

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8494

To provide that certain local parks are eligible for E-Rate support, to provide that local parks are eligible for the loan, lease, or transfer of certain excess research equipment, and to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a program to make grants for conducting technology training programs in local parks, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide that certain local parks are eligible for E-Rate support, to provide that local parks are eligible for the loan, lease, or transfer of certain excess research equipment, and to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a program to make grants for conducting technology training programs in local parks, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Technology in the
3 Parks Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. E-RATE SUPPORT FOR COVERED LOCAL PARKS.**

5 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
6 U.S.C. 254) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(6)—

8 (A) in the heading, by striking “AND LI-
9 BRARIES” and inserting “LIBRARIES, AND COV-
10 ERED LOCAL PARKS”; and

11 (B) by striking “and libraries” and insert-
12 ing “libraries, and covered local parks”;

13 (2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “and health
14 care providers” and inserting “health care providers,
15 and covered local parks”;

16 (3) in subsection (h)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)—

18 (i) in the heading, by striking “AND
19 LIBRARIES” and inserting “, LIBRARIES,
20 AND COVERED LOCAL PARKS”; and

21 (ii) by striking “and libraries” and in-
22 serting “libraries, and covered local
23 parks”;

24 (B) in paragraph (3)—

25 (i) by inserting “or a covered local
26 park” after “telecommunications user”;

1 (ii) by inserting “or park” after “such
2 user”; and

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing: “Notwithstanding the preceding
5 sentence, a covered local park may transfer
6 telecommunications services and network
7 capacity to an entity with which such park
8 has a contract as described in subsection
9 (m) to enable such entity to conduct a
10 qualified technology training program as
11 described in such subsection.”;

12 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “para-
13 graph (7)(A)” and inserting “paragraph
14 (8)(A)”;

15 (D) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
16 paragraph (8); and

17 (E) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
18 following:

19 “(7) INTERNET SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR
20 COVERED LOCAL PARKS.—Not later than 14 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
22 the Commission shall promulgate regulations that
23 provide for internet safety requirements for covered
24 local parks receiving services at discount rates under
25 paragraph (1)(B) that are substantially similar to

1 the requirements under paragraphs (5) and (6) and
2 subsection (l) for schools and libraries receiving serv-
3 ices at discount rates under paragraph (1)(B).”; and

4 (4) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(m) COVERED LOCAL PARK DEFINED.—In this sec-
6 tion, the term ‘covered local park’ means a local park, as
7 defined in subsection (h) of section 4 of the Technology
8 in the Parks Act of 2024, that has a contract with an
9 entity to allow such entity to conduct in such park a quali-
10 fied technology training program using a grant received
11 by such entity under such section.”.

12 **SEC. 3. LOAN, LEASE, OR TRANSFER OF CERTAIN EXCESS**
13 **RESEARCH EQUIPMENT.**

14 Subsection (i) of section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler
15 Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710) is
16 amended—

17 (1) by striking “The Director” and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director”;

20 (2) in paragraph (1), as so inserted, by striking
21 “or nonprofit organization” and inserting “, non-
22 profit organization, or local park”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
2 ‘local park’ means a park owned and maintained by
3 a local government.”.

4 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE PARK.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 60 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of Labor (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)
8 shall carry out a program under which the Secretary
9 makes grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to
10 pay the Federal share of the costs of conducting a quali-
11 fied technology training program in local parks.

12 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
13 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
14 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
15 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
16 quire.

17 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
18 a grant under this section shall use the grant to conduct
19 a qualified technology training program in a local park,
20 which may include the use of grant funds to—

21 (1) pay labor costs involved in conducting the
22 qualified technology training program described in
23 subsection (d);

1 (2) purchase or otherwise obtain necessary
2 equipment for the qualified technology training pro-
3 gram described in subsection (d);

4 (3) create or modify infrastructure to facilitate
5 the qualified technology training program described
6 in subsection (d); or

7 (4) carry out other activities directly related to
8 the activities needed to conduct the qualified tech-
9 nology training program described in subsection (d).

10 (d) QUALIFIED TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

11 DESCRIBED.—A qualified technology training program de-
12 scribed in this subsection is a program—

13 (1) the completion of which results in the award
14 of a recognized postsecondary credential (as defined
15 in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
16 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102));

17 (2) that occurs, to the extent practicable—

18 (A) after school;

19 (B) as a summer program; or

20 (C) as a continuing education program;

21 and

22 (3) that is designed to train or provide instruc-
23 tion to covered individuals in—

24 (A) coding;

25 (B) cyber security;

- 1 (C) network security;
- 2 (D) digital manufacturing;
- 3 (E) technology assistance;
- 4 (F) software development;
- 5 (G) database administration;
- 6 (H) web development;
- 7 (I) video production;
- 8 (J) robotics;
- 9 (K) artificial intelligence;
- 10 (L) video game design;
- 11 (M) reading;
- 12 (N) math; or
- 13 (O) a combination of the subjects described
- 14 in subparagraphs (A) through (N).

15 (e) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

16 (1) DURATION.—Each grant under this section
17 shall be made for a period of 2 years.

18 (2) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall determine
19 the maximum amount of each grant under this sec-
20 tion.

21 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant
22 under this section shall not exceed 10 percent of the costs
23 of carrying out the activities described in subsection (c).

24 (g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible enti-
25 ty shall use a grant received under this section only to

1 supplement funds that would, in the absence of such
2 grant, be made available from other Federal, State, or
3 local sources for activities supported by the grant, not to
4 supplant such funds.

5 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered
7 individual” means an individual who is—

8 (A) receiving—

9 (i) unemployment compensation under
10 any State or Federal law;

11 (ii) assistance under a State program
12 for temporary assistance to needy families
13 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
14 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

15 (iii) services under a State program
16 funded by the Social Services Block Grant
17 program under subtitle A of title XX of
18 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et
19 seq.); or

20 (iv) maternal and child health services
21 under a State program funded by title V of
22 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et
23 seq.); or

1 (B) entitled to monthly insurance benefits
2 under section 202 or 223 of the Social Security
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

4 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means a non-profit organization.

6 (3) LOCAL PARK.—The term “local park”
7 means a park owned and maintained by a local gov-
8 ernment—

9 (A) that has a physical structure suitable
10 for conducting a qualified technology training
11 program described in subsection (d); or

12 (B) at which such a physical structure may
13 be constructed.

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