

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4061

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive, nationwide, energy-related industries jobs program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive, nationwide, energy-related industries jobs program, 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 “Blue Collar and Green
5 Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENERGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
8 propriations for such purpose, the Secretary shall estab-
9 lish and carry out a comprehensive, nationwide program

1 to improve education and training for jobs in energy-re-
2 lated industries in order to increase the number of skilled
3 workers trained for such jobs.

4 (b) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
6 established under subsection (a), the Secretary may
7 provide—

8 (A) financial assistance awards, technical
9 assistance, and other assistance the Secretary
10 determines appropriate, to educational institu-
11 tions and covered organizations and programs,
12 including those serving unemployed energy
13 workers; and

14 (B) internships, fellowships, traineeships,
15 and apprenticeships at the Department of En-
16 ergy, including at the Department of Energy
17 national laboratories.

18 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to subsection (c),
19 the Secretary shall distribute assistance described in
20 paragraph (1) in a manner proportional to the needs
21 of energy-related industries and demand for jobs in
22 energy-related industries, consistent with informa-
23 tion developed under subsection (e).

24 (c) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the program estab-
25 lished under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

1 (1) prioritize the education and training of indi-
2 viduals from underrepresented communities for jobs
3 in energy-related industries, including in providing
4 internships, fellowships, traineeships, apprentice-
5 ships, and employment at the Department of En-
6 ergy, including at the Department of Energy na-
7 tional laboratories; and

8 (2) in providing research grants and technical
9 assistance to educational institutions, give priority to
10 minority-serving institutions.

11 (d) COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH.—In carrying
12 out the program established under subsection (a), the Sec-
13 retary shall—

14 (1) collaborate with—

15 (A) to the maximum extent possible, State
16 workforce development boards, to maximize pro-
17 gram efficiency;

18 (B) educational institutions and covered
19 organizations and programs;

20 (C) energy-related industries and covered
21 organizations and programs to increase the op-
22 portunities for, and enrollment of, students and
23 other candidates, including students of minor-
24 ity-serving institutions and unemployed energy
25 workers, to participate in industry internships,

1 fellowships, traineeships, and apprenticeships;
2 and

3 (D) Federal-State Regional Commissions,
4 including the Appalachia Regional Commission,
5 the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Com-
6 mission, the Northern Border Regional Com-
7 mission, the Northern Great Plains Regional
8 Commission, and the Southeast Crescent Re-
9 gional Commission; and

10 (2) conduct outreach activities to—

11 (A) encourage individuals from underrep-
12 resented communities and unemployed energy
13 workers to enter into the STEM fields; and

14 (B) encourage and foster collaboration,
15 mentorships, and partnerships among energy-
16 related industries, and covered organizations
17 and programs, that provide effective training
18 programs for jobs in energy-related industries
19 and educational institutions that seek to estab-
20 lish these types of programs in order to share
21 best practices and approaches that best suit
22 local, State, and national needs.

23 (e) CLEARINGHOUSE.—

24 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out the pro-
25 gram established under subsection (a), the Sec-

1 retary, in collaboration with the Commissioner of the
2 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Secretary of Com-
3 merce, the Director of the Bureau of the Census,
4 and energy-related industries, shall establish a clear-
5 inghouse to—

6 (A) develop, maintain, and update informa-
7 tion and other resources, by State and by re-
8 gion, on—

9 (i) training programs for jobs in en-
10 ergy-related industries; and

11 (ii) the current and future workforce
12 needs of energy-related industries, and job
13 opportunities in such energy-related indus-
14 tries, including identification of jobs in en-
15 ergy-related industries for which there is
16 the greatest demand; and

17 (B) act as a resource for educational insti-
18 tutions and covered organizations and programs
19 that would like to develop and implement train-
20 ing programs for such jobs.

21 (2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
22 publish a report on the information and other re-
23 sources developed, maintained, and updated on the
24 clearinghouse established under paragraph (1).

