

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4610

To establish an expansion awards pilot program as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2021

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. MEIJER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish an expansion awards pilot program as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 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. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPANSION AWARDS**
4 **PILOT PROGRAM AS A PART OF THE HOL-**
5 **LINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PART-**
6 **nership.**

7 The National Institute of Standards and Technology
8 Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
9 section 25A (15 U.S.C. 278k–1) the following:

1 **“SEC. 25B. EXPANSION AWARDS PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this section
3 have the meanings given the terms in section 25.

4 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish
5 as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Part-
6 nership a pilot program of expansion awards among par-
7 ticipants described in subsection (c) of this section for the
8 purposes described in subsection (e) of this section.

9 “(c) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards
10 under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of
11 Centers.

12 “(d) AWARD AMOUNTS.—Subject to the availability
13 of appropriations, an award for a recipient under this sec-
14 tion shall be in an amount equal to the sum of the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(1) Such amount as the Director considers ap-
17 propriate as a minimum base funding level for each
18 award under this section.

19 “(2) Such additional amount as the Director
20 considers in proportion to the manufacturing density
21 of the region of the recipient.

22 “(3) Such supplemental amounts as the Direc-
23 tor considers appropriate.

24 “(e) PURPOSE OF AWARDS.—An award under this
25 section shall be made for one or more of the following pur-
26 poses:

1 “(1) To provide coordinating services on em-
2 ployee engagement, including employee ownership
3 and workforce training, including connecting manu-
4 facturers with career and technical education enti-
5 ties, institutions of higher education (including com-
6 munity colleges), workforce development boards,
7 labor organizations, and nonprofit job training pro-
8 viders to develop and support training and job place-
9 ment services, including apprenticeship and online
10 learning platforms, for new and incumbent workers,
11 programming to prevent job losses when adopting
12 new technologies and processes, and development of
13 employee ownership practices.

14 “(2) To provide services to improve the resil-
15 iency of domestic supply chains and to mitigate
16 vulnerabilities to cyberattacks, including helping to
17 offset the cost of cybersecurity projects for small
18 manufacturers.

19 “(3) To expand advanced technology services to
20 small- and medium-sized manufacturers, which may
21 include—

22 “(A) developing technology demonstration
23 laboratories;

1 “(B) services for the adoption of advanced
2 technologies, including smart manufacturing
3 technologies and practices; and

4 “(C) establishing partnerships, for the de-
5 velopment, demonstration, and deployment of
6 advanced technologies, with—

7 “(i) national laboratories (as defined
8 in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of
9 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801));

10 “(ii) Federal laboratories;

11 “(iii) Manufacturing USA institutes
12 (as described in section 34(d)); and

13 “(iv) institutions of higher education.

14 “(4) To build capabilities across the Hollings
15 Manufacturing Extension Partnership for domestic
16 supply chain resiliency and optimization, including—

17 “(A) assessment of domestic manufac-
18 turing capabilities, expanded capacity for re-
19 searching and deploying information on supply
20 chain risk, hidden costs of reliance on offshore
21 suppliers, redesigning products and processes to
22 encourage reshoring, and other relevant topics;
23 and

24 “(B) expanded services to provide indus-
25 try-wide support that assists United States

1 manufacturers with reshoring manufacturing to
2 strengthen the resiliency of domestic supply
3 chains, including in critical technology areas
4 and foundational manufacturing capabilities
5 that are key to domestic manufacturing com-
6 petitiveness and resiliency, including forming,
7 casting, machining, joining, surface treatment,
8 and tooling.

9 “(f) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Director may reim-
10 burse Centers for costs incurred by the Centers under this
11 section.

12 “(g) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under
13 this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such
14 time, and containing such information as the Director
15 shall require in consultation with the Manufacturing Ex-
16 tension Partnership Advisory Board.

17 “(h) SELECTION.—

18 “(1) REVIEWED AND MERIT-BASED.—The Di-
19 rector shall ensure that awards under this section
20 are reviewed and merit-based.

21 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Director
22 shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity
23 among selected proposals.

24 “(3) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select ap-
25 plications consistent with the purposes identified

1 pursuant to subsection (e) to receive awards that the
2 Director determines will achieve one or more of the
3 following:

4 “(A) Improvement of the competitiveness
5 of industries in the region in which the Center
6 or Centers are located.

7 “(B) Creation of jobs or training of newly
8 hired employees.

9 “(C) Promotion of the transfer and com-
10 mercialization of research and technology from
11 institutions of higher education, national lab-
12 oratories, or other federally funded research
13 programs, and nonprofit research institutes.

14 “(D) Recruitment of a diverse manufac-
15 turing workforce, including through outreach to
16 underrepresented populations, including individ-
17 uals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the
18 Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b).

20 “(E) Any other result the Director deter-
21 mines will advance the objective set forth in
22 sections 25(c) or 26.

23 “(i) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of
24 awards under this section shall not be required to provide
25 a matching contribution.

1 “(j) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In making
2 an award under this section, the Director, in consultation
3 with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory
4 Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration
5 whether an application has significant potential for en-
6 hancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized
7 United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

8 “(k) DURATION.—The Director shall ensure that the
9 duration of an award under this section is aligned and
10 consistent with a Center’s cooperative agreement estab-
11 lished in section 25(e).

12 “(l) REPORT.—After the completion of the pilot pro-
13 gram under subsection (b) and not later than October 1,
14 2024, the Director shall submit to Congress a report that
15 includes—

16 “(1) a summary description of what activities
17 were funded and the measurable outcomes of such
18 activities;

19 “(2) a description of which types of activities
20 under paragraph (1) could be integrated into, and
21 supported under, the program under section 25;

22 “(3) a description of which types of activities
23 under paragraph (1) could be integrated into, and
24 supported under, the competitive awards program
25 under section 25A; and

1 “(4) a recommendation, supported by a clear
2 explanation, as to whether the pilot program should
3 be continued.

4 “(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot pro-
6 gram under this section \$260,000,000 for each of fiscal
7 years 2022 through 2024.”.

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