

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7291

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to train workers for broadband careers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. NICKEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to train workers for broadband careers.

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 “Broadband Industry  
5 Development Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BROADBAND INDUSTRY TRAINING GRANTS.**

7 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and  
8 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 172 as section 173;

2 and

3 (2) by inserting after section 171 the following:

4 **“SEC. 172. BROADBAND INDUSTRY TRAINING GRANTS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
6 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to pro-  
7 vide training programs (including pre-apprenticeship pro-  
8 grams) to prepare workers for careers in the broadband  
9 industry.

10 “(b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible  
11 to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity  
12 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time,  
13 in such manner, and containing such information as the  
14 Secretary may require.

15 “(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that  
16 receives a grant under this section shall provide, from non-  
17 Federal sources, an amount equal to 25 percent of the  
18 amount of the grant (which may be provided in cash or  
19 in kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant.

20 “(d) NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—Amounts au-  
21 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this section shall  
22 be derived solely from amounts otherwise appropriated for  
23 the Department of Labor.

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term  
2           ‘apprenticeship program’ means an apprenticeship  
3           registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-  
4           monly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’;  
5           50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

6           “(2) BROADBAND.—The term ‘broadband’ has  
7           the meaning given the term ‘broadband internet ac-  
8           cess service’ in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of  
9           Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

10           “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
11           tity’ means—

12                   “(A) an eligible provider of training serv-  
13                   ices identified under section 122 (or a consor-  
14                   tium of such providers);

15                   “(B) a labor organization or joint labor-  
16                   management organization;

17                   “(C) a nonprofit entity (such as a commu-  
18                   nity-based organization that assists program  
19                   participants in accessing supportive services);

20                   “(D) a private business;

21                   “(E) an industry association; or

22                   “(F) an institution of higher education  
23                   (such as a community college).

1           “(4) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The  
2 term ‘pre-apprenticeship program’ means a pro-  
3 gram—

4                   “(A) designed to assist individuals who do  
5 not meet minimum qualifications for an appren-  
6 ticeship program and prepare them to enter  
7 and succeed in such an apprenticeship, includ-  
8 ing by providing the skills and competency at-  
9 tainment needed to enter the apprenticeship;  
10 and

11                   “(B) that is carried out by a sponsor that  
12 has a written agreement with at least one spon-  
13 sor of an apprenticeship.”.

14 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE TABLE OF**  
15 **CONTENTS.**

16           The table of contents of the Workforce Innovation  
17 and Opportunity Act in section 1(b) is amended—

18                   (1) by striking the item relating to section 172;

19           and

20                   (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
21 tion 171, the following:

“Sec. 172. Broadband industry training grants.

“Sec. 173. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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