

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 268

To provide funding for a Green Job Corps program, YouthBuild Build Green Grants, and Green-Collar Youth Opportunity Grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide funding for a Green Job Corps program, YouthBuild Build Green Grants, and Green-Collar Youth Opportunity Grants, 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 “Green-Collar Youth
5 Jobs, Education, and Training Stimulus Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that there is a serious and growing
8 need for employment opportunities for economically dis-
9 advantaged youth (including young adults), as dem-

1 onstrated by statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 stating that, in December 2008—

3 (1) the unemployment rate increased to 7.2 per-
4 cent, as compared to 4.9 percent in December 2007;

5 (2) the unemployment rate for 16- to 19-year-
6 olds rose to 20.8 percent, as compared to 16.9 per-
7 cent in December 2007; and

8 (3) the unemployment rate for African-Amer-
9 ican 16- to 19-year-olds increased to 33.7 percent,
10 as compared to 28 percent in December 2007.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

12 The purposes of this Act are—

13 (1) to increase knowledge of the importance of
14 building a green economy;

15 (2) to increase energy efficiency and renewable
16 energy usage;

17 (3) to strengthen the protection of the environ-
18 ment;

19 (4) to decrease carbon emissions; and

20 (5) to increase the number of well-trained youth
21 workers who can obtain well-paying jobs in a range
22 of green-collar industries and other viable industries.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) GREEN-COLLAR INDUSTRIES.—In this sec-
2 tion, the term “green-collar industries” means in-
3 dustries throughout the economy of the United
4 States—

5 (A) that promote energy efficiency, energy
6 conservation, and environmental protection, in-
7 cluding promoting renewable energy and clean
8 technology;

9 (B) that offer jobs with substantial pay
10 and benefits; and

11 (C) that are industries in which there is
12 likely to be continued demand for workers.

13 (2) LOCAL BOARD, LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL,
14 SECRETARY.—The terms “local board”, “low-income
15 individual”, and “Secretary” have the meanings
16 given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce In-
17 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

18 (3) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
19 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
20 means an industry skills training program at the
21 postsecondary level that combines technical and the-
22 oretical training through structured on-the-job learn-
23 ing with related instruction (in a classroom or
24 through distance learning) while an individual is em-
25 ployed, working under the direction of qualified per-

1 sonnel or a mentor, and earning incremental wage
2 increases aligned to enhanced job proficiency, result-
3 ing in the acquisition of a nationally recognized and
4 portable certificate, under a plan approved by the
5 Office of Apprenticeship or a State agency recog-
6 nized by the Department of Labor.

7 **SEC. 5. GREEN JOB CORPS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

9 (1) to encourage youth participating in the Job
10 Corps to become informed energy- and environ-
11 mentally-conscious consumers;

12 (2) to enable the youth to acquire and expand
13 skills related to green-collar industries; and

14 (3) to address Job Corps construction needs
15 and energy costs and to make Job Corps centers
16 more energy efficient, including retrofitting facilities
17 and restoring campuses.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “en-
19 rollee”, “graduate”, and “Job Corps Center” have the
20 meanings given the terms in section 142 of the Workforce
21 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2882).

22 (c) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is author-
23 ized to reserve not more than \$500,000,000 of the funds
24 appropriated under this Act to provide work experiences
25 and training described in subsection (d) in green-collar in-

1 dustries. The Secretary shall provide the work experiences
2 and training, in conjunction with activities described in
3 section 148 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
4 U.S.C. 2888), under subtitle C of title I of such Act (29
5 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.) (except that subsections (c) and (d)
6 of section 159 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2899) shall not
7 apply to such experiences and training).

8 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (1) SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall expand Job Corps skill
10 development program activities by updating occupa-
11 tional training programs (including making changes
12 in curriculum and equipment), including develop-
13 ment of necessary academic skills in green-collar in-
14 dustries (including construction, facilities mainte-
15 nance, and advanced manufacturing).
16

17 (2) PAID WORK OPPORTUNITIES.—As part of
18 Job Corps career training, the Secretary shall pro-
19 vide paid work opportunities, in green-collar indus-
20 tries, primarily located at Job Corps centers, in
21 order to address Job Corps construction needs and
22 make those centers more energy efficient, including
23 retrofitting facilities and restoring campuses. In car-
24 rying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall give
25 priority to projects that help conserve, develop, or

1 manage public natural resources or public rec-
 2 reational areas, or support the public interest.

