

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 90

To establish a National Board on workforce skills and to develop a comprehensive school-to-work transition program for students in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

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

A BILL

To establish a National Board on workforce skills and to develop a comprehensive school-to-work transition program for students in the United States.

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 “Workforce Readiness
5 Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act:

8 (1) The term “career guidance counselor”
9 means an individual who is certified in career guid-

1 ance and who assists students with evaluating career
2 options, opportunities, planning, and decisionmaking
3 and in seeking and obtaining employment.

4 (2) The term “generic skills” means cross-in-
5 dustry, cross-occupation skills which are necessary
6 for all individuals to have to be effective participants
7 in the workforce.

8 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
9 of Education.

10 (4) The term “school-to-work transition” means
11 the process by which students acquire academic and
12 occupational skills and work experience to assist in
13 the transition from school to employment.

14 **TITLE I—NATIONAL BOARD ON** 15 **WORKFORCE SKILLS**

16 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

17 There is established a National Board on Workforce
18 Skills for the 21st Century (in this title referred to as the
19 “National Board”).

20 **SEC. 102. PURPOSE.**

21 It is the purpose of this title to oversee the develop-
22 ment of voluntary national standards that will identify the
23 generic workplace readiness skills which employers agree
24 all students should have upon completion of high school
25 in order to be effective participants in the workforce.

1 **SEC. 103. DUTIES.**

2 The National Board shall—

3 (1) work with employers and educators to es-
4 tablish, through a broad public process, voluntary
5 national standards that will identify the generic
6 workplace readiness skills which employers agree
7 that students should have upon completion of high
8 school;

9 (2) in developing such standards, take into con-
10 sideration current work in this area undertaken
11 under other auspices, including activities carried out
12 under title II;

13 (3) consult with industry-specific occupational
14 boards formulate work-ready skills standards;

15 (4) conduct research and evaluation activities
16 necessary to determine the relationship between pos-
17 session of skills and increased work performance;

18 (5) update such skills as the skill requirements
19 of the economy change;

20 (6) conduct research and demonstration activi-
21 ties which include the development and testing of
22 models for integrating skills into the school-based
23 learning in the K–12 grades, giving priority to mod-
24 els which integrate academic and workplace instruc-
25 tion beginning in elementary school grades;

1 (7) release draft standards for broad review and
2 comment, and ensure the input of a broad range of
3 employers including small businesses;

4 (8) once the final standards have been approved
5 by the National Board, work with consortia of em-
6 ployers, labor, and education representatives to in-
7 corporate the standards into State and local sys-
8 temic education reform efforts; and

9 (9) recommend procedures for the dissemina-
10 tion of information and the provision of technical as-
11 sistance to consortia of business, labor, and edu-
12 cation.

13 **SEC. 104. COMPOSITION.**

14 The National Board shall be composed of 23 mem-
15 bers appointed in accordance with section 105, represent-
16 ing business and industry, labor, education, and local gov-
17 ernment. The National Board shall reflect a broad range
18 of businesses, including representatives from the manufac-
19 turing, financial, and service sectors.

20 **SEC. 105. MEMBERSHIP.**

21 Members of the National Board shall be appointed
22 as follows:

23 (1) 7 members, of which at least 3 shall be
24 Baldrige Award winners, shall be appointed by the
25 Speaker of the House of Representatives, upon rec-

1 ommendations of the majority and minority leaders
2 of the House, respectively.

3 (2) 7 members, of which at least 3 shall be
4 Baldrige Award winners, shall be appointed by the
5 President pro tempore of the Senate, upon rec-
6 ommendations of the majority and minority leaders
7 of the Senate, respectively.

8 (3) 7 members, of which at least 3 shall be
9 Baldrige Award winners, shall be appointed by the
10 President of the United States.

11 **SEC. 106. EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.**

12 The Secretary of education and the Secretary of
13 Labor shall serve as ex officio members of the National
14 Board.

15 **SEC. 107. TERMS OF APPOINTEES.**

16 (a) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The members of the
17 National Board appointed under paragraph 1 of section
18 105 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, the members
19 appointed under paragraph 2 of section 105 shall be ap-
20 pointed for a term of 4 years, and the members appointed
21 under paragraph 3 of section 105 shall be appointed for
22 a term of 5 years.

23 (b) SUBSEQUENT TERMS.—After the terms under
24 subsection (a) are served, each member appointed subse-
25 quently shall be appointed for a 3-year term.

