

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4648

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to train individuals for employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2014

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to train individuals for employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries.

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 to as the “Renewable Energy
5 Jobs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRAINING AND EMPLOY-**
2 **MENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Labor shall
4 carry out a pilot program to award competitive grants to
5 States to train individuals for careers in the renewable en-
6 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

7 (b) GRANT AWARDS.—The Secretary shall award
8 grants under the pilot program to the five States with the
9 highest installed alternative energy power capacity.

10 (c) APPLICATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that desires a grant
12 under the pilot program shall submit an application
13 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
14 accompanied by such information as the Secretary
15 may reasonably require.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—A grant application under the
17 pilot program shall include the following:

18 (A) Evidence of the installed alternative
19 energy power capacity for wind, solar, and geo-
20 thermal facilities in that State.

21 (B) A description of how the funds will be
22 used to establish and administer a program de-
23 signed to provide skills training or on-the-job
24 training for a significant number of individuals
25 and ensure lasting and sustainable employment

1 in the renewable energy and energy efficiency
2 industries.

3 (C) A description of the State's option to
4 coordinate with its State and local workforce in-
5 vestment boards and Energy Efficiency Indus-
6 try Councils in carrying out a program funded
7 by a grant under this Act, including through
8 partnerships of local boards with renewable en-
9 ergy and energy efficiency employers and other
10 appropriate providers of training services.

11 (D) A description of the skills training, on-
12 the-job training, or both that may be offered to
13 individuals by grant recipients, and how this
14 training will lead to an industry-recognized cer-
15 tificate or similar credential.

16 (E) A description of how the State plans
17 to prioritize grants among grant recipients.

18 (F) A description of how the grant may be
19 used to support existing programs focused on
20 renewable energy job creation.

21 (d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure
22 that grants are of sufficient size to enable States to carry
23 out all required activities.

24 (e) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-
25 tion shall be for a period of 3 years.

1 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—A State receiving a grant under
2 this section shall use the grant funds to—

3 (1) reimburse a renewable energy and energy
4 efficiency employer for the cost of providing on-the-
5 job training;

6 (2) reimburse any of the following entities for
7 the cost of providing skills training (or on-the-job
8 training if in partnership with an energy efficient
9 employer)—

10 (A) a labor organization;

11 (B) a postsecondary educational institu-
12 tion; or

13 (C) nonprofit organizations; and

14 (3) conduct outreach to inform renewable en-
15 ergy and energy efficiency employers, labor organiza-
16 tions, postsecondary educational institutions, non-
17 profit organizations, and the general public, includ-
18 ing individuals in rural areas and Indian tribes, of
19 their eligibility or potential eligibility for participa-
20 tion in the program.

21 (g) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, a grant
22 to a State shall be subject to the following conditions:

23 (1) The State shall repay to the Secretary, on
24 such date as shall be determined by the Secretary,

1 any amount received under the pilot program that is
2 not used for the purposes described in subsection (f).

3 (2) The State shall submit to the Secretary, at
4 such times and containing such information as the
5 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of grant
6 funds.

7 (h) REQUIREMENTS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In
8 order to receive a grant made by a State under the pilot
9 program, an entity described in subsection (f) shall—

10 (1) submit an application to the State that in-
11 cludes such other information and assurances as the
12 State may require; and

13 (2) agree to submit to the State, for each quar-
14 ter, a report containing such information as the Sec-
15 retary may specify.

16 (i) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

17 (1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—Of the
18 amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
19 of appropriations under subsection (l), 2 percent
20 shall be made available to the Secretary for adminis-
21 trative costs associated with implementing and eval-
22 uating the pilot program under this section and for
23 preparing and submitting the report required under
24 subsection (j).

1 (2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary
2 shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of
3 each grant awarded under this section that may be
4 used by the recipient for administrative and report-
5 ing costs.

6 (j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall sub-
7 mit to Congress an annual report on the pilot program
8 for each year of the grant period. The report on the pilot
9 program shall include a detailed description of activities
10 carried out under this section and an evaluation of the
11 program, and how many participants were employed by
12 renewable energy and energy efficiency employers within
13 6 months of completing the training.

14 (k) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-
15 propriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
16 years 2015 through 2017, for the purpose of carrying out
17 the pilot program.

18 (l) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

19 (1) The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning
20 given that term in section 102 of the Federally Rec-
21 ognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
22 479a).

23 (2) The term “installed alternative energy
24 power capacity” means the amount of wind, solar,

1 and geothermal power generation, expressed in
2 megawatts, installed in a State.

3 (3) The term “labor organization” has the
4 meaning given such term in section 2 of the Na-
5 tional Labor Relations Act.

6 (4) The term “on-the-job training” means
7 training by renewable energy and energy efficiency
8 employers, a labor organization, a postsecondary
9 educational institution, or a nonprofit organization
10 that is provided to a paid participant while engaged
11 in productive work that—

12 (A) provides knowledge or skills essential
13 to the full and adequate performance of the job;

14 (B) provides reimbursement to the em-
15 ployer for the costs of providing the training
16 and additional supervision related to the train-
17 ing; and

18 (C) is limited in duration as appropriate to
19 the occupation for which the participant is
20 being trained, taking into account the content
21 of the training, the prior work experience of the
22 participant, and the service strategy of the par-
23 ticipant, as appropriate.

24 (5) The term “postsecondary educational insti-
25 tution” has the meaning given such term in section

1 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
2 U.S.C. 2801).

3 (6) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-
4 ficiency employer” means an entity that employs in-
5 dividuals in a trade or business in the renewable en-
6 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

7 (7) The term “renewable energy and energy ef-
8 ficiency industries” means any of the following in-
9 dustries:

10 (A) The energy-efficient building, construc-
11 tion, or retrofits industry.

12 (B) The renewable electric power industry,
13 including the wind, solar, and geothermal en-
14 ergy industries.

15 (C) The energy efficiency assessment in-
16 dustry that serves the residential, commercial,
17 or industrial sectors.

18 (8) The term “skills training” means training
19 by a labor organization, a postsecondary educational
20 institution, or a nonprofit organization that provides
21 the knowledge and skills essential to specific jobs in
22 the renewable energy and energy efficiency indus-
23 tries.

24 (9) The term “State” includes each of the sev-
25 eral States, the District of Columbia, the Common-

1 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Com-
2 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
3 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the
4 Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the ter-
5 ritories and possessions of the United States.

6 (10) The term “workforce investment board”
7 refers to a State or local workforce investment board
8 established pursuant to the Workforce Investment
9 Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) that coordi-
10 nates job training programs for that State or local
11 area under that Act.

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