

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7717

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2022

Ms. DELAURO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, 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 “American Apprentice-
5 ship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND QUALIFIED APPREN-**
7 **TICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

1 (1) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP.—The term
2 “qualified apprenticeship”, used with respect to a
3 program, means an apprenticeship program that
4 is—

5 (A) registered under the Act of August 16,
6 1937 (commonly known as the “National Ap-
7 prenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;
8 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

9 (B) concentrated in an emerging, in-de-
10 mand industry.

11 (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-
12 TION.—The term “postsecondary educational institu-
13 tion” means an institution of higher education, as
14 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act
15 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

16 (3) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “pre-ap-
17 prenticeship”, used with respect to a program,
18 means an initiative or set of strategies that—

19 (A) is designed to prepare individuals to
20 enter and succeed in a qualified apprenticeship
21 program;

22 (B) is carried out by a sponsor described
23 in paragraph (6)(B) that has a documented
24 partnership with one or more sponsors of quali-
25 fied apprenticeship programs; and

(C) includes each of the following:

(i) Training (including a curriculum for the training), aligned with industry standards related to apprenticeships in a qualified apprenticeship program, and reviewed and approved annually by sponsors of such apprenticeships within the documented partnership, that will prepare individuals by teaching the skills and competencies needed to enter one or more qualified apprenticeship programs.

(ii) Provision of hands-on training and theoretical education to individuals that—

(I) is carried out in a manner that includes proper observation of supervision and safety protocols; and

(II) is carried out in a manner that does not displace a paid employee.

(iii) A formal agreement with a sponsor of a qualified apprenticeship program that would enable participants who successfully complete the pre-apprenticeship program to enter directly into the qualified apprenticeship program (if a place in the

1 program is available and if the participant
2 meets the qualifications of the qualified ap-
3 prenticeship program), and includes agree-
4 ments concerning earning credit recognized
5 by a postsecondary educational institution
6 for skills and competencies acquired during
7 the pre-apprenticeship program.

8 (4) RELATED INSTRUCTION.—The term “re-
9 lated instruction” means an organized and system-
10 atic form of instruction designed to provide an ap-
11 prentice with the knowledge of the theoretical and
12 technical subjects related to the occupation of the
13 apprentice or the instruction needed to prepare an
14 individual to enter and succeed in a qualified ap-
15 prenticeship program.

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Labor.

18 (6) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means—

19 (A) with respect to a qualified apprentice-
20 ship program, an employer, joint labor-manage-
21 ment partnership, trade association, profes-
22 sional association, labor organization, or other
23 entity, that administers the qualified appren-
24 ticeship program; and

(B) with respect to a pre-apprenticeship program, a local educational agency, a secondary school, an area career and technical education school, a State board, a local board, or a community-based organization, with responsibility for the pre-apprenticeship program.

(7) WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “area career and technical education school”, “community-based organization”, “individual with a barrier to employment”, “local board”, “local educational agency”, “secondary school”, and “State board” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(b) GRANTS FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to States on a competitive basis to assist the States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost of, carrying out projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary for such a project at

1 such time, in such manner, and containing a stra-
2 tegic plan that contains such information as the Sec-
3 retary may require, including—

4 (A) information identifying the State agen-
5 cy (referred to in this Act as the “State enti-
6 ty”) that will administer the grant as deter-
7 mined by the Governor of the State;

8 (B) a description of strategies that the
9 State entity will use to collaborate with key in-
10 dustry representatives, State agencies, postsec-
11 ondary educational institutions, labor-manage-
12 ment entities, and other relevant partners to
13 launch or expand pre-apprenticeships, and ap-
14 prenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-
15 grams;

16 (C) a description of how the State entity
17 will—

18 (i) coordinate activities carried out
19 under this subsection with activities car-
20 ried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career
21 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
22 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and the Workforce
23 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
24 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to support pre-ap-

1 prenticeships, and apprenticeships in quali-
2 fied apprenticeship programs;

