

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2506

To establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2018

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

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. AVIATION MAINTENANCE WORKFORCE DEVEL-**
4 **OPMENT PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
6 Aviation Administration may carry out a pilot program to
7 provide grants for eligible projects to support the edu-
8 cation and recruitment of aviation maintenance technical
9 workers and the development of the aviation maintenance
10 industry workforce.

1 (b) PROJECT GRANTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
3 appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
4 2019 through 2023 to provide grants under the pilot
5 program established under subsection (a).

6 (2) DOLLAR AMOUNT LIMIT.—Not more than
7 \$500,000 shall be made available for any one-time
8 grant in any fiscal year under the pilot program es-
9 tablished under subsection (a).

10 (c) ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS.—An application for a
11 grant under the pilot program established under sub-
12 section (a) shall be submitted, in such form as the com-
13 mittee established under subsection (e) may specify, joint-
14 ly by—

15 (1) a holder of a certificate issued under part
16 21, 121, 135, or 145 of title 14, Code of Federal
17 Regulations, or a labor organization representing
18 aviation maintenance workers;

19 (2) an accredited institution of higher education
20 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
21 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

22 (3) a State or local governmental entity.

23 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—For purposes of the pilot
24 program established under subsection (a), an eligible
25 project is a project—

1 (1) to establish new educational programs that
2 teach technical skills used in aviation maintenance,
3 including purchasing equipment, or to improve exist-
4 ing such programs;

5 (2) to establish scholarships or apprenticeships
6 for individuals pursuing employment in the aviation
7 maintenance industry;

8 (3) to support outreach about careers in the
9 aviation maintenance industry to—

10 (A) primary, secondary, and post-sec-
11 ondary school students; or

12 (B) to communities underrepresented in
13 the industry;

14 (4) to support educational opportunities related
15 to aviation maintenance in economically disadvan-
16 taged geographic areas;

17 (5) to support transition to careers in aviation
18 maintenance, including for members of the Armed
19 Forces; or

20 (6) to otherwise enhance aviation maintenance
21 technical education or the aviation maintenance in-
22 dustry workforce, as determined by a unanimous
23 vote of the committee established under subsection
24 (e).

25 (e) GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW.—

1 (1) REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The Administrator
2 shall establish a committee to review and select ap-
3 plications for grants under the pilot program estab-
4 lished under subsection (a).

5 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The committee estab-
7 lished under paragraph (1) shall be comprised
8 of—

9 (i) representatives of aircraft repair
10 stations, air carriers, design and produc-
11 tion approval holders, labor organizations,
12 business aviation, general aviation, edu-
13 cational institutions, and other relevant
14 sectors; or

15 (ii) representatives of recognized in-
16 dustry groups representing entities de-
17 scribed in clause (i).

18 (B) LIMITATION.—The committee estab-
19 lished under paragraph (1) shall have not more
20 than 9 members.

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