

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 399

To establish the United States Chief Manufacturing Officer in the Executive Office of the President with the responsibility of developing a national manufacturing strategy to revitalize the manufacturing sector, spur economic growth, and expand United States competitiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish the United States Chief Manufacturing Officer in the Executive Office of the President with the responsibility of developing a national manufacturing strategy to revitalize the manufacturing sector, spur economic growth, and expand United States competitiveness, 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 “Chief Manufacturing
5 Officer Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The manufacturing sector consists of estab-
4 lishments that are primarily engaged in the trans-
5 formation of materials, substances, or components
6 into products.

7 (2) The Federal Government supports manufac-
8 turing in a variety of ways; manufacturing-related
9 activities are scattered in several agencies in the ex-
10 ecutive branch.

11 (3) Manufacturing employment, output, and ex-
12 ports are impacted by tax policies, the state of infra-
13 structure and transportation, small business regula-
14 tions, environmental regulations, trade policies, inno-
15 vation ecosystems, workforce development, and edu-
16 cation initiatives, with national security implications.

17 (4) Manufacturers account for 12 percent of
18 the total gross domestic product output in the
19 United States, employing 9 percent of the workforce.
20 Total output from manufacturing is more than 2
21 trillion dollars. There are more than 12 million man-
22 ufacturing employees in the United States, with an
23 average annual compensation of about \$80,000.

24 (5) Legislative policies and executive actions
25 often result in unintended, inconsistent, and con-

1 flicting outcomes with respect to the growth of man-
2 ufacturing in the United States.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that a well-designed national manufacturing strat-
5 egy would benefit the United States economy in several
6 important ways:

7 (1) A revitalized manufacturing sector would
8 enable the United States to derive more of its eco-
9 nomic growth from exports and domestic production
10 than the United States has in the past two decades.

11 (2) Average domestic wages would rise in re-
12 sponse to growing manufacturing output, as manu-
13 facturing jobs historically have paid higher wages
14 and benefits than nonmanufacturing jobs.

15 (3) A growing manufacturing sector would help
16 lay a foundation for future United States economic
17 growth, since manufacturing industries perform the
18 vast share of private-sector research and develop-
19 ment, which fuels the innovation that serves as a
20 primary engine of economic growth.

21 (4) The United States would expand its long-
22 standing leadership in advanced manufacturing tech-
23 nologies with Federal investments in manufacturing
24 research and development, education, and workforce
25 training.

1 (5) There has always been a strong connection
2 between domestic manufacturing and national de-
3 fense and homeland security. A strong and innova-
4 tive manufacturing industry will maintain the supe-
5 riority of the United States military and will allow
6 for an unquestionable ability to respond quickly to
7 threats and catastrophes.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
11 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
12 United States Code.

13 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
14 term “institution of higher education” has the
15 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
16 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17 (3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
18 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
19 is described under section 501(c) of the Internal
20 Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under
21 section 501(a) of such Code.

22 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
23 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
24 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
25 States, and each federally recognized Indian tribe.

1 (5) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 2 “State educational agency” has the meaning given
 3 that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and
 4 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES CHIEF MANUFACTURING OFFICER.**

6 (a) APPOINTMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
 8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 9 President shall appoint a United States Chief Manu-
 10 facturing Officer (referred to in this section as the
 11 “Chief Manufacturing Officer”).

12 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The President shall se-
 13 lect the Chief Manufacturing Officer from among in-
 14 dividuals who have basic qualifications and expertise
 15 in manufacturing technology and policy.

16 (3) REPORTING.—The position of Chief Manu-
 17 facturing Officer shall be in the Executive Office of
 18 the President and shall report to the President
 19 through the Chief of Staff.

20 (4) NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL.—The Chief
 21 Manufacturing Officer shall be a member of the Na-
 22 tional Economic Council.

23 (b) PAY.—The annual rate of pay for the Chief Man-
 24 ufacturing Officer shall be an Executive Schedule rate of
 25 pay (subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States

1 Code), as determined by the President, commensurate
2 with the qualifications and expertise of the individual ap-
3 pointed to be such Officer.

4 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Chief Manufacturing
5 Officer are as follows:

6 (1) To develop the national manufacturing
7 strategy described in subsection (d) not later than
8 May 1, 2018.

9 (2) To advise the President on policy issues
10 that affect the economic activities and the workforce
11 of the manufacturing sector.

12 (3) To foster the coordination of manufac-
13 turing-related policies and activities across agencies
14 by—

15 (A) encouraging the use of best innovative
16 manufacturing practices across the Federal
17 Government;

18 (B) ensuring the use of best information
19 technologies and cybersecurity practices for
20 manufacturing; and

21 (C) analyzing the status of manufacturing
22 technology needs across agencies.

23 (4) To conduct technology policy analyses to
24 improve United States manufacturing productivity,
25 technology, and innovation, and cooperate with the

1 United States manufacturing industry in the im-
2 provement of its productivity, technology, and ability
3 to compete successfully in world markets.

4 (5) To determine the influence of economic,
5 labor, and other conditions, industrial structure and
6 management, and government policies on techno-
7 logical developments in manufacturing sectors world-
8 wide.

9 (6) To identify technological needs, problems,
10 and opportunities within and across the manufac-
11 turing sector that, if addressed, could make a sig-
12 nificant contribution to the economy of the United
13 States.

14 (7) To assess whether the capital, technical,
15 and other resources being allocated to manufac-
16 turing are likely to generate new technologies, are
17 adequate to meet private and social demands for
18 goods and services, and are sufficient to promote
19 productivity and economic growth.