1 **SEC. 108. CHAIRPERSON.**

2 The National Board shall annually elect a Chair-
3 person from among its members who shall serve for a term
4 of 1 year.

5 **SEC. 109. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.**

6 (a) COMPENSATION.—Members of the National
7 Board shall serve without compensation.

8 (b) EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or
9 regular places of business on the business of the National
10 Board, members of the Board may be allowed travel ex-
11 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as is au-
12 thorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (c) STAFF.—The National Board shall appoint an
14 Executive Director who shall be compensated at a rate de-
15 termined by the National Board not to exceed level 15 of
16 the General Schedule under title 5, United States Code,
17 and who may appoint such staff as is necessary.

18 **TITLE II—SCHOOL-TO-WORK**
19 **TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

20 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

21 It is the purpose of this title to develop school-to-work
22 transition programs which provide students with the edu-
23 cation and skills necessary to enter the workplace ready
24 to perform and able to attain a satisfactory standard of
25 living.

1 **SEC. 202. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
3 make grants to local educational agencies to develop, im-
4 plement, or expand programs which integrate workplace
5 skills into the regular school curriculum in order to facili-
6 tate the transition from school to work.

7 (b) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE.—In
8 approving grants under this title, the Secretary shall as-
9 sure an equitable distribution of assistance among the
10 States and among urban and rural areas of the States.

11 **SEC. 203. APPLICATIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency that
13 desires to receive a grant under this title shall submit an
14 application to the Secretary at such time, in such form,
15 and containing such information that the Secretary may
16 reasonably require.

17 (b) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Such application
18 shall include—

19 (1) the composition of the business/industry/
20 labor partnership with which the local education
21 agency will work to develop and implement an effec-
22 tive school-to-work transition program;

23 (2) a description of how funds will be used;

24 (3) a description of how the program will be co-
25 ordinated with K–12 vocational educational pro-
26 grams; and

1 (4) an assurance that the applicant shall main-
2 tain data and information regarding the program,
3 including the number of students served.

4 **SEC. 204. USES OF FUNDS.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Grants made available under
6 this title shall be used by local educational agencies work-
7 ing to develop and implement comprehensive school-to-
8 work transition which shall include processes and proce-
9 dures for—

10 (1) enabling students to gain a better under-
11 standing of skill necessary for the workplace through
12 work site visits, demonstrating and using of business
13 technologies in the classroom, and bringing rep-
14 resentatives of business and organized labor into the
15 classroom;

16 (2) developing or adopting curricula and in-
17 structional materials which incorporate generic
18 workplace skills;

19 (3) expanding opportunities for students to
20 enter career preparation programs that integrate
21 academic instruction with workplace instruction;

22 (4) providing career guidance counselors to as-
23 sist students seeking job placement or further occu-
24 pational specific education; and

1 (5) professional development strategies for
2 teachers, principals, counselors, and other school
3 personnel to further the purposes of this title.

4 (b) OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES.—A local educational
5 agency may—

6 (1) initiate a flexible school schedule to enable
7 students to spend adequate time in the classroom
8 and at the workplace; and

9 (2) design programs which enhance opportuni-
10 ties for students to enter into programs leading to
11 an associate degree in an occupational field or pro-
12 gram authorized under part E, title III of the Carl
13 Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Edu-
14 cation Act.

15 **SEC. 205. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.**

16 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant
17 under this title may not exceed—

18 (1) 90 percent of the total cost of a project for
19 the first year for which the project receives assist-
20 ance under this title, and

21 (2) 75 percent of such cost for the second such
22 year and each subsequent year.

23 (b) OTHER SOURCES.—The share of payments from
24 sources other than funds appropriated under this title may
25 be in cash or in-kind fairly evaluated.

1 **SEC. 206. REPORTING.**

2 (a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—A local educational
3 agency that receives a grant under this title shall submit
4 a report to the Secretary each year.

5 (b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—The Secretary
6 shall submit to the Congress a biannual report.

7 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
9 priated \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 and such sums
10 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1994,
11 1995, 1996, and 1997 for grants to local educational
12 agencies for the development and implementation of pro-
13 grams under this title to assist students to make the tran-
14 sition from school to work.

15 (b) FUNDS FOR NATIONAL BOARD.—Of the funds
16 authorized under subsection (a), 5 percent shall be re-
17 served for activities authorized under title I of this Act.

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