

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5291

To establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2018

Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 establish an offshore wind career training 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 “Offshore Wind Jobs
5 and Opportunity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE WIND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
 4 1331 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 33. OFFSHORE WIND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PRO-**
 7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Beginning 360 days
 9 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
 10 retary may award offshore wind career training grants to
 11 eligible entities for the purpose of developing, offering, or
 12 improving educational or career training programs that
 13 provide individuals in such programs skills that are useful
 14 for employment in the offshore wind industry.

15 “(b) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—

16 “(1) LIMITATION ON GRANT QUANTITY AND
 17 SIZE.—An eligible entity may not be awarded—

18 “(A) more than one grant under this sec-
 19 tion for which the eligible entity is the lead ap-
 20 plicant; or

21 “(B) a grant under this section in excess
 22 of \$1,000,000.

23 “(2) ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES.—

24 Not less than 25 percent of the total amount award-
 25 ed under this section for a fiscal year shall be

1 awarded to eligible entities that are community col-
2 leges.

3 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity seeking to
4 receive a grant under this section may partner with one
5 or more of the following:

6 “(1) Another eligible entity (including an eligi-
7 ble entity that is a community college).

8 “(2) A State or local government.

9 “(3) A nonprofit organization.

10 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity may use a
11 grant awarded under this section for the following activi-
12 ties:

13 “(1) Occupational skills training, including cur-
14 riculum development, on-the-job training, and class-
15 room training.

16 “(2) Safety and health training.

17 “(3) The provision of basic skills, English as a
18 second language, and job readiness training.

19 “(4) Individual referral and tuition assistance
20 for a community college training program or any
21 training program leading to an industry-recognized
22 certificate.

23 “(5) Internship programs in a field related to
24 offshore wind energy.

1 “(6) Customized training in conjunction with
2 an existing registered apprenticeship program or
3 labor-management partnership.

4 “(7) Incumbent worker and career ladder train-
5 ing and skill upgrading and retraining.

6 “(8) The implementation of transitional jobs
7 strategies.

8 “(9) Curriculum development at the under-
9 graduate and postgraduate levels.

10 “(10) Development and support of offshore
11 wind energy major, minor, or certificate programs.

12 “(11) Such other activities, as determined by
13 the Secretary, to meet the purposes of this section.

14 “(e) GRANT PROPOSALS.—

15 “(1) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR GRANT PRO-
16 POSALS.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a
17 grant under this section shall submit a grant pro-
18 posal to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
19 and containing such information as the Secretary
20 may require.

21 “(2) CONTENT OF GRANT PROPOSALS.—A
22 grant proposal submitted to the Secretary under this
23 section shall include a detailed description of—

24 “(A) the specific project for which the
25 grant proposal is submitted, including the man-

ner in which the grant will be used to develop, offer, or improve an educational or career training program that will provide individuals in such program skills that are useful for employment in the offshore wind industry;

“(B) any previous experience of the eligible entity in providing such educational or career training programs; and

“(C) the extent to which such project will meet the educational or career training needs identified under subsection (i).

“(f) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, the Secretary shall award grants under this section based on an evaluation of—

“(A) the merits of the grant proposal;

“(B) the likely employment opportunities available to individuals who complete the educational or career training program that the eligible entity proposes to develop, offer, or improve;

“(C) prior demand for such educational or career training programs in the community served by the eligible entity; and

1 “(D) the availability and capacity of exist-
2 ing educational or career training programs in
3 the community to meet future demand for such
4 programs.

5 “(2) PRIORITY.—Priority in awarding grants
6 under this section shall be given to eligible entities
7 that—

8 “(A) are located in an economically dis-
9 tressed area;

10 “(B) focus on individuals who are—

11 “(i) displaced workers (particularly
12 workers displaced from the offshore oil and
13 gas, onshore fossil fuel, nuclear energy, or
14 fishing industries);

15 “(ii) veterans, members of the reserve
16 components of the Armed Forces, or
17 former members of such reserve compo-
18 nents;

19 “(iii) unemployed;

20 “(iv) seeking employment pathways
21 out of poverty and into economic self-suffi-
22 ciency;

23 “(v) at-risk youth; or

24 “(vi) formerly incarcerated, adjudica-
25 ted, nonviolent offenders; or

1 “(C) with respect to eligible entities that
2 are institutions of higher education, have a high
3 percentage of low-income or minority students.

4 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
5 retary shall, to the extent practicable, award grants
6 under this section in a manner that provides for a
7 reasonable geographic distribution, except that the
8 Secretary shall not be required to award grants
9 equally among different regions of the United
10 States.

11 “(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A grant awarded
12 under this section may not be used to satisfy any non-
13 Federal funds matching requirement under any other pro-
14 vision of law.

15 “(h) GRANTEE DATA COLLECTION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee, with respect to
17 the educational or career training program for which
18 the grantee received a grant under this section, shall
19 collect and report to the Secretary on an annual
20 basis the following:

21 “(A) The number of participants in the
22 educational or career training program.

23 “(B) The services received by such partici-
24 pants, including a description of training, edu-
25 cation, and supportive services.

1 “(C) The amount spent by the grantee per
2 participant.

3 “(D) The rate of job placement of partici-
4 pants in the offshore wind industry or related
5 fields.

6 “(E) The rate of employment retention—

7 “(i) if the eligible entity is not an in-
8 stitution of higher education, 1 year after
9 completion of the educational or career
10 training program; or

11 “(ii) if the eligible entity is an institu-
12 tion of higher education, 1 year after com-
13 pletion of the educational or career train-
14 ing program or 1 year after the participant
15 is no longer enrolled in such institution of
16 higher education, whichever is later.

17 “(2) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Sec-
18 retary shall assist grantees in the collection of data
19 under this subsection by making available, where
20 practicable, low-cost means of tracking the labor
21 market outcomes of participants and by providing
22 standardized reporting forms, where appropriate.

23 “(i) IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER
24 TRAINING NEEDS.—Not later than 120 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in

1 consultation with the offshore wind industry, eligible enti-
2 ties, including eligible entities that are community col-
3 leges, State and local governments, labor organizations,
4 and nonprofit organizations, shall identify the educational
5 and career training needs of such industry, including
6 needs related to manufacturing, operation, and mainte-
7 nance activities relevant to the offshore wind industry.

8 “(j) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 240 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

10 “(1) promulgate guidelines for the submission
11 of grant proposals under this section, including a list
12 of the educational and career training needs identi-
13 fied under subsection (i); and

14 “(2) publish and maintain such guidelines on a
15 public website of the Secretary.

16 “(k) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18
17 months after the date of the enactment of this section,
18 and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
19 a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
21 and Natural Resources of the Senate on the grant pro-
22 gram established by this section. The report shall include
23 a description of the grantees and the activities for which
24 grantees used a grant awarded under this section.

1 “(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this sec-
3 tion \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through
4 2021.

5 “(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
7 munity college’ has the meaning given the term ‘jun-
8 ior or community college’ in section 312(f) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
11 tity’ means an entity that is—

12 “(A) an institution of higher education, as
13 such term is defined in section 102 of the High-
14 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)); or

15 “(B) a labor organization.

16 “(3) GRANTEE.—The term ‘grantee’ means an
17 eligible entity that has received a grant under this
18 section.

19 “(4) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term ‘lead appli-
20 cant’ means the eligible entity that is primarily re-
21 sponsible for the preparation, conduct, and adminis-
22 tration of the project for which the grant was award-
23 ed.

24 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
25 the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with

- 1 the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Education,
- 2 and the Secretary of Labor.”.