1 (f) GUIDELINES TO DEVELOP SKILLS FOR AN EN-
2 ERGY INDUSTRY WORKFORCE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
4 established under subsection (a), the Secretary, in
5 collaboration with the Secretary of Education, the
6 Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, and
7 the National Science Foundation, shall develop vol-
8 untary guidelines or best practices for educational
9 institutions to help provide students with the skills
10 necessary for jobs in energy-related industries, in-
11 cluding jobs in—

12 (A) the energy efficiency industry, includ-
13 ing jobs in energy efficiency (including architec-
14 ture, design, and construction of new energy ef-
15 ficient buildings), conservation, weatherization,
16 retrofitting, inspecting, auditing, and software
17 development;

18 (B) the renewable energy industry, includ-
19 ing jobs in the development, engineering, manu-
20 facturing, and production of energy from re-
21 newable energy sources (such as solar, hydro-
22 power, wind, and geothermal energy);

23 (C) the community energy resiliency indus-
24 try, including jobs in the installation of rooftop

1 solar, in battery storage, and in microgrid tech-
2 nologies;

3 (D) the fuel cell and hydrogen energy in-
4 dustry;

5 (E) the advanced automotive technology
6 industry, including jobs relating to electric vehi-
7 cle batteries, connectivity and automation, and
8 advanced combustion engines;

9 (F) the manufacturing industry, including
10 jobs as operations technicians, in operations
11 and design in additive manufacturing, 3-D
12 printing, and advanced composites and ad-
13 vanced aluminum and other metal alloys, and in
14 industrial energy efficiency management sys-
15 tems, including power electronics, and other in-
16 novative technologies;

17 (G) the chemical manufacturing industry,
18 including jobs in construction (such as welders,
19 pipefitters, and tool and die makers), as instru-
20 ment and electrical technicians, machinists,
21 chemical process operators, engineers, quality
22 and safety professionals, and reliability engi-
23 neers;

24 (H) the utility industry, including jobs in
25 smart grid technology, cybersecurity manage-

1 ment, and the generation, transmission, and
2 distribution of electricity and natural gas, such
3 as electricians and utility dispatchers, techni-
4 cians, operators, lineworkers, engineers, sci-
5 entists, and information technology specialists;

6 (I) the alternative fuels industry, including
7 jobs in biofuel and bioproducts development and
8 production;

9 (J) the pipeline industry, including jobs in
10 pipeline construction and maintenance and jobs
11 as engineers and technical advisors;

12 (K) the nuclear energy industry, including
13 jobs as scientists, engineers, technicians, mathe-
14 maticians, and security personnel;

15 (L) the oil and gas industry, including jobs
16 as scientists, engineers, technicians, mathemati-
17 cians, petrochemical engineers, and geologists;
18 and

19 (M) the coal industry, including jobs as
20 coal miners, engineers, developers and manufac-
21 turers of state-of-the-art coal facilities, tech-
22 nology vendors, coal transportation workers and
23 operators, and mining equipment vendors.

1 (2) INPUT.—The Secretary shall solicit input
2 from energy-related industries in developing guide-
3 lines or best practices under paragraph (1).

4 (3) ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION
5 INITIATIVES.—The guidelines or best practices devel-
6 oped under paragraph (1) shall include grade-spe-
7 cific guidelines for elementary schools and secondary
8 schools for teaching energy efficiency technology, ar-
9 chitecture, design, and construction of new energy-
10 efficient buildings and building energy retrofits,
11 manufacturing efficiency technology, community en-
12 ergy resiliency, and conservation initiatives.

13 (4) STEM EDUCATION.—The guidelines or best
14 practices developed under paragraph (1) shall pro-
15 mote STEM education in educational institutions as
16 it relates to job opportunities in energy-related in-
17 dustries listed under such paragraph.

18 (5) PROHIBITION.—Nothing in this subsection
19 shall be construed to authorize the Secretary or any
20 other officer or employee of the Federal Government
21 to require or coerce a State, local educational agen-
22 cy, or educational institution to adopt or carry out
23 the guidelines or best practices developed under
24 paragraph (1).

1 (g) CONSOLIDATION.—To the extent practicable, the
2 Secretary shall, to avoid duplication of efforts, carry out
3 the Equity in Energy Initiative of the Department of En-
4 ergy, the Minority Educational Institution Student Part-
5 nership Program of the Department of Energy, and any
6 other program of the Department of Energy that the Sec-
7 retary determines appropriate, through the program es-
8 tablished under subsection (a).

9 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

12 **SEC. 3. ENERGY WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) PROGRAM.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
15 ability of appropriations for such purpose, the Sec-
16 retary shall establish and carry out a program to
17 provide grants to eligible entities to pay the eligible
18 wages of, or eligible stipends for, individuals during
19 the time period that such individuals are receiving
20 training to work for an eligible business.