3 (3) CONSUMER AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—

4 As part of the Job Corps life skills program, the
 5 Secretary shall offer consumer and leadership activi-
 6 ties, to create a corps of intelligent and informed
 7 energy- and environmentally-conscious consumers,
 8 including activities that educate Job Corps members
 9 about how they can contribute to minimize the ef-
 10 fects of climate change and become future leaders in
 11 their local communities who preserve and strengthen
 12 energy- and environmentally-conscious practices.

13 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

14 (1) INDICATOR.—For purposes of the Green
 15 Job Corps program carried out under this section,
 16 the indicators of performance shall be—

17 (A) entry of graduates who participated in
 18 work experiences described in subsection (d)(2)
 19 into unsubsidized employment in a green-collar
 20 industry;

21 (B) average wages received by such grad-
 22 uates upon entry into such employment; and

23 (C) number of such graduates who obtain
 24 an occupational or education-related credential.

1 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall prepare
2 an assessment of the Green Job Corps program
3 that—

4 (A) describes the use of funds made avail-
5 able under this section to carry out the pro-
6 gram and the progress achieved through that
7 program; and

8 (B) provides information on the perform-
9 ance of the program on the indicators of per-
10 formance.

11 (3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include the
12 assessment described in paragraph (2) in the cor-
13 responding annual report described in subsection (c)
14 of section 159 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2899), in lieu
15 of submitting any of the information described in
16 subsection (c) or (d) of that section 159 with respect
17 to the Green Job Corps program.

18 **SEC. 6. YOUTHBUILD BUILD GREEN GRANTS.**

19 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is author-
20 ized to reserve \$300,000,000 of the funds appropriated
21 under this Act to provide to eligible youth education, work
22 experiences (including service), and training, in green-col-
23 lar industries, especially concerning the weatherization
24 and energy retrofitting of homes of low-income individuals.
25 The Secretary shall provide the services described in this

1 subsection in conjunction with activities described in sec-
2 tion 173A(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
3 (29 U.S.C. 2918a(c)), under the YouthBuild program set
4 forth in section 173A of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2918a) (ex-
5 cept that paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (c),
6 and subsection (d), of such section shall not apply to such
7 services).

8 (b) GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to award
9 from the reserved funds, on a competitive basis,
10 YouthBuild Build Green grants to entities that are recipi-
11 ents of YouthBuild grants under section 173A of such Act.

12 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
13 under this section, an entity shall submit an application
14 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
15 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

16 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
17 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to entities who—

18 (1) demonstrate the ability to leverage addi-
19 tional resources, which may include materials, per-
20 sonnel, and supplies, from other public and private
21 sources; and

22 (2) demonstrate the ability to build a founda-
23 tion of public-private partnerships in a green-collar
24 industry, related to construction, for future projects
25 carried out by the entities.

1 (e) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—To be eligible to participate
2 in the program carried out under this section, a youth
3 shall meet the requirements of section 173A(e)(1) of the
4 Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
5 2918a(e)(1)).

6 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING.—An
8 entity that receives a grant under this section shall
9 use not less than 90 percent of the funds made
10 available through the grant to provide to partici-
11 pants in the program carried out under this section
12 a combination of classroom education and job skills
13 development, through onsite training and work expe-
14 riences (including construction or rehabilitation of
15 facilities) in a construction trade that makes effi-
16 cient use of green technologies. Such education and
17 skills development shall be designed to prepare the
18 participants for jobs in green-collar industries in
19 their communities and States.

20 (2) SUPERVISION AND TRAINING.—The entity
21 may use not more than 10 percent of the grant
22 funds for supervision and training costs related to
23 the activities described in paragraph (1).

24 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 (1) INDICATORS.—For purposes of the program
2 carried out under this section, the indicators of per-
3 formance shall be—

4 (A) entry of individuals who completed
5 their participation in the program and who par-
6 ticipated in activities described in subsection
7 (f)(1) into registered apprenticeship programs
8 in a construction trade in a green-collar indus-
9 try or a related trade; and

10 (B) entry of such individuals, who partici-
11 pated in such activities, into unsubsidized em-
12 ployment in a green-collar industry.

13 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall prepare
14 an assessment of the program that—

15 (A) describes the use of funds made avail-
16 able under this section to carry out the pro-
17 gram and the progress achieved through that
18 program; and

19 (B) provides information on the perform-
20 ance of the program on the indicators of per-
21 formance.