3 (ii) leverage funds provided under the
4 Acts specified in clause (i) to support pre-
5 apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in
6 qualified apprenticeship programs; and

7 (iii) utilize, and encourage individual
8 participants in programs supported under
9 this subsection to utilize, available Federal
10 and State financial assistance, including
11 assistance available under the Workforce
12 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
13 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), education assistance
14 benefits available to veterans, and Federal
15 Pell Grants available under section 401 of
16 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
17 U.S.C. 1070a), prior to using assistance
18 made available under this Act;

19 (D) a description of strategies to elevate
20 apprenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-
21 grams as a workforce solution in both tradi-
22 tional and nontraditional industries, such as in-
23 formation technology, health care, advanced
24 manufacturing, construction trades, transpor-

tation, and other industries determined to be high-demand by the State board for the State;

(E) a description of activities that the State entity will carry out to build awareness about the economic potential of apprenticeships in qualified apprenticeship programs;

(F) a description that outlines how the State entity will increase opportunities for pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in qualified apprenticeship programs, among members of minority groups, youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and individuals with barriers to employment;

(G) a description of—

(i) how the State entity will ensure that the qualified apprenticeship program meets certain performance measures and quality standards, including that the qualified apprenticeship program has been in existence for not fewer than 6 months prior to the application date;

(ii) the targeted outreach strategies that the State entity will use for populations previously underserved through apprenticeships; and

1 (iii) any State performance measures
2 and goals that the State will use, at the
3 election of the State, to measure the effec-
4 tiveness of the project; and

5 (H) in the case of a State that has already
6 received a grant under this subsection for a
7 project, information indicating that the State
8 met the performance measures with respect to
9 the project.

10 (3) APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.—A joint
11 team of employees from the Department of Labor
12 and the Department of Education shall—

13 (A) review such an application; and

14 (B) make recommendations to the Sec-
15 retary regarding approval of the application.

16 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a
17 grant under this subsection shall use the funds made
18 available through the grant to defray any of the fol-
19 lowing costs of related instruction:

20 (A) Tuition and fees.

21 (B) Cost of textbooks, equipment, cur-
22 riculum development, and other required edu-
23 cational materials.

24 (C) Costs of any other item or service de-
25 termined by the State to be necessary.

1 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The State may
2 use not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for
3 administrative costs relating to carrying out the
4 project described in paragraph (1).

5 (6) PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION.—The
6 Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of
7 Education, shall—

8 (A) establish performance measures based
9 on indicators set by the Administrator of the
10 Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of
11 Labor; and

12 (B) establish an evaluation system aligned
13 with the performance measures, and reporting
14 requirements for the program carried out under
15 this subsection.

16 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
18 cost described in subsection (b)(1) shall be not less
19 than 20 percent and not more than 50 percent.

20 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The State may
21 make the non-Federal share available—

22 (A) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, in-
23 cluding plant, equipment, or services; and

24 (B) directly or through donations from
25 public or private entities.

1 (d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and sub-
2 mit to Congress, not later than September 30, 2027, a
3 report—

4 (1) detailing the results of the evaluation de-
5 scribed in subsection (b)(6)(B); and

6 (2) analyzing the extent to which States have
7 used grant funds effectively under this section.

8 (e) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the pol-
9 icy of the United States that funds made available under
10 this section should be used to supplement and not sup-
11 plant other funds available under the Workforce Innova-
12 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and
13 other Federal and State funds available to the State to
14 support workforce development programs.

15 **SEC. 3. IDENTIFYING IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.**

16 The Secretary shall—

17 (1) identify in-demand occupations nationally
18 and regionally that lack the use of apprenticeships;

19 (2) analyze the use of the qualified apprentice-
20 ship program model in those identified in-demand
21 occupations; and

22 (3) prepare and submit to States and Congress
23 a report that contains the analysis described in para-
24 graph (2).

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
4 2028.

