

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2621

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a forestry education and workforce development grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2021

Mr. FULCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a forestry education and workforce development grant program, 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 “Forestry Education
5 and Workforce Development Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FORESTRY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
4 establish a competitive grant program to make grants to
5 eligible institutions to carry out forestry education and
6 workforce development programs to prepare students for
7 careers in forestry.

8 (b) PROPOSAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under this section, an eligible institution shall submit to
10 the Secretary of Agriculture a proposal at such time, in
11 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary may require.

13 (c) EQUITABLE AWARDS.—For each fiscal year for
14 which grants are awarded under this section, the amount
15 of grant funds awarded to eligible institutions described
16 in paragraph (1) of subsection (f) shall be equal to the
17 amount of grant funds awarded to eligible institutions de-
18 scribed in paragraphs (2) and (3) of such subsection.

19 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants made under this sec-
21 tion shall be used to—

22 (A) award scholarships to students enrolled
23 in the eligible institution and pursuing degrees
24 in forestry, including students historically
25 underrepresented in the field of forestry;

(B) expand, enhance, or improve forestry educational capacities of the eligible institution, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, and scientific instrumentation;

(C) recruit and retain—

(i) secondary school or undergraduate students to pursue certifications in forestry or acquire training in technical forestry skills, including students historically underrepresented in the field of forestry; or

(ii) undergraduate and graduate students to pursue degrees in forestry, including students historically underrepresented in the field of forestry;

(D) design and develop resources or programs that prepare students enrolled in the eligible institution for careers in forestry, including internship and apprenticeship programs;

(E) provide hands-on training and research opportunities for such students; or

(F) carry out any other activity the Secretary of Agriculture determines appropriate.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF FORESTRY EDUCATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the terms “degrees in forestry”, “certifications in forestry”,

1 and “training in technical forestry skills” include de-
2 grees, certifications, and training in forestry, forest
3 sciences, natural resources management, or other re-
4 lated educational disciplines.

5 (e) PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—As a con-
6 dition of receiving a grant under this section, the Sec-
7 retary of Agriculture shall require the recipient of the
8 grant to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Fed-
9 eral sources in an amount that is specified by the Sec-
10 retary and based on assessed institutional needs.

11 (f) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this sec-
12 tion, the term “eligible institution” means—

13 (1) a land grant college or university, including
14 an institution eligible to receive funding under—

15 (A) the Act of July 2, 1862;

16 (B) the Act of August 30, 1890, including
17 Tuskegee University;

18 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known
19 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

20 (D) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant
21 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note);

22 (2) a community college or area career and
23 technical education school (as defined in section 3 of
24 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
25 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or

1 (3) an institution of higher education (as de-
 2 fined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
 3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 5 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
 6 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030
 7 to carry out this section.

8 **SEC. 3. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS REFOREST-**
 9 **ATION ACTIVITIES.**

10 Section 147(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
 11 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197(d)) is amended by adding
 12 at the end the following:

13 “(4) REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES.—Enrollees
 14 in Civilian Conservation Centers may provide assist-
 15 ance in carrying out reforestation activities in pri-
 16 ority areas, as determined by the Secretary of Agri-
 17 culture.”.

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