22 (3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
23 submit to Congress a report containing the assess-
24 ment described in paragraph (2).

1 **SEC. 7. GREEN-COLLAR YOUTH OPPORTUNITY GRANTS.**

2 (a) DEFINITION.—The term “community college”
3 means a 2-year institution of higher education, as defined
4 in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1001).

6 (b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is author-
7 ized to reserve \$200,000,000 of the funds appropriated
8 under this Act for work experiences and training in green-
9 collar industries for eligible youth. The Secretary shall
10 provide the work experiences and training in conjunction
11 with activities described in section 169(b) of the Work-
12 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2914(b)), under
13 the Youth Opportunity Grants program described in sec-
14 tion 169 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 2914) (except that sub-
15 sections (a)(3), (b)(2), (d), (e)(2), (f), and (g) of such sec-
16 tion shall not apply to such work experiences and train-
17 ing).

18 (c) GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to award
19 from the reserved funds, on a competitive basis, Green-
20 Collar Youth Opportunity Grants to eligible organizations.

21 (d) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
23 grant under this section, an organization shall be a
24 local board described in section 169(c) of the Work-
25 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2914(e))
26 an entity described in section 169(d) of such Act (29

1 U.S.C. 2914(d)), or an entity acting of behalf of an
2 eligible strategic partnership.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
5 subsection, an eligible strategic partnership
6 shall be composed of at least 1 representative of
7 a local board serving a community, and of each
8 of the 8 types of organizations described in sub-
9 paragraph (B).

10 (B) TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS.—The
11 types of organizations referred to in subpara-
12 graph (A) are businesses, unions, labor-manage-
13 ment partnerships, schools (including commu-
14 nity colleges), public agencies including law en-
15 forcement, nonprofit community organizations,
16 economic development entities, and philan-
17 thropic organizations, that are actively engaged
18 in providing learning, mentoring, and work op-
19 portunities to eligible youth.

20 (3) FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT.—The
21 strategic partnership shall designate an entity, which
22 shall be a member of the partnership, as the stra-
23 tegic partnership's fiscal and administrative entity
24 for the implementation of activities under the grant.

1 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
2 under this section, an organization shall submit an appli-
3 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

5 (f) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this section,
6 the Secretary shall give priority to organizations located
7 in communities described in subsection (c) or (d)(2) of sec-
8 tion 169 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
9 U.S.C. 2914).

10 (g) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—To be eligible to participate
11 in a program carried out under this section, a youth
12 shall—

13 (1) be not less than age 14 and not more than
14 age 24;

15 (2) reside in a community described in sub-
16 section (c) or (d)(2) of section 169 of such Act; and

17 (3) have multiple barriers to education and ca-
18 reer success, as specified by the Secretary.

19 (h) USE OF FUNDS.—An organization that receives
20 a grant under this section may use the funds made avail-
21 able through the grant to provide programs of work expe-
22 riences and training in green-collar industries that include
23 education and paid work experiences. The work experi-
24 ences shall involve retrofitting buildings (including facili-
25 ties of small businesses) to achieve energy savings, or en-

1 hancing, creating, or preserving public space, within the
2 communities served. In providing the programs, the orga-
3 nization may provide any of the activities described in sub-
4 section (b)(1) of that section 169.

5 (i) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

6 (1) INDICATORS.—For purposes of the program
7 carried out under this section, the indicators of per-
8 formance shall be—

9 (A) acquisition of a high school diploma or
10 its generally recognized equivalent by individ-
11 uals who completed their participation in the
12 program and who participated in training de-
13 scribed in subsection (b);

14 (B) entry of such individuals, who partici-
15 pated in work experiences described in sub-
16 section (b), into postsecondary education linked
17 to the green economy, including registered ap-
18 prenticeship programs in a green-collar indus-
19 try; and

20 (C) entry of such individuals, who partici-
21 pated in work experiences described in sub-
22 section (b), into unsubsidized employment in a
23 green-collar industry.

24 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall prepare
25 an assessment of the program that—

1 (A) describes the use of funds made avail-
2 able under this section to carry out the pro-
3 gram and the progress achieved through that
4 program; and

5 (B) provides information on the perform-
6 ance of the program, including on the indicators
7 of performance.

8 (3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
9 submit to Congress a report containing the assess-
10 ment described in paragraph (2).

11 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
13 retary for activities described in this Act \$1,000,000,000,
14 which shall be available for the period of January 1, 2009
15 through December 31, 2010.

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