

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5968

To encourage online workforce training.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mrs. TORRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To encourage online workforce training.

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 “Online Job Training
5 Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

7 Section 169 of the Workforce Investment and Oppor-
8 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 “(d) **ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM.**—

1 “(1) NATIONAL ONLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING
2 GRANTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount ap-
4 propriated under subparagraph (G), the Sec-
5 retary shall award National Online Workforce
6 Training Grants on a competitive basis to eligi-
7 ble entities to enable such entities to carry out
8 workforce training programs using distance-
9 learning technologies, such as the Internet. An
10 entity may leverage such grant with other Fed-
11 eral, State, local, and private resources, in
12 order to expand the participation of businesses,
13 employees, and other individuals in such train-
14 ing programs.

15 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For
16 purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible
17 entity’ means an educational institution, com-
18 munity-based organization, nonprofit organiza-
19 tion, State board or local board, or unit of gen-
20 eral local government, which provides online
21 workforce training.

22 “(C) PRIORITY.—Priority in awarding
23 grants under this paragraph shall be given to
24 eligible entities that—

1 “(i) have demonstrated experience in
2 implementing and operating online work-
3 force training and education programs;

4 “(ii) have demonstrated experience co-
5 ordinating activities, where appropriate,
6 with the workforce investment system; and

7 “(iii) conduct training for in-demand
8 industry sectors or occupations.

9 “(D) DATA COLLECTION.—Each eligible
10 entity receiving a grant under this paragraph
11 shall collect and report information on—

12 “(i) the number of participants in the
13 workforce training program funded under
14 this paragraph;

15 “(ii) the services received by the par-
16 ticipants;

17 “(iii) program completion rates;

18 “(iv) factors determined as signifi-
19 cantly interfering with program participa-
20 tion or completion;

21 “(v) the rate of job placement; and

22 “(vi) other information as determined
23 as needed by the Secretary.

24 “(E) OUTREACH.—Each eligible entity re-
25 ceiving a grant under this paragraph shall con-

duct outreach activities to disseminate information to workforce investment boards, local governments, educational institutions, and other workforce training organizations about—

“(i) the workforce training program funded under this paragraph; and

“(ii) the results of such, and the best practices with respect to workforce training identified as a result of, program.

“(F) PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—The Secretary shall establish indicators of performance that will be used to evaluate the performance of eligible entities under this paragraph in carrying out the activities required under this paragraph. Prior to awarding a grant under this paragraph to an eligible entity, the Secretary shall negotiate and reach agreement with the entity regarding the levels of performance expected to be achieved by the entity on the indicators of performance.

“(G) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2019 through 2029.

1 “(2) ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM CLEARING-
2 HOUSE.—

3 “(A) DESCRIPTION OF GRANT.—From the
4 amounts appropriated under subparagraph (D),
5 the Secretary shall award one grant to an eligi-
6 ble institution of higher education to provide
7 the services described in this paragraph.

8 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to re-
9 ceive a grant under this paragraph, an institu-
10 tion of higher education shall—

11 “(i) have demonstrated the ability to
12 disseminate research on best practices for
13 implementing workforce investment activi-
14 ties; and

15 “(ii) be a national leader in producing
16 cutting-edge research on technology related
17 to workforce development systems under
18 this title.

19 “(C) SERVICES.—The postsecondary edu-
20 cational institution that receives a grant under
21 this paragraph shall use such grant—

22 “(i) to provide technical assistance to
23 entities that receive grants under para-
24 graph (1);

1 “(ii) to collect and nationally dissemi-
2 nate the data gathered by entities that re-
3 ceive grants under paragraph (1); and

4 “(iii) to disseminate best practices
5 identified by the Secretary.

6 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
7 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
8 priated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
9 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal years 2019
10 through 2029.”.

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