

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8957

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2020

Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. COLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, 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 “Wind Workforce Mod-
5 ernization and Training Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act
3 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1107. WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) COVERED PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘cov-
8 ered participant’ means a participant enrolled, on
9 the date on which an eligible entity receives a grant
10 under this section, in the training program with re-
11 spect to which the grant is received.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
13 tity’ means a provider of training services that—

14 “(A) is on the list of eligible providers of
15 training services described in section 122(d) of
16 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
17 (29 U.S.C. 3152(d)), including joint labor-man-
18 agement organizations and postsecondary voca-
19 tional institutions; and

20 “(B) offers a training program for techni-
21 cians in the wind energy industry.

22 “(3) FINAL PARTICIPATION DATE.—The term
23 ‘final participation date’ means, for an eligible entity
24 receiving a grant under this section, the date on
25 which the last covered participant exits the training
26 program with respect to which the grant is received.

1 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall estab-
2 lish a program under which the Secretary shall award
3 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to pur-
4 chase large pieces of wind turbine component equipment
5 (such as nacelles, towers, and blades) for use in training
6 wind technician students.

7 “(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 final participation date, an eligible entity receiving a grant
9 under this section shall submit to the Secretary, with re-
10 spect to the covered participants, a report containing a
11 description of the levels of performance achieved with re-
12 spect to each of the primary indicators of performance de-
13 scribed in subclauses (I) through (VI) of section
14 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
15 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)).

16 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to
17 the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out
18 other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the
19 Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58;
23 119 Stat. 601) is amended by inserting after the item re-
24 lating to section 1106 the following:

“Sec. 1107. Wind technician training grant program.”.

1 **SEC. 3. VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act
3 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) (as amended by section
4 2(a)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 1108. VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
8 with the eligible entities defined in section 1107(a)(2), in-
9 cluding joint labor-management organizations and post-
10 secondary vocational institutions, shall design, establish,
11 and administer a program to prepare veterans for careers
12 in the wind energy industry by providing classroom in-
13 struction and work-based learning.

14 “(b) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to
15 the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out
16 other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the
17 Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
20 for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58;
21 119 Stat. 601) (as amended by section 2(b)) is further
22 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
23 1107 the following:

“Sec. 1108. Veterans in wind energy.”.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON WIND TECHNICIAN WORK-**
2 **FORCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (referred
4 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall convene a task
5 force comprised of 1 or more representatives of each of
6 the stakeholders described in subsection (b) that shall—

7 (1) conduct a study to assess the training needs
8 of technicians working in the wind energy industry;

9 (2) create a comprehensive list that—

10 (A) lists each type of wind energy industry
11 technician position available in the United
12 States; and

13 (B) describes the skill sets required for
14 each type of position listed under subparagraph
15 (A); and

16 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, make publicly available and
18 submit to Congress a report that—

19 (A) describes the results of that study;

20 (B) includes the comprehensive list de-
21 scribed in paragraph (2); and

22 (C) provides recommendations—

23 (i) for creating a credentialing pro-
24 gram for wind energy industry technicians
25 that may be administered by eligible enti-
26 ties (as defined in section 1107(a)(2) of

1 the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as added
2 by section 2(a) of this Act); and

3 (ii) that reflect best practices for
4 training programs for technicians in the
5 wind energy industry, as identified by rep-
6 resentatives of the wind energy industry.

7 (b) STAKEHOLDERS DESCRIBED.—The stakeholders
8 referred to in subsection (a) are—

9 (1) the Department of Defense;

10 (2) the Department of Education;

11 (3) the Department of Energy;

12 (4) the Department of Labor;

13 (5) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

14 (6) eligible entities (as defined in section
15 1107(a)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as
16 added by section 2(a) of this Act), including joint-
17 labor management organizations and postsecondary
18 vocational institutions; and

19 (7) the wind energy industry.

20 (c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to the
21 Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out other
22 programs under the authority of the Secretary, the Sec-
23 retary shall use to carry out this section \$500,000.

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