

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 548

To direct the Secretary of Labor to make a determination on whether to approve an occupation as an apprenticeable occupation in a timely manner, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to make a determination on whether to approve an occupation as an apprenticeable occupation in a timely manner, 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 “Fast Track Advanced
5 Apprenticeships Now Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NEW APPRENTICEABLE OCCUPATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall re-
8 view and make a determination on whether to approve an

1 occupation as an apprenticeable occupation not later than
 2 45 days after receiving an application from a person seek-
 3 ing such approval from the Secretary.

4 (b) ESTIMATED TIMELINE.—If such determination is
 5 not made within 45 days, the Secretary shall provide the
 6 applicant with a written explanation for the delay and
 7 offer an estimated timeline for a determination that does
 8 not exceed 90 days after the date of such written expla-
 9 nation.

10 **SEC. 3. INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED OCCUPATIONAL STAND-**
 11 **ARDS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene, on
 13 an ongoing basis and taking into consideration rec-
 14 ommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Ap-
 15 prenticeships, as authorized under the Act of August 16,
 16 1937 (commonly referred to as the National Apprentice-
 17 ship Act), the industry sector leaders and experts de-
 18 scribed in subsection (b) for the purposes of establishing
 19 or updating specific frameworks of industry-recognized oc-
 20 cupational standards for apprenticeable occupations (in-
 21 cluding potential apprenticeable occupations) that—

22 (1) meet the requirements of subpart A of part
 23 29, and part 30 of title 29, Code of Federal Regula-
 24 tions (as in effect on September 18, 2020); and

1 (2) describe program scope and length, related
 2 instruction, on-the-job training, recognized postsec-
 3 ondary credentials, and competencies, and relevant
 4 timelines for review of such frameworks.

5 (b) **INDUSTRY SECTOR LEADERS AND EXPERTS.**—
 6 The industry sector leaders and experts are employers, in-
 7 dustry associations, joint labor-management organiza-
 8 tions, labor organizations, education and training pro-
 9 viders, credential providers, program participants, and
 10 other stakeholders relevant to the sector or occupation for
 11 which the frameworks are being established or updated,
 12 as determined by the Secretary.

13 (c) **PRIORITY INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED**
 14 **APPRENTICEABLE OCCUPATIONS.**—In establishing frame-
 15 works under subsection (a) for the first time after the date
 16 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prioritize the
 17 establishment of such standards in high-skill, high-wage,
 18 or in-demand industry sectors and occupations.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **APPRENTICESHIP.**—The term “apprentice-
 22 ship” or “apprenticeship program” means an ap-
 23 prenticeship—

24 (A) registered with the Department of
 25 Labor under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-

monly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Department of Labor; and

(B) that complies with the requirements of subpart A of part 29, and part 30 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on September 18, 2020).

(2) NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM.—The term “national apprenticeship system” means the apprenticeship programs, youth apprenticeship programs, and pre-apprenticeship programs registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly referred to as the National Apprenticeship Act).

(3) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary credential” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102), except that such term does not include a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 Any funds appropriated under this Act shall only be
3 used for, or provided to, programs under the national ap-
4 prenticeship system, including any funds awarded for the
5 purposes of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements,
6 or the development, implementation, or administration, of
7 programs under the national apprenticeship system.

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