21 (2) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 60 days after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
23 consultation with eligible businesses, shall establish
24 guidelines that identify—

1 (A) criteria for wages and stipends to meet
2 to be eligible for purposes of the program estab-
3 lished pursuant to paragraph (1); and

4 (B) training that is eligible for purposes of
5 the program established pursuant to paragraph
6 (1).

7 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section:

8 (1) ELIGIBLE BUSINESS.—The term “eligible
9 business” means a business that provides services
10 related to—

11 (A) renewable electric energy generation,
12 including solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower,
13 and other renewable electric energy generation
14 technologies;

15 (B) energy efficiency, including energy-effi-
16 cient lighting, heating, ventilation, and air con-
17 ditioning, air source heat pumps, advanced
18 building materials, insulation and air sealing,
19 and other high-efficiency products and services,
20 including auditing and inspection, architecture,
21 design, and construction of new energy efficient
22 buildings and building energy retrofits;

23 (C) grid modernization or energy storage,
24 including smart grid, microgrid and other dis-
25 tributed energy solutions, demand response

management, and home energy management technology;

(D) advanced fossil energy technology, including—

(i) advanced resource development;

(ii) carbon capture, storage, and use;

(iii) low-carbon power systems;

(iv) efficiency improvements that substantially reduce emissions; and

(v) direct air capture;

(E) nuclear energy, including research, development, demonstration, and commercial application relating to nuclear energy;

(F) cybersecurity for the energy sector, including infrastructure, emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration;

(G) alternative fuels, including biofuel and bioproduct development and production;

(H) advanced automotive technology, including electric vehicle batteries, connectivity and automation, and advanced combustion engines; or

(I) fuel cell and hybrid fuel cell generation.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

1 (A) an eligible business; or

2 (B) a labor organization, nonprofit organi-
3 zation, or qualified youth or conservation corps,
4 that provides training to individuals to work for
5 an eligible business, or works on behalf of any
6 such eligible business.

7 (3) ELIGIBLE STIPEND.—The term “eligible sti-
8 pend” means a stipend that meets the criteria iden-
9 tified pursuant to the guidelines established under
10 subsection (a)(2).

11 (4) ELIGIBLE WAGES.—The term “eligible
12 wages” means wages that meet the criteria identified
13 pursuant to the guidelines established under sub-
14 section (a)(2).

15 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—

16 (1) ELIGIBLE WAGES.—An eligible business
17 with—

18 (A) 20 or fewer employees may use a grant
19 provided under the program established under
20 subsection (a) to pay up to—

21 (i) 45 percent of an employee’s eligi-
22 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
23 training for such employee, if the training
24 is provided by the eligible business; and

1 (ii) 90 percent of an employee's eligi-
2 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
3 training for such employee, if the training
4 is provided by an entity other than the eli-
5 gible business;

6 (B) 21 to 99 employees may use a grant
7 provided under the program established under
8 subsection (a) to pay up to—

9 (i) 37.5 percent of an employee's eligi-
10 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
11 training for such employee, if the training
12 is provided by the eligible business; and

13 (ii) 75 percent of an employee's eligi-
14 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
15 training for such employee, if the training
16 is provided by an entity other than the eli-
17 gible business; and

18 (C) 100 employees or more may use a
19 grant provided under the program established
20 under subsection (a) to pay up to—

21 (i) 25 percent of an employee's eligi-
22 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
23 training for such employee, if the training
24 is provided by the eligible business; and

1 (ii) 50 percent of an employee’s eligi-
2 ble wages for the duration of the applicable
3 training for such employee, if the training
4 is provided by an entity other than the eli-
5 gible business.

6 (2) STIPEND.—An eligible entity may use a
7 grant provided under the program established under
8 subsection (a) to pay up to 100 percent of an eligi-
9 ble stipend for an individual for the duration of the
10 applicable training for such individual.

11 (d) PRIORITY FOR TARGETED COMMUNITIES.—In
12 providing grants under the program established under
13 subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligi-
14 ble entity that—

15 (1) recruits or trains individuals who are—
16 (A) from the community that the eligible
17 entity serves; and

18 (B)(i) from underrepresented communities;
19 or

20 (ii) unemployed energy workers; and

21 (2) will provide individuals receiving training
22 with the opportunity to obtain or retain employment
23 at an eligible business.

