117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4745

To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. SOTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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A BILL

To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, 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 "Grace Hopper Code

5 for Us Act".

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7   In this Act:

8   (1) AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—The term

9   "authorizing committees" has the meaning given

1 such term in section 103 of the Higher Education

2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

3 (2) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term "infor-

4 mation system" has the meaning given the term in

5 section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code.

6 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The

7 term "institution of higher education" has the

8 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the

9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means

11 the Secretary of Education.

12 (5) STATE.—The term "State" has the mean-

13 ing given the term in section 311 of title 5, United

14 States Code.

SEC. 3. REPORT CONCERNING CRITICAL LEGACY COMPUTER LANGUAGES USED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

18 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date

19 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of

20 the United States shall submit to the authorizing commit-

21 tees a report identifying not fewer than 3 computer lan-

22 guages, in addition to COBOL, Assembly, and PL/I, and

23 to be known as "critical legacy computer languages", that

24 are—

1 (1) used by, and necessary to support the needs

2 and national security of, the Federal Government;

3 and

4 (2) computer languages not commonly taught

5 in a course at an institution of higher education.

6 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Comptroller General shall

7 make the report publicly available, including by publishing

8 the report on the internet website of the Government Ac-

9 countability Office.

SEC. 4. GRACE HOPPER SUSTAINMENT AND MODERNIZA-

TION GRANT PROGRAM.

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a pro-

13 gram to award grants to institutions of higher education,

14 to be known as the "Grace Hopper Sustainment and Mod-

15 ernization Grant Program (in this section referred to as

16 the 'Program')", to support the development and imple-

17 mentation of courses of instruction regarding maintaining,

18 developing, and modernizing information systems utilizing

19 critical legacy computer languages identified in the report

20 required under section 3.

21 (b) GRANTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2022 and

23 each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years, the Secretary

24 annually shall award grants to 5 institutions of high-

1 er education to carry out the activities described in

2 subsection (a).

3 　　　(2) 2-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-

4 　　CATION.—For each fiscal year, at least 2 of the

5 　　grants awarded under paragraph (1) shall be award-

6 　　ed to 2-year institutions of higher education that—

7 　　　　　(A) award an associate's degree; or

8 　　　　　(B) offer university-based continuing edu-

9 　　　　cation programs for information technology pro-

10 　　　　fessionals.

11 　(c) PRIORITIES.—When awarding grants under the

12 Program, the Secretary will give priority to applications

13 that—

14 　　　(1) demonstrate a plan to continue their efforts

15 　　to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)

16 　　after the end of the grant period;

17 　　　(2) demonstrate plans to recruit and include the

18 　　participation of women and other under-represented

19 　　minority groups;

20 　　　(3) demonstrate plans to engage with local stu-

21 　　dents in grades 6 through 12 regarding career op-

22 　　portunities relating to critical legacy languages;

23 　　　(4) offer scholarship or other support, which

24 　　may include books and supplies (including hardware,

1 software, and connectivity), to students enrolled in
2 projects supported by the Program;

3   (5) incorporate perspectives into the challenges
4 of modernizing legacy information technology sys-
5 tems from disciplines such as history, public policy,
6 public administration, political science, business ad-
7 ministration, management, economics, sociology, or
8 other humanistic or social science disciplines;

9   (6) address the extent to which the grant recipi-
10 ent intends to utilize and support open source tech-
11 nology and best practices in connection with the
12 Program; and

13   (7) demonstrate the ability to make agreements
14 to place students in the projects funded by the grant
15 in paid internships or similar arrangements with
16 Federal, State, local, or private sector organizations
17 where they can ensure that each such student works
18 with computer programmers in maintaining, devel-
19 oping, or modernizing information systems utilizing
20 critical legacy computer languages, with a preference
21 for such placements lasting longer than 60 days.

22   (d) SPECIAL RULE RELATED TO GEOGRAPHY.—Re-
23 cipients of a grant under the Program may not be located
24 in the same State.

1 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant

2 under the Program, an institution of higher education

3 shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form,

4 and containing such information, as the Secretary may re-

5 quire.

6 (f) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under

7 this section may not exceed $5,000,000.

8 (g) PERIOD OF A GRANT.—The period of a grant

9 under this section may not exceed 3 years.

10 (h) REPORTS.—

11   (1) ANNUAL REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF

12   HIGHER EDUCATION.—Each institution of higher

13   education that receives a grant under the Program

14   shall annually submit to the Secretary a report on

15   the activities pursued under the Program, including

16   to the extent practical, the employment outcomes of

17   students who complete the program (including earn-

18   ings, job placement type, and employment rate).

19   (2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The

20   Secretary shall annually submit to the authorizing

21   committees a report relating to the use of grants

22   awarded under the Program. The Secretary shall

23   make each such report publicly available, including

24   by publishing each such report on the internet

25   website of the Department of Education.

1   (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated $100,000,000 to carry
3 out this section.

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