

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7849

To require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to eligible entities to train individuals for careers in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2020

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to eligible entities to train individuals for careers in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, 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 to as the “Renewable Energy
5 Jobs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRAINING AND EMPLOY-**
2 **MENT PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Labor shall
4 carry out a pilot program (in this section referred to as
5 the “pilot program”) to award competitive grants to eligi-
6 ble entities to train individuals for careers in the renew-
7 able energy and energy efficiency industries.

8 (b) APPLICATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under
10 the pilot program, an eligible entity shall submit an
11 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
12 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
13 retary may require.

14 (2) CONTENTS.—A grant application under this
15 section shall include the following:

16 (A) A proposal for a program to train indi-
17 viduals for careers in the renewable energy and
18 energy efficiency industries.

19 (B) A description of the presence of such
20 industries, and the availability of jobs in such
21 industries, in the State in which the eligible en-
22 tity will carry out the program.

23 (C) A description of the sustainability of
24 long-term careers in such industries in such
25 State, including a description of the growth of
26 such industries over the 10-year period pre-

1 ceding the date of the application and the pro-
2 duction output of such industries as of the date
3 of such application.

4 (D) A plan to coordinate the efforts of the
5 eligible entity under the program with relevant
6 efforts of workforce development boards.

7 (E) A description of how the program
8 aligns with the workforce plan of such State.

9 (F) A description of how the program will
10 aid participants to attain recognized postsec-
11 ondary credentials.

12 (c) DURATION OF GRANT.—Each grant under this
13 section shall be for a period of 3 years.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
15 a grant under this section may use the grant funds—

16 (1) to carry out the proposal submitted by the
17 recipient under subsection (b)(2)(A);

18 (2) to reimburse a primary entity for the cost
19 of providing on-the-job training;

20 (3) to reimburse a secondary entity for the cost
21 of providing skills training (or on-the-job training if
22 in partnership with an energy efficient employer);

23 (4) to reimburse an employer for wages associ-
24 ated with registered apprenticeship;

1 (5) to conduct outreach to inform primary enti-
2 ties, secondary entities, and the public, including in-
3 dividuals in rural areas and Indian tribes, of eligi-
4 bility or potential eligibility for participation in the
5 program; and

6 (6) to conduct any other activities that the Sec-
7 retary determines appropriate.

8 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection
9 (a), the Secretary shall prioritize grants to eligible entities
10 that submit a proposal to carry out a program in a State
11 that is among the 5 States with the highest installed alter-
12 native energy power capacity.

13 (f) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of receipt of funds
14 under this section, the Secretary shall require an eligible
15 entity to agree—

16 (1) to repay to the Secretary any amount re-
17 ceived under the pilot program that is not used for
18 the purposes described in subsection (d) by the date
19 that is 3 years after the date on which the recipient
20 received such funds;

21 (2) to submit to the Secretary, at such times
22 and containing such information as the Secretary
23 shall require, reports on the use of grant funds; and

24 (3) to ensure that any employer or other entity
25 receiving funds through a program under this sec-

1 tion pays each individual receiving on-the-job train-
2 ing provided by such employer or entity not less
3 than the applicable minimum wage for the State or
4 locality in which such training is provided.

5 (g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

6 (1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—Of the
7 amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
8 of appropriations under subsection (i), 2 percent
9 shall be made available to the Secretary for adminis-
10 trative costs associated with implementing and eval-
11 uating the pilot program under this section and for
12 preparing and submitting the report required under
13 subsection (h).

14 (2) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—The Sec-
15 retary shall determine the appropriate maximum
16 amount of each grant awarded under this section
17 that may be used by the recipient for administrative
18 and reporting costs.

19 (h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
20 submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot program
21 for each year of the grant period containing—

22 (1) a description of activities carried out under
23 this section;

24 (2) an evaluation of the pilot program; and

1 (3) a description of how many participants were
2 employed by renewable energy and energy efficiency
3 employers within 6 months of completing the train-
4 ing.

5 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
7 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023,
8 for the purpose of carrying out the pilot program.

9 (j) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

10 (1) The term “eligible entity” means—

11 (A) a primary entity; or

12 (B) a consortium of entities that—

13 (i) consists of one or more primary
14 entities; and

15 (ii) may include one or more sec-
16 ondary entities.

17 (2) The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning
18 given that term in section 102 of the Federally Rec-
19 ognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
20 479a).

21 (3) The term “installed alternative energy
22 power capacity” means the amount of wind, solar,
23 and geothermal power generation, expressed in
24 megawatts, installed in a State.

1 (4) The term “institution of higher education”
2 has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the
3 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
4 U.S.C. 3102).

5 (5) The term “labor organization” has the
6 meaning given such term in section 2 of the Na-
7 tional Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152).

8 (6) The term “on-the-job training” means
9 training by renewable energy and energy efficiency
10 employers, a labor organization, a institution of
11 higher education, or a nonprofit organization that is
12 provided to a paid participant while engaged in pro-
13 ductive work that—

14 (A) provides knowledge or skills essential
15 to the full and adequate performance of the job;

16 (B) provides reimbursement to the em-
17 ployer for the costs of providing the training
18 and additional supervision related to the train-
19 ing; and

20 (C) is limited in duration as appropriate to
21 the occupation for which the participant is
22 being trained, taking into account the content
23 of the training, the prior work experience of the
24 participant, and the service strategy of the par-
25 ticipant, as appropriate.

1 (7) The term “primary entity” means—

2 (A) a renewable energy and energy effi-
3 ciency employer; or

4 (B) a workforce development board.

5 (8) The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
6 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
8 U.S.C. 3102).

9 (9) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-
10 ficiency employer” means an employer that employs
11 individuals in a trade or business in the renewable
12 energy and energy efficiency industries.

13 (10) The term “renewable energy and energy
14 efficiency industries” means any of the following in-
15 dustries:

16 (A) The energy-efficient building, construc-
17 tion, or retrofits industry.

18 (B) The renewable electric power industry,
19 including the wind, solar, and geothermal en-
20 ergy industries.

21 (C) The energy efficiency assessment in-
22 dustry that serves the residential, commercial,
23 or industrial sectors.

1 (D) The industries that manufacture solar
2 panels, wind turbines, geothermal generators,
3 and similar products.

4 (11) The term “secondary entity” means—

5 (A) a institution of higher education;

6 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

7 (C) a labor organization.

8 (12) The term “skills training” means training
9 by secondary entity that provides the knowledge and
10 skills essential to specific jobs in the renewable en-
11 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

12 (13) The term “State” includes each of the sev-
13 eral States, the District of Columbia, the Common-
14 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Com-
15 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
16 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the
17 Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the ter-
18 ritories and possessions of the United States.

19 (14) The term “workforce development board”
20 means a State or local workforce development board
21 established under title I of the Workforce Innovation
22 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

○