

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2696

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to designate certain consortia as Community and Technical College Centers of Excellence in Transportation Workforce Training, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to designate certain consortia as Community and Technical College Centers of Excellence in Transportation Workforce Training, 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 “Transportation Work-
5 force Centers of Excellence Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION**
2 **WORKFORCE TRAINING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
5 portation, in consultation with the Secretary of Education
6 and the Secretary of Labor, shall designate in accordance
7 with subsection (b) certain consortia of 2-year institutions
8 of higher education as Community and Technical College
9 Centers of Excellence in Transportation Workforce Train-
10 ing (in this section referred to as “Centers of Excel-
11 lence”).

12 (b) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of
13 Transportation shall designate as a Center of Excellence
14 under subsection (a) a consortium the Secretary deter-
15 mines has a demonstrated ability to—

16 (1) address education and training related to
17 careers in transportation sectors; and

18 (2) carry out the following activities:

19 (A) Developing and implementing career
20 pathways and programs of study that lead to
21 recognized postsecondary credentials in trans-
22 portation sectors.

23 (B) Providing on-the-job training or work-
24 based learning opportunities in transportation
25 sectors.

1 (C) Developing dual or concurrent enroll-
2 ment programs to provide education and train-
3 ing opportunities to secondary school students.

4 (D) Providing education and training re-
5 lated to emerging technologies in transportation
6 sectors.

7 (E) Partnering with employers, labor orga-
8 nizations, local workforce development boards,
9 State workforce development boards, State edu-
10 cational agencies, and eligible agencies to ad-
11 dress education and training related to careers
12 in transportation sectors.

13 (F) Providing outreach and career coun-
14 seling to increase participation in transpor-
15 tation sectors.

16 (c) COLLABORATION.—To address education and
17 training related to careers in transportation sectors, Cen-
18 ters of Excellence may seek to collaborate with institutions
19 receiving grants under section 5505 of title 49, United
20 States Code.

21 (d) GRANTS TO CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
23 a program (in this subsection referred to as the
24 “Program”) to award grants on a competitive basis,
25 as determined by the Secretary, to Centers of Excel-

1 lence to address education and training related to
2 careers in transportation sectors.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Grant funds award-
4 ed under the Program may only be used for a
5 project that facilitates an activity specified in sub-
6 section (b).

7 (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant
8 under the Program, a Center of Excellence des-
9 ignated under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-
10 retary an application in such form, at such time,
11 and containing such information as the Secretary
12 determines appropriate.

13 (4) LIMITATIONS ON GRANTS.—

14 (A) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The
15 amount of a grant under the Program may not
16 exceed \$2,000,000.

17 (B) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL SHARE.—
18 The Federal share of the cost of a project car-
19 ried out by a grant under the Program may not
20 exceed 50 percent.

21 (5) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under
22 the Program shall submit to the Secretary a report
23 in such form, at such time, and containing such in-
24 formation as the Secretary determines appropriate
25 to evaluate the grant, including the following:

1 (A) Information relating to the use of
2 grant funds awarded to the recipient under the
3 Program.

4 (B) An evaluation of each project carried
5 out with such grant funds, including the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (i) The percentage, and median earn-
8 ings, of individuals participating in or ben-
9 efitting from the project (in this section re-
10 ferred to as “participants”) who are in un-
11 subsidized employment 90 days after exit
12 from the project.

13 (ii) The percentage of participants
14 who are in unsubsidized employment 180
15 days after exit from the project.

16 (iii) The percentage of participants
17 who obtain a recognized postsecondary cre-
18 dential, or a secondary school diploma or
19 recognized equivalent, during the project or
20 within 1 year after exit from the project.

21 (iv) The percentage of participants
22 who, during the project—

23 (I) enrolled in an education or
24 training program that leads to a rec-

1 ognized postsecondary credential or
2 employment; or

3 (II) developed skills necessary to
4 receive such credential or employment.

5 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2022 through 2026.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
11 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
12 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
13 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

14 (2) DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PRO-
15 GRAM.—The term “dual or concurrent enrollment
16 program” has the meaning given the term in section
17 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (3) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term “eligible
20 agency” has the meaning given the term in section
21 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
22 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

23 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (5) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
4 BOARD.—The term “local workforce development
5 board” means a local workforce development board
6 established under section 107 of the Workforce In-
7 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122).

8 (6) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.—The term “on-the-
9 job training” has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
11 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 (7) PROGRAM OF STUDY.—The term “program
13 of study” has the meaning given the term in section
14 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
15 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

16 (8) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
17 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
18 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
19 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
20 U.S.C. 3102).

21 (9) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
22 “State educational agency” has the meaning given
23 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
24 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (10) STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
2 BOARD.—The term “State workforce development
3 board” means a State workforce development board
4 established under section 101 of the Workforce In-
5 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111).

6 (11) TRANSPORTATION SECTOR.—The term
7 “transportation sector” means an industry sector
8 that is involved in the manufacturing, operation, in-
9 spection, logistics, design, or engineering of equip-
10 ment, materials, technologies, or infrastructure re-
11 lated to transportation (including surface, transit,
12 railway, aviation, and maritime transportation).

13 (12) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
14 “work-based learning” has the meaning given the
15 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
16 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

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