

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 186

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, 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 “Early Educators Ap-
5 prenticeship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPRENTICE.—The term “apprentice”
9 means an individual participating in a registered ap-

1 prenticeship program focused on early childhood
2 education.

3 (2) APPRENTICESHIP.—Except when used in
4 referring to or defining the term “registered appren-
5 ticeship program”, the term “apprenticeship” means
6 a registered apprenticeship program that trains ap-
7 prentices.

8 (3) CREDENTIAL OR DEGREE.—The term “cre-
9 dential or degree” means a recognized secondary or
10 postsecondary credential, a high school diploma or
11 its recognized equivalent, or a postsecondary degree
12 (including an associate, baccalaureate, or other de-
13 gree).

14 (4) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-
15 ble partnership” means a partnership that—

16 (A) includes an individual employer or a
17 consortium of employers (including schools and
18 child care centers and family child care pro-
19 viders), and an institution of higher education;
20 and

21 (B) may include one or more—

- 22 (i) labor organizations;
- 23 (ii) workforce intermediaries;
- 24 (iii) economic development agencies;
- 25 (iv) community-based organizations;

1 (v) State educational agencies or local
 2 educational agencies, as such terms are de-
 3 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary
 4 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 5 U.S.C. 7801); and

6 (vi) providers of support or specialized
 7 services for apprentices.

8 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 9 term “institution of higher education” has the
 10 meaning given the term in section 101, and subpara-
 11 graphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the
 12 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
 13 1002(a)(1)).

14 (6) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
 15 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
 16 means an apprenticeship program registered under
 17 the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as
 18 the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664,
 19 chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), including any re-
 20 quirement, standard, or rule promulgated under
 21 such Act as in effect on December 30, 2019.

22 (7) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifi-
 23 cally provided, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
 24 retary of Labor.

1 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 2 the several States, the District of Columbia, and the
 3 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
 5 tion with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
 6 and the Secretary of Education, shall award grants to eli-
 7 gible partnerships to pay the Federal share of the costs
 8 of developing, administering, and evaluating apprentice-
 9 ships.

10 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking a
 11 grant under this Act shall submit an application to the
 12 Secretary for approval at such time, in such manner, and
 13 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

14 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) REQUIRED USES.—A grant under sub-
 16 section (b) shall be used for activities that develop,
 17 administer, and evaluate an apprenticeship, includ-
 18 ing—

19 (A) equipping apprentices with specialized
 20 knowledge, skills, and competencies required to
 21 work in early childhood education;

22 (B) increasing the number of individuals
 23 who complete an apprenticeship program and
 24 obtain a credential or degree or a certificate of
 25 completion of an apprenticeship program, in-

cluding increasing such number in areas that
are underserved or rural;

(C) promoting recruitment and retention of
apprentices;

(D) providing a pathway to career advancement for apprentices by assisting such apprentices in completing an apprenticeship;

(E) providing for evaluation and longitudinal data regarding apprentices participating in the program to determine long-term outcomes, including information needed for purposes of subsections (g) and (i);

(F) supporting partnerships with institutions of higher education in the State in which the eligible partnership serves, or will serve, apprentices, businesses, and other entities participating in an apprenticeship to provide for—

(i) the award of postsecondary academic credit for related instruction or on-the-job training provided through the apprenticeship; and

(ii) the application of such credit toward a credential or degree from an institution in the partnership; and

(G) developing strategies to hire and retain qualified supervisors for apprentices that support such apprentices through—

- (i) professional development;
- (ii) mentorship;
- (iii) evaluation; and
- (iv) training.

