

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4758

To direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 29, 2014

Mr. CARNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank.

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 “Skills Connection Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CREATION OF SEARCHABLE DATABASE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall  
8 create a publicly available, easily navigable, and searchable  
9 database containing the following:

1           (1) A registry of credentials (which may be cer-  
2           tificates), for purposes of enabling programs that  
3           lead to such a credential to receive priority under a  
4           covered provision.

5           (2) A skills database, for purposes of enabling  
6           programs that lead to such a credential to receive  
7           priority under a covered provision.

8           (3) A jobs bank.

9           (b) CREDENTIALS REGISTRY.—In creating a registry  
10 of credentials, the Secretary shall—

11           (1) list the credential in the registry if the cre-  
12           dential is required by Federal or State law for an oc-  
13           cupation (such as a credential required by a State  
14           law regarding qualifications for a health care occu-  
15           pation);

16           (2) list the credential, and list an updated cre-  
17           dential, in the registry if the credential involved is  
18           an industry-recognized, nationally portable credential  
19           that is consistent with the Secretary’s established in-  
20           dustry competency models and is consistently up-  
21           dated through third party validation to reflect  
22           changing industry competencies; and

23           (3) for each credential listed in the registry,  
24           provide an assessment of which skills listed in the  
25           skills database created under subsection (c) align

1 with or are related to the requirements of the cre-  
2 dential.

3 (c) SKILLS DATABASE.—In creating a skills data-  
4 base, the Secretary shall—

5 (1) list identifiable skills that are required for  
6 employment in the manufacturing sector, as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary—

8 (A) by using Manufacturing Institute-En-  
9 dorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification Sys-  
10 tem or similar resource; or

11 (B) by consulting with an organization  
12 similar to the Manufacturing Institute;

13 (2) after consultation with the Manufacturing  
14 Institute or similar organization and representatives  
15 of the Armed Forces list identifiable skills developed  
16 through service in the Armed Forces; and

17 (3) for each skill listed under paragraphs (1)  
18 and (2), include information about how that skill  
19 aligns with or is related to the requirements for the  
20 credentials listed under the credentials registry cre-  
21 ated under subsection (b).

22 (d) JOBS BANK.—In creating a jobs bank, the Sec-  
23 retary shall—

24 (1) enable job seekers to—

1 (A) enter basic information through the  
2 statewide employment statistics system estab-  
3 lished under section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser  
4 Act (29 U.S.C. 49l-2) for their State of resi-  
5 dence about their skills, experience, credentials,  
6 and preferred area of employment; and

7 (B) browse job listings submitted by em-  
8 ployers to such jobs bank that match the cre-  
9 dentials, experience, or other qualifications en-  
10 tered under subparagraph (A);

11 (2) automatically match available jobs with job  
12 seekers who have matching qualifications; and

13 (3) enable information relating to shortages in  
14 certain skills or credentials available to be utilized by  
15 State workforce investment board established under  
16 section 111 of the Workforce Investment Board of  
17 1998 (29 U.S.C. 49j) and others to inform decisions  
18 about how to allocate workforce development re-  
19 sources.

20 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
21 shall be construed—

22 (1) to require an entity with responsibility for  
23 selecting or approving an education, training, or  
24 workforce investment activities program with regard  
25 to a covered provision, to select a program with a

1 credential listed in the registry described in sub-  
2 section (b); or

3 (2) to be an endorsement of a skill listed under  
4 the skills database described in subsection (c) by the  
5 Secretary of Labor or the Federal Government.

6 (f) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—For each fiscal year,  
7 funds shall be available from the amount appropriated for  
8 each such fiscal year for the Workforce Innovation Fund  
9 established under section 1801(a)(3) of title VIII of divi-  
10 sion B of Public Law 112–10 for the costs of carrying  
11 out the provisions of this Act.

12 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) ARMED FORCES.—The term “Armed  
14 Forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Ma-  
15 rine Corps.

16 (2) COVERED PROVISION.—The term “covered  
17 provision” means any of sections 129 and 134 of the  
18 Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854,  
19 2864), section 122(c)(1)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins  
20 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
21 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)), and section 236 of the Trade  
22 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296).

23 (3) INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The  
24 term “industry-recognized”, used with respect to a  
25 credential, means a credential that—

1 (A) is sought or accepted by companies  
2 within the industry sector involved as recog-  
3 nized, preferred, or required for recruitment,  
4 screening, or hiring; and

5 (B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized  
6 trade association or organization representing a  
7 significant part of the industry sector.

8 (4) **NATIONALLY PORTABLE.**—The term “na-  
9 tionally portable”, used with respect to a credential,  
10 means a credential that is sought or accepted by  
11 companies within the industry sector involved, across  
12 multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required  
13 for recruitment, screening, or hiring.

14 (5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
15 the Secretary of Labor.

16 (6) **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—  
17 The term “workforce investment activities” has the  
18 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Work-  
19 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

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