

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6575

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a national transit
frontline workforce training center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BACON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a national transit frontline workforce training center, 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 “National Transit
5 Workforce Training Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TRANSIT FRONTLINE WORKFORCE**
2 **TRAINING CENTER.**

3 Section 5314(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 “(b) NATIONAL FRONTLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING
6 CENTER.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a national transit frontline workforce train-
9 ing center (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Center’),
10 targeted to both rural and urban transit systems,
11 and award grants to a nonprofit organization with
12 a demonstrated capacity to develop and provide
13 transit career ladder programs through labor-man-
14 agement partnerships and apprenticeships on a na-
15 tionwide basis to carry out the duties under para-
16 graph (2). The Center shall be dedicated to the
17 needs of the frontline transit workforce through
18 standards-based training in the maintenance and op-
19 erations occupations.

20 “(2) DUTIES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In cooperation with
22 the Administrator of the Federal Transit Ad-
23 ministration, public transportation authorities,
24 and national entities, the Center shall develop
25 and conduct training and educational programs
26 for frontline local transportation employees en-

1 gaged in Government-aid public transportation
2 work.

3 “(B) TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PRO-
4 GRAMS.—The training and educational pro-
5 grams developed under subparagraph (A) may
6 include courses in recent developments, tech-
7 niques, and procedures related to—

8 “(i) developing consensus national
9 training standards in partnership with in-
10 dustry stakeholders for key frontline occu-
11 pations with demonstrated skill gaps;

12 “(ii) developing national systems of
13 qualification and apprenticeship for transit
14 maintenance and operations occupations;

15 “(iii) building local, regional, and
16 Statewide transit training partnerships to
17 identify and address workforce skill gaps
18 and develop skills needed for delivering
19 quality transit service and supporting em-
20 ployee career advancement;

21 “(iv) developing programs for training
22 of frontline workers, instructors, mentors,
23 and labor-management partnership rep-
24 resentatives, in the form of classroom,
25 hands-on, on-the-job, as well as web-based

1 training. Training can be delivered at a na-
2 tional center regionally, or at individual
3 transit agencies;

4 “(v) developing training programs for
5 skills related to existing and emerging
6 transit technologies, e.g. for zero-emission
7 buses (ZEBs);

8 “(vi) developing improved capacity for
9 safety, security, and emergency prepared-
10 ness in local transit systems and in the in-
11 dustry as a whole through—

12 “(I) developing the role of the
13 frontline workforce in building and
14 sustaining safety culture and safety
15 systems in the industry and in indi-
16 vidual public transportation systems;
17 and

18 “(II) training to address front-
19 line worker roles in promoting health
20 and safety for transit workers and the
21 riding public;

22 “(vii) developing local transit capacity
23 for career pathways partnerships with
24 schools and other community organizations
25 for recruiting and training under-rep-

resented populations as successful transit employees who can develop careers in the transit industry; and

“(viii) in collaboration with the Federal Transit Administration, conducting and disseminating research to—

“(I) provide transit workforce job projections and identify training needs and gaps;

“(II) determine the most cost-effective methods for transit workforce training and development, including return on investment analysis;

“(III) identify the most effective methods for implementing successful safety systems and a positive safety culture; and

“(IV) promote transit workforce best practices for achieving cost-effective, quality, safe, and reliable public transportation services.

“(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate activities under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, with the National Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor and the

1 Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education of
2 the Department of Education.

3 “(4) NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE.—For the
4 purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary
5 shall require that the National Transit Database col-
6 lect additional human capital data on an annual
7 basis. Such human capital data shall be collected
8 and defined with industry input.

9 “(5) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 0.5
11 percent of amounts made available to a recipi-
12 ent under sections 5307, 5337, and 5339 is
13 available for expenditures by the recipient, with
14 the approval of the Secretary, to pay not more
15 than 80 percent of the cost of eligible activities
16 under this subsection.

17 “(B) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—A recipient
18 may use amounts made available under sub-
19 paragraph (A) to carry out existing local edu-
20 cation and training programs for public trans-
21 portation employees supported by the Secretary,
22 the Department of Labor, or the Department of
23 Education.

24 “(6) HUMAN CAPITAL DEFINED.—In this sub-
25 section, the term ‘human capital’ means the knowl-

1 edge, talents, skills, abilities, experience, intelligence,
2 training, judgment, and wisdom possessed individ-
3 ually and collectively by the frontline transit work-
4 force, including operations, maintenance, and admin-
5 istrative personnel.”.

6 **SEC. 3. DATA REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN NATIONAL**
7 **TRANSIT DATABASE.**

8 Section 5335 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (c) by inserting “, either
11 human capital or physical capital” before the period
12 at the end; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) DEFINITION OF HUMAN CAPITAL.—In this sec-
15 tion, the term ‘human capital’ has the meaning given the
16 term in section 5314(b).”.

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