20 (8) To propose studies and policy experiments,
21 in cooperation with agencies, to determine the effec-
22 tiveness of measures with the potential of advancing
23 United States technological innovation in manufac-
24 turing.

1 (9) To encourage the creation of joint initia-
2 tives by State and local governments, regional orga-
3 nizations, private companies, institutions of higher
4 education, nonprofit organizations, or Federal lab-
5 oratories to encourage technology transfer, to stimu-
6 late innovation, and to promote an appropriate cli-
7 mate for investment in manufacturing-related indus-
8 tries.

9 (10) To propose manufacturing-related coopera-
10 tive research involving appropriate agencies, State or
11 local governments, regional organizations, institu-
12 tions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, or
13 private companies to promote the common use of re-
14 sources, to improve training programs and curricula,
15 to stimulate interest in high technology manufac-
16 turing careers, and to encourage the effective dis-
17 semination of manufacturing technology skills within
18 the wider community.

19 (11) To serve as a focal point for discussions
20 among companies that manufacture in the United
21 States on topics of interest to the manufacturing in-
22 dustry and workforce, including discussions regard-
23 ing emerging and advanced technologies.

24 (12) To promote Federal Government meas-
25 ures, including legislation, regulations, and policies

1 with the potential of advancing United States tech-
2 nological innovation in manufacturing and exploiting
3 manufacturing innovations of foreign origin.

4 (13) To develop strategies and policies that
5 would encourage manufacturing enterprises to main-
6 tain production facilities and retain manufacturing
7 jobs in the United States and use manufacturing
8 supply chains based in the United States.

9 (14) To support communities negatively im-
10 pacted by the closure or relocation of manufacturing
11 facilities by promoting efforts to revitalize commu-
12 nities for new manufacturing enterprises.

13 (15) To assist States in their economic develop-
14 ment plans for manufacturing and in their efforts to
15 relocate manufacturing facilities within the United
16 States rather than moving manufacturing outside of
17 the United States.

18 (16) To promote the goals of the Network for
19 Manufacturing Innovation Program established
20 under section 34 of the National Institute of Stand-
21 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s).

22 (17) To encourage participation of public and
23 private organizations, State educational agencies,
24 and institutions of higher education in the annual

1 celebration of National Manufacturing Day to en-
2 hance the public perception of manufacturing.

3 (18) To perform such other functions or activi-
4 ties as the President may assign.

5 (d) NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The national manufacturing
7 strategy developed under subsection (c)(1) shall con-
8 tain a summary of the current state of manufac-
9 turing in the Federal Government and comprehen-
10 sive strategies for—

11 (A) identifying and addressing the antici-
12 pated workforce needs of the manufacturing
13 sector;

14 (B) strengthening education and the re-
15 quired training and certifications for manufac-
16 turing;

17 (C) creating training and appropriate ca-
18 reer paths to manufacturing jobs for veterans
19 and others that have become unemployed;

20 (D) promoting the development of quality
21 control and other technical standards;

22 (E) maintaining reliable physical and tele-
23 communications infrastructure, and the re-
24 quired investments in infrastructure projects, as
25 needed, for manufacturing;

1 (F) analyzing the status of manufacturing
2 technology needs in the industrial sector and
3 providing recommendations for economic and
4 labor force expansions;

5 (G) monitoring technology directions and
6 analyzing strengths, weaknesses, threats, and
7 opportunities in the United States manufac-
8 turing sector;

9 (H) implementing appropriate tax incen-
10 tives and credits to assist manufacturing enter-
11 prises in improving their competitiveness;

12 (I) recommending Federal and State regu-
13 lations to reduce the cost of manufacturing and
14 improve productivity;

15 (J) promoting the export of United States
16 manufactured goods and enforcement of fair
17 trading rules;

18 (K) identifying other forms of assistance to
19 companies that manufacture in the United
20 States to successfully compete in world mar-
21 kets;

22 (L) coordinating the United States na-
23 tional manufacturing strategy with the manu-
24 facturing strategy of each State to ensure a
25 well-integrated national strategy; and

1 (M) addressing such other issues as the
2 President determines necessary.

3 (2) INCORPORATION OF OTHER STRATEGIC
4 PLANS.—The Chief Manufacturing Officer shall in-
5 corporate into the national manufacturing strategy
6 described in paragraph (1) the following:

7 (A) The national strategic plan for ad-
8 vanced manufacturing developed under section
9 102(c) of the America COMPETES Reauthor-
10 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6622(c)).

11 (B) The strategic plan developed for the
12 Network for Manufacturing Innovation Pro-
13 gram under section 34(f)(2)(C) of the National
14 Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15
15 U.S.C. 278s(f)(2)(C)).

16 (e) ANNUAL UPDATES.—The Chief Manufacturing
17 Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of
18 Management and Budget, shall submit annual updates to
19 the President and Congress that describe the progress
20 made toward—

21 (1) achieving the objectives of the national stra-
22 tegic plan for advanced manufacturing developed
23 under section 102(c) of the America COMPETES
24 Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6622(c));
25 and

1 (2) carrying out the national manufacturing
2 strategy developed under this section, including im-
3 plementing strategies for—

4 (A) promoting innovation and investment
5 in domestic manufacturing;

6 (B) supporting the development of a skilled
7 and diverse manufacturing workforce;

8 (C) promoting equitable trade policies;

9 (D) expanding exports of manufactured
10 goods;

11 (E) enabling global competitiveness;

12 (F) encouraging sustainability; and

13 (G) supporting national security.

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