

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 121

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish demonstration and pilot projects to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish demonstration and pilot projects to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing.

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 “Advanced Manufac-
5 turing Jobs in America Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT PROJECTS TO SUP-**
2 **PORT ADVANCED MANUFACTURING WORK-**
3 **FORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

4 Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
5 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224) is amended—

6 (1) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DE-
8 VELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under a plan published
10 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, through
11 grants or contracts, carry out demonstration and
12 pilot projects for the purpose of facilitating edu-
13 cation and training programs in the field of ad-
14 vanced manufacturing, which projects shall—

15 “(A) target skills and competency develop-
16 ment in communities with expected growth in
17 advanced manufacturing;

18 “(B) provide education and training, for
19 available jobs or job openings that are antici-
20 pated in advanced manufacturing, which result
21 in a covered skill set and corresponding covered
22 credential;

23 “(C) educate individuals about opportuni-
24 ties for career advancement within advanced
25 manufacturing; and

“(D) be carried out in a way that gives priority to incumbent workers, dislocated workers, unemployed individuals, workers from rural areas, and underrepresented individuals (such as underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities).

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this subsection for a project under paragraph (1), an entity shall be one of the following entities in any of the several States or territories, in partnership with a manufacturer who employs individuals with advanced manufacturing skills (or a consortium of such partnerships):

“(i) A technical college that offers a 2-year degree or program of study or an individual community college, such as a public or nonprofit community college, or a community college that is a tribally controlled college or university (as defined in section 2(a) of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801(a))).

1 “(ii) A community college district sys-
2 tem.

3 “(iii) A State community college sys-
4 tem.

5 “(iv) A local board, in partnership
6 with one or more one-stop centers, that
7 specifies one or more community colleges
8 where education and training activities will
9 occur.

10 “(v) A manufacturing extension cen-
11 ter established under section 25(b) of the
12 National Institute of Standards and Tech-
13 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k).

14 “(vi) A local educational agency.

15 “(vii) Another entity, such as a pub-
16 lic-private partnership, or the collection of
17 entities and individuals carrying out an ad-
18 vanced manufacturing forum, that would
19 serve educationally underrepresented indi-
20 viduals (such as underrepresented racial
21 and ethnic minorities).

22 “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give
23 priority to any consortium of the partnerships
24 described in subparagraph (A) that leverages

1 substantial non-Federal funding for the project
2 involved.

3 “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
4 grant or contract under this subsection, an entity
5 shall submit an application at such time and in such
6 form and manner as the Secretary shall determine,
7 including the following:

8 “(A) A description of the eligible entity,
9 evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to carry
10 out activities in support of the strategic objec-
11 tives described in the subparagraphs of para-
12 graph (1), and a description of the expected
13 participation and responsibilities of the eligible
14 entity, or each partnership in the eligible entity
15 in the case of a consortium.

16 “(B) A description of education and train-
17 ing activities to be provided that will—

18 “(i) develop skills and competencies
19 demanded by advanced manufacturing
20 businesses;

21 “(ii) lead to a covered skill set and a
22 corresponding covered credential; and

23 “(iii) educate individuals about oppor-
24 tunities for career advancement and wage
25 growth within advanced manufacturing.

“(C) A description of how the economy where the entity is located would benefit, including—

“(i) evidence of the growth of advanced manufacturing in the State or locality involved;

“(ii) information on the potential for additional job growth with investments in advanced manufacturing; and

“(iii) information on how the activities will expose incumbent or dislocated workers, or unemployed individuals, to new advanced manufacturing technology skill sets.

“(D) A description of how the eligible entity will employ evidence-based training models that integrate academic instruction with training, including on-the-job training in advanced manufacturing, to meet performance goals described in paragraph (5).

“(E) A description of how the eligible entity will coordinate activities with State boards or local boards, and State or local economic development officials.

“(F) In the case of education and training activities that lead to a covered credential, a de-

1 description of those activities leading to that cre-
2 dential.