(2) PERMITTED USES.—In addition to the requirements under paragraph (1), a grant under subsection (b) may be used—

(A) in cooperation with the State agency responsible for apprenticeships in the State in which the eligible partnership serves or will serve apprentices, to create or maintain a statewide resource database for businesses, institutions of higher education, or other entities participating in an apprenticeship to share best practices, curricula, and other resources that directly contribute to administering an effective apprenticeship;

(B) to establish primary indicators of performance with respect to apprentices and individuals who have completed an apprenticeship to be shared on any workforce registry of such State and the registered apprenticeship pro-

1 gram data system maintained by the Secretary
2 of Labor, including—

3 (i) the percentage of individuals who
4 have completed an apprenticeship and re-
5 main employed full-time in early childhood
6 education—

7 (I) 6 months after completing
8 such apprenticeship; and

9 (II) 1 year after completing such
10 apprenticeship;

11 (ii) the median earnings of individuals
12 who have completed an apprenticeship and
13 are employed full-time in early childhood
14 education within 6 months after com-
15 pleting such apprenticeship;

16 (iii) the percentage of apprentices who
17 obtain a credential or degree while partici-
18 pating in an apprenticeship; and

19 (iv) the percentage of individuals who
20 have completed an apprenticeship and who
21 begin or obtain a credential or degree with-
22 in 1 year after completing the apprentice-
23 ship; and

1 (C) to pay the costs of tuition and fees for
 2 apprentices enrolled in programs of education
 3 leading to a credential or degree.

4 (e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize eligible
 5 partnerships that—

6 (1) include in the eligible partnership, or have
 7 developed partnerships with—

8 (A) Indian Tribes in the State in which the
 9 eligible partnership serves or will serve appren-
 10 tices; or

11 (B) institutions of higher education that
 12 serve minority populations;

13 (2) operate or serve an apprenticeship program
 14 in a State that has a statewide credit articulation
 15 agreement in place that ensures credit transfer be-
 16 tween participating institutions of higher education
 17 in the State and other relevant credential programs;
 18 or

19 (3) provide an assurance that not less than 25
 20 percent of the grant funds will be used to support
 21 apprenticeships in underserved or rural commu-
 22 nities.

23 (f) GRANT TERM AND LIMITATION.—

24 (1) TERM.—The term of a grant made under
 25 this Act shall be 3 years.

1 (2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall award no
 2 greater than 20 grants under this section each fiscal
 3 year.

4 (g) GRANT RECIPIENT EVALUATION AND REPORT.—
 5 Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant under this
 6 Act, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant,
 7 an eligible partnership shall submit to the Secretary a re-
 8 port containing—

9 (1) an evaluation of the eligible partnership's
 10 apprenticeships to determine which program strate-
 11 gies made progress toward—

12 (A) increasing the aggregate number of ap-
 13 prentices; and

14 (B) increasing the retention rates of ap-
 15 prentices; and

16 (2) the number of individuals served by the
 17 grant who are enrolled in, or completed, an edu-
 18 cational credential, in the aggregate and disaggre-
 19 gated by type of credential or degree (including sec-
 20 ondary school diploma, the recognized equivalent of
 21 a secondary school diploma, a certificate, a creden-
 22 tial, an associate degree, a baccalaureate degree, and
 23 any other category of secondary or postsecondary
 24 credential) and as applicable, by specific educational
 25 program within the credential or degree (including,

1 if applicable, a child development associate creden-
2 tial).

3 (h) COST-SHARING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
5 cost of any activity carried out using a grant made
6 under this Act shall be not more than 75 percent.

7 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
8 eral share of the total cost of any activity carried
9 out using a grant made under this Act may be in
10 the form of donations or in-kind contributions of
11 goods or services fairly valued.

12 (i) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
14 Congress a report on the effectiveness of each eligible
15 partnership that received a grant under this Act to de-
16 velop, administer, and evaluate apprenticeships, including
17 evaluating—

18 (1) an increase in the number of apprentices in
19 early childhood education;

20 (2) an increase in the retention rates of individ-
21 uals who work in early childhood education after
22 completing an apprenticeship;

23 (3) the career path of apprentices and individ-
24 uals who have completed an apprenticeship; and

1 (4) an increase in the number of credentials
2 and degrees obtained by apprentices.

3 (j) FUNDING.—To carry out the grant program
4 under this Act, the Secretary shall use amounts allocated
5 under section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and
6 Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a).

7 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOAN RESTRIC-**
8 **TIONS.**

9 The Secretary of Agriculture shall revise section
10 3555.102(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to ex-
11 clude a business that is a licensed child care provider.

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