

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7015

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the
Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. MANN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. FISCHBACH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant
Program of the Department of Agriculture.

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 “Creating Access to
5 Rural Employment and Education for Resilience and Suc-
6 cess Act” or the “CAREERS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 379I of the Consolidated
3 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

7 (i) in clause (iii)—

8 (I) by striking subclause (I) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(I) an institution of higher edu-
11 cation (as defined in section 101, and
12 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
13 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
15 1002(a)(1)));”;

16 (II) by redesignating subclauses
17 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and
18 (IV), respectively, and inserting after
19 subclause (I) the following:

20 “(II) an area career and tech-
21 nical education school (as defined in
22 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
23 reer and Technical Education Act of
24 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));”;

1 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-
2 designated by subclause (II) of this
3 clause), by striking “and”;

4 (ii) in clause (iv)—

5 (I) by striking subclause (IV)
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(IV) an institution of higher
8 education (as defined in section 101,
9 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
10 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
12 1002(a)(1)))”; and

13 (II) by redesignating subclause
14 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting
15 after subclause (IV) the following:

16 “(V) an area career and technical
17 education school (as defined in section
18 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
19 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
20 U.S.C. 2302); or”; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(v) in the case of a career pathway
24 program, includes 1 or more member of
25 the local workforce development board es-

1 tablished under section 107 of the Work-
2 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and
3 serving the region to ensure such program
4 is integrated with the activities carried out
5 by the local workforce development board;
6 and”;

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career
9 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section
10 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
11 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—
13 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the
14 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
15 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
16 3102).”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A), by inserting “carry out career
21 pathway programs or industry or sector
22 partnerships aligned with industry sectors
23 in rural communities” before the 3rd
24 comma;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(C) address workforce challenges faced by
8 specific industry sectors in rural communities;
9 and

10 “(D) promote targeted skills development
11 initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance
12 economic development in rural regions.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “ca-
16 reer pathway program, or industry or
17 sector partnerships” before the semi-
18 colon; and

19 (II) in clause (ii)—

20 (aa) by inserting “career
21 pathway program, or industry or
22 sector partnerships” before “to
23 provide”; and

1 (bb) by inserting “leadership
2 development,” before “cus-
3 tomized”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
5 “and” at the end;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
7 the period and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to
11 carry out activities to address the issues of
12 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and
13 youth migration.”; and

14 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
15 ing the following;

16 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
17 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of
18 grants or participants in providing grants under
19 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway
20 programs, industry or sector partnerships, and re-
21 lated programming.”;

22 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
24 period and inserting “; or”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) to support career pathway programs or industry or sector partnerships to be carried out in industries in rural communities, including—

“(i) telecommunications or broadband services;

“(ii) water, waste water, and disposal services;

“(iii) electric supply services;

“(iv) conservation practices and management;

“(v) health care;

“(vi) child care;

“(vii) manufacturing;

“(viii) agribusiness related to production, processing, and distribution; and

“(ix) any other sectors that are identified by the local workforce development board serving the region to be an in-demand industry sector or occupation, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

2 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or” at
3 the end; and

4 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as
5 clause (xix) and inserting after clause
6 (xvii) the following:

7 “(xviii) the number of individuals who
8 have completed skills development, recog-
9 nized postsecondary credentials, or gained
10 specialized education through career path-
11 ways programs or industry or sector part-
12 nership; or”; and

13 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated
14 by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by
15 striking the period and inserting “; and”;
16 and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program
19 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-
20 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for
21 individuals who participate in the program on the in-
22 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of
23 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation
24 and Opportunity Act.”; and

1 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through
2 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on such date as the Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture shall determine, which shall be not
6 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act.

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