1 (e) LIMIT.—An eligible entity may not receive more
2 than \$100,000 under the program established under sub-
3 section (a) per fiscal year.

4 (f) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Con-
5 gress, annually for each year the program established
6 under subsection (a) is carried out, a report on such pro-
7 gram, including—

8 (1) an assessment of such program for the pre-
9 vious year, including the number of jobs filled by in-
10 dividuals trained pursuant to such program; and

11 (2) recommendations on how to improve such
12 program.

13 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “apprentice-
19 ship” means an apprenticeship registered under the
20 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the
21 “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chap-
22 ter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

23 (2) COVERED ORGANIZATIONS AND PRO-
24 GRAMS.—The term “covered organizations and pro-
25 grams” means local workforce development boards,

1 State workforce development boards, nonprofit orga-
2 nizations, qualified youth or conservation corps,
3 labor organizations, pre-apprenticeship programs,
4 and apprenticeship programs.

5 (3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
6 “educational institution” means an elementary
7 school, secondary school, or institution of higher
8 education.

9 (4) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND SECONDARY
10 SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school” and “sec-
11 ondary school” have the meanings given such terms
12 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

14 (5) ENERGY-RELATED INDUSTRY.—The term
15 “energy-related industry” includes the energy effi-
16 ciency industry, renewable energy industry, commu-
17 nity energy resiliency industry, fuel cell and hydro-
18 gen energy industry, advanced automotive tech-
19 nology industry, chemical manufacturing industry,
20 electric utility industry, gas utility industry, alter-
21 native fuels industry, pipeline industry, nuclear en-
22 ergy industry, oil and gas industry, and coal indus-
23 try.

24 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
 2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except
 3 that such term does not include institutions de-
 4 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (C) of subsection
 5 (a)(1) of such section 102.

6 (7) JOBS IN ENERGY-RELATED INDUSTRIES.—
 7 The term “jobs in energy-related industries” in-
 8 cludes manufacturing, engineering, construction, and
 9 retrofitting jobs in energy-related industries.

10 (8) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term “labor
 11 organization” has the meaning given such term in
 12 section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act (29
 13 U.S.C. 152).

14 (9) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 15 BOARD.—The term “local workforce development
 16 board” means a local board, as defined in section 3
 17 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 18 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

19 (10) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
 20 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
 21 tution of higher education that is of one of the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 (A) A Hispanic-serving institution (as de-
 24 fined in section 502(a) of the Higher Education
 25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))).

1 (B) A Tribal College or University (as de-
2 fined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

4 (C) An Alaska Native-serving institution
5 (as defined in section 317(b) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b))).

7 (D) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution
8 (as defined in section 317(b) of the Higher
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b))).

10 (E) A Predominantly Black Institution (as
11 defined in section 318(b) of the Higher Edu-
12 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b))).

13 (F) A Native American-serving nontribal
14 institution (as defined in section 319(b) of the
15 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 1059f(b))).

17 (G) An Asian American and Native Amer-
18 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution (as de-
19 fined in section 320(b) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b))).

21 (H) A part B institution (as defined in
22 section 322 of the Higher Education Act of
23 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)).

24 (11) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The
25 term “pre-apprenticeship program”—

1 (A) means a program or set of strategies
2 that is designed to prepare individuals to enter
3 and succeed in an apprenticeship program; and

4 (B) includes training and training cur-
5 riculum aligned with apprenticeship and indus-
6 try standards to teach participants necessary
7 industry-related skills and competencies.

8 (12) QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CONSERVATION
9 CORPS.—The term “qualified youth or conservation
10 corps” has the meaning given such term in section
11 203(11) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16
12 U.S.C. 1722(11)).

13 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
14 means the Secretary of Energy.

15 (14) STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
16 BOARD.—The term “State workforce development
17 board” means a State board, as defined in section
18 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
19 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

20 (15) STEM.—The term “STEM” means
21 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

22 (16) UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES.—
23 The term “underrepresented communities” includes
24 religious and ethnic minorities, women, veterans, in-
25 dividuals with disabilities, individuals who are

1 socioeconomically disadvantaged, individuals who are
2 or were foster children, and formerly incarcerated
3 individuals.

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