

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7050

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to retrain certain transportation workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to retrain certain transportation workers, 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 “Transportation Work-
5 force Modernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION WORKER RETRAINING GRANT**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation shall establish a program to make grants to eligible
10 entities to develop a curriculum for and establish transpor-

1 tation worker training programs in urban and rural areas
2 to train, upskill, and prepare workers whose jobs may be
3 changed or worsened by automation, or who have been
4 separated from their jobs, or have received notice of im-
5 pending job loss, as a result of being replaced by auto-
6 mated driving systems.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities
8 shall be eligible to receive grants under this section:

9 (1) Institutions of higher education.

10 (2) Consortia of institutions of higher edu-
11 cation.

12 (3) Trade associations.

13 (4) Nongovernmental stakeholders.

14 (5) Organizations with a demonstrated capacity
15 to develop and provide career ladder programs
16 through labor-management partnerships and appren-
17 ticeships on a nationwide basis.

18 (c) LIMITATION ON AWARDS.—An entity may only
19 receive one grant per year under this section in an amount
20 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

21 (d) PARTICIPANTS IN TRANSPORTATION WORKER
22 RETRAINING PROGRAMS.—A grant provided under this
23 section may be used for participants in transportation
24 worker retraining programs to pursue a degree or certifi-

1 cation through the coursework or curriculum developed
2 under the program.

3 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under
4 this section may use grant amounts for studies, pilot pro-
5 grams, as well as testing new roles for current jobs, includ-
6 ing mechanical work, diagnostic, and fleet operations man-
7 agement.

8 (f) GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary
9 shall select recipients of grants under this section on the
10 basis of the following criteria:

11 (1) Demonstrated research and extension re-
12 sources available to the applicant for carrying out
13 this section.

14 (2) Capability of the applicant to develop cur-
15 riculum in the training or retraining of individuals
16 described in subsection (a) as a result of driverless
17 vehicles.

18 (3) Demonstrated commitment of the recipient
19 to carry out a transportation workforce development
20 program through degree-granting programs or pro-
21 grams that provide other industry-recognized creden-
22 tials.

23 (g) ELIGIBILITY.—An applicant is only eligible for a
24 grant under this section if such applicant—

25 (1) has an established transportation program;

1 (2) has expertise in solving transportation prob-
2 lems through research, training, education, and tech-
3 nology; and

4 (3) shares information with other programs.

5 (h) FEDERAL SHARE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of a
7 grant under this section shall be a dollar for dollar
8 match of the costs of establishing and administering
9 the retraining program and related activities carried
10 out by the grant recipient or consortium of grant re-
11 cipients.

12 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—For a recipient
13 of a grant under this section carrying out activities
14 under such grant in partnership with a public trans-
15 portation agency that is receiving amounts under
16 section 5307, 5337, or 5339, not more than 0.5 per-
17 cent of amounts made available under any such sec-
18 tion may qualify as the non-Federal share under
19 paragraph (1).

20 (i) TRACKING OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Not later
21 than 1 year after a grant award is made under this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary shall implement a reporting or tracking
23 mechanism to determine—

24 (1) from which sectors of the transportation in-
25 dustry are workers being displaced;

1 (2) for what skills and professions are workers
2 being retrained;

3 (3) how many workers have benefitted from the
4 grant award; and

5 (4) relevant demographic information of im-
6 pacted workers.

7 (j) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
8 CATION.—In this Act, the term “institution of higher edu-
9 cation” has the meaning given the term in section 101
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
13 appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
14 2021, 2022, and 2023 to carry out this section.

15 (2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts
16 made available to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
17 tion shall remain available for obligation by the Sec-
18 retary for a period of 3 years after the last day of
19 the fiscal year for which the amounts are authorized.

20 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
23 of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to
24 Congress a report on the impact of driverless vehicle adop-
25 tion on—

1 (1) the workforce of the United States;

2 (2) the trucking, freight, and personal transpor-
3 tation industries;

4 (3) wages;

5 (4) job losses, including the economic impact on
6 each region of the United States; and

7 (5) the creation of new jobs and how transpor-
8 tation sector jobs would change due to driverless ve-
9 hicle adoption.

10 (b) CONSULTATION.—The study shall be carried out
11 in consultation with—

12 (1) academics;

13 (2) labor unions;

14 (3) the Department of Transportation; and

15 (4) the Department of Labor.

16 (c) RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Transportation
17 shall seek to enter into an agreement with an institute
18 of higher education or nonprofit organization with dem-
19 onstrated capacity in carrying out research on the subject
20 of the study required under subsection (a) to conduct such
21 research. Such agreement shall require the institute or
22 nonprofit to submit such research to the Comptroller Gen-
23 eral for inclusion in such study.

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