

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1126

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 to strengthen research in adult education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 2021

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

A BILL

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 to strengthen research in adult education.

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 “Strengthening Re-
5 search in Adult Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHEN RESEARCH IN ADULT EDUCATION.**

7 (a) EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT OF 2002.—

8 The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.

9 9501 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
3 through (8), (9) through (22), and (23), as
4 paragraphs (3) through (9), (11) through (24),
5 and (26), respectively;

6 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
7 following:

8 “(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION
9 AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult edu-
10 cation’ and ‘adult education and literacy activities’
11 have the meanings given the terms in section 203 of
12 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29
13 U.S.C. 3272).”;

14 (C) by inserting after paragraph (9), as re-
15 designated by subparagraph (A), the following:

16 “(10) DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.—The term
17 ‘digital literacy skills’ has the meaning given the
18 term in section 202 of the Museum and Library
19 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).”; and

20 (D) by inserting after paragraph (24), as
21 redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(25) STUDENT.—Unless otherwise provided,
24 the term ‘student’ means any elementary, secondary,
25 postsecondary, or adult education student.”;

(2) in section 111(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 9511(b)(1)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including adult education” after “postsecondary study”;

(3) in section 115(a) (20 U.S.C. 9515(a))—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.),” after “the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.),”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and adults” after “children”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) access to, and opportunities for, adult education and literacy activities; and”;

(4) in section 116(c)(4)(A)(ii) (20 U.S.C. 9516(c)(4)(A)(ii))—

(A) by inserting “adult educators,” after “professional educators,”; and

1 (B) by inserting “State directors of adult
 2 education,” after “postsecondary education ex-
 3 ecutives,”;

4 (5) in section 131(b)(1) (20 U.S.C.
 5 9531(b)(1))—

6 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 7 “and” after the semicolon;

8 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 9 “and” after the semicolon; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(E) improve the literacy and numeracy
 12 skills of individuals who need adult education;”;

13 (6) in section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533)—

14 (A) in subsection (a)—

15 (i) in paragraph (10)(D), by striking
 16 “and” after the semicolon;

17 (ii) in paragraph (11), by striking the
 18 period at the end and inserting “; and”;

19 and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(12) carry out research on successful State
 23 and local adult education and literacy activities
 24 that—

1 “(A) result in increased literacy and
 2 numeracy and educational attainment for adult
 3 learners; or

4 “(B) prepare students for postsecondary
 5 education or employment.”; and

6 (B) in subsection (c)—

7 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “At
 8 least 1 center shall be assigned the topic of
 9 adult education.” after “paragraph (2).”;
 10 and

11 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

12 (I) by striking subparagraph (A)
 13 and inserting the following:

14 “(A) Adult education.”;

15 (II) by redesignating subpara-
 16 graphs (C) through (K) as subpara-
 17 graphs (D) through (L), respectively;
 18 and

19 (III) by inserting after subpara-
 20 graph (B) the following:

21 “(C) Digital literacy skills.”;

22 (7) in section 153(a)(1) (20 U.S.C.
 23 9543(a)(1))—

24 (A) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
 25 serting the following:

“(D) secondary school graduation and completion rates, including the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801)), school dropout rates, and adult literacy;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (O) as subparagraphs (G) through (P), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) access to, and opportunity for, adult education and literacy activities;” and

(D) in subparagraph (L), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by inserting “and in adult education” after “secondary schools”;

(8) in section 154(b)(2)(A) (20 U.S.C. 9544(b)(2)(A)), by striking “vocational and adult education,” and inserting “career and technical education, adult education,”; and

(9) in section 172(a)(2) (20 U.S.C. 9562(a)(2))—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
2 subparagraph (F); and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
4 the following:

5 “(E) educational practices that improve
6 digital literacy skills; and”.

7 (b) EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF
8 2002.—Section 206(b)(2) of the Educational Technical
9 Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9605(b)(2)) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
12 through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), re-
13 spectively; and

14 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(B) Representatives of local or regional
17 adult education providers.”.

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