3 “(4) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be carried out
4 under a project funded under paragraph (1) may in-
5 clude—

6 “(A) classroom and onsite experiential
7 learning;

8 “(B) on-the-job training;

9 “(C) training which fits into an industry-
10 recognized competency model for advanced
11 manufacturing;

12 “(D) development and implementation of
13 registered apprenticeship and pre-apprentice-
14 ship programs;

15 “(E) coordination with local boards in
16 order to implement and utilize existing (as of
17 the first date of such coordination) articulation
18 agreements with universities and other edu-
19 cational partners;

20 “(F) distance learning; and

21 “(G) any other activity the Secretary con-
22 siders appropriate for providing education or
23 training in advanced manufacturing.

24 “(5) PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES.—

1 “(A) GOALS.—The performance goals for
2 the activities provided through a project under
3 this subsection shall be to—

4 “(i) enhance the skill sets of incum-
5 bent and dislocated workers, and unem-
6 ployed individuals, who live in communities
7 with expected growth in advanced manu-
8 facturing and enable such workers to ob-
9 tain a covered skill set and a corresponding
10 covered credential;

11 “(ii) develop competencies of individ-
12 uals with limited experience in advanced
13 manufacturing;

14 “(iii) strengthen community college
15 partnerships with manufacturing extension
16 centers described in paragraph (2)(A)(v)
17 and advanced manufacturing businesses in
18 an effort to meet the needs of the busi-
19 nesses for adaptability in training of in-
20 cumbent and dislocated workers, and un-
21 employed individuals;

22 “(iv) more fully utilize the capabilities
23 of such manufacturing extension centers
24 within the State involved;

1 “(v) strengthen partnerships of ad-
2 vanced manufacturing businesses with local
3 boards and, if applicable, local educational
4 agencies; and

5 “(vi) help incumbent and dislocated
6 workers, and unemployed individuals, de-
7 velop skills which lead to greater earnings.

8 “(B) MEASURES.—The Secretary shall ne-
9 gotiate and reach agreement with each eligible
10 entity that receives a grant or contract under
11 this subsection, on performance measures that
12 will be used to evaluate the performance of the
13 eligible entity in carrying out the activities pro-
14 vided through a project under this subsection.
15 Each performance measure shall be designed to
16 enable the eligible entity to meet the perform-
17 ance goals described in subparagraph (A) and
18 shall include an indicator of performance, which
19 may include—

20 “(i) the number of incumbent and dis-
21 located workers, and unemployed individ-
22 uals, receiving a covered credential for ad-
23 vanced manufacturing;

24 “(ii) the number of incumbent and
25 dislocated workers, and unemployed indi-

viduals, attaining basic skills, as described
in a covered skill set for advanced manu-
facturing;

“(iii) the number of incumbent work-
ers whose education and training, provided
through a project, enables them to meet
the needs of their employers for skilled
workers to enhance operations;

“(iv) the earnings growth of a manu-
facturer as a result of education and train-
ing provided through a project; and

“(v) another indicator the Secretary
determines to be necessary to meet per-
formance goals described in subparagraph
(A).

“(6) EVALUATION.—Beginning not later than 1
year after the date of the first disbursement of
funds under this subsection, the Secretary shall pro-
vide for the continuing evaluation of the projects de-
scribed in this subsection and funded under section
172, and shall transmit a report of the evaluation to
Congress not later than 2 years after such date.

“(7) DEFINITION.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED CREDENTIAL.—The term
‘covered credential’ means—

1 “(i) an industry-recognized and na-
 2 tionally portable credential, such as an
 3 educational certificate or degree, an occu-
 4 pational license, an industry-sponsored cer-
 5 tificate or certification, and a registered
 6 apprenticeship certificate or degree; or

7 “(ii) an employer-recognized creden-
 8 tial.

9 “(B) COVERED SKILL SET.—The term
 10 ‘covered skill set’ means an industry-recognized
 11 or employer-recognized skill set.”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting after the
 13 first sentence the following: “The plan shall describe
 14 the projects described in subsection (d), to be car-
 15 ried out in accordance with that subsection.”.

16 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
 18 as if enacted as part of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
 19 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

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