

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7145

To encourage employer participation in apprenticeship programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2022

Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. CROW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To encourage employer participation in apprenticeship programs.

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 “Apprenticeship Sup-
5 port for Small Employers and Teams Act” or the
6 “ASSET Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND CO-**
8 **OPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

9 The Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship of
10 the Department of Labor shall award grants, contracts,

1 or cooperative agreements to eligible entities on a competi-
2 tive basis for the following purposes:

3 (1) ENCOURAGING EMPLOYER PARTICIPA-
4 TION.—To encourage employer participation in ap-
5 prenticeship programs—

6 (A) that target individuals with barriers to
7 employment in youth apprenticeship, pre-ap-
8 prenticeship, or apprenticeship programs,
9 prioritizing nontraditional apprenticeship popu-
10 lations such as women, minorities, long-term
11 unemployed, individuