-
16 plicants that—

17 (1) house the job training and education pro-
18 grams in—

19 (A) a community college or other institu-
20 tion of higher education that includes basic
21 science and math education in the curriculum
22 of the community college or other institution of
23 higher education; or

24 (B) an apprenticeship program registered
25 with the Department of Labor or a State (as

1 defined in section 202 of the Energy Conserva-
2 tion and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6802)) (re-
3 ferred to in this section as a “State”);

4 (2) work with the Secretary of Defense and the
5 Secretary of Veterans Affairs or veteran service or-
6 ganizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs under section 5902 of title 38, United States
8 Code, to transition members of the Armed Forces
9 and veterans to careers in the energy sector;

10 (3) work with—

11 (A) Indian tribes;

12 (B) tribal organizations (as defined in sec-
13 tion 3765 of title 38, United States Code); and

14 (C) Native American veterans (as defined
15 in section 3765 of title 38, United States
16 Code), including veterans who are a Descendant
17 of a Native (as defined in section 3 of the Alas-
18 ka Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
19 1602));

20 (4) apply as a State or regional consortia to le-
21 verage best practices already available in the State
22 or region in which the community college or other
23 institution of higher education is located;

24 (5) have a State-supported entity included in
25 the consortium applying for the grant;

1 (6) include an apprenticeship program reg-
2 istered with the Department of Labor or a State as
3 part of the job training and education program;

4 (7) provide support services and career coach-
5 ing;

6 (8) provide introductory energy workforce devel-
7 opment training;

8 (9) work with minority-serving institutions to
9 provide job training to increase the number of
10 skilled minorities and women in the energy sector; or

11 (10) provide job training for displaced and un-
12 employed workers in the energy sector.

13 (e) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.—In making
14 grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider re-
15 gional diversity.

16 (f) LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS.—An eligible enti-
17 ty may not submit, either individually or as part of a joint
18 application, more than 1 application for a grant under this
19 section during any 1 fiscal year.

20 (g) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The
21 amount of an individual grant for any 1 fiscal year shall
22 not exceed \$2,000,000.

23 (h) COST SHARING.—

24 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
25 the cost of a job training and education program

1 carried out using a grant under this section shall be
2 not greater than 65 percent.

3 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share
5 of the cost of a job training and education pro-
6 gram carried out using a grant under this sec-
7 tion shall consist of not less than 50 percent
8 cash.

9 (B) LIMITATION.—Not greater than 50
10 percent of the non-Federal contribution of the
11 total cost of a job training and education pro-
12 gram carried out using a grant under this sec-
13 tion may be in the form of in-kind contributions
14 of goods or services fairly valued.

15 (i) REDUCTION OF DUPLICATION.—Prior to submit-
16 ting an application for a grant under this section, each
17 applicant shall consult with the appropriate agencies of
18 the Federal Government and coordinate the proposed ac-
19 tivities of the applicant with existing State and local pro-
20 grams.

21 (j) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—In awarding grants under
22 this section, the Secretary shall provide direct assistance
23 (including technical expertise, wraparound services, career
24 coaching, mentorships, internships, and partnerships) to
25 entities that receive a grant under this section.

1 (k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 provide technical assistance and capacity building to na-
3 tional and State energy partnerships, including the enti-
4 ties described in subsection (b)(1), to leverage the existing
5 job training and education programs of the Department.

6 (l) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress
7 and make publicly available on the website of the Depart-
8 ment an annual report on the program established under
9 this section, including a description of—

10 (1) the entities receiving grants;

11 (2) the activities carried out using the grants;

12 (3) best practices used to leverage the invest-
13 ment of the Federal Government;

14 (4) the rate of employment for participants
15 after completing a job training and education pro-
16 gram carried out using a grant; and

17 (5) an assessment of the results achieved by the
18 program.

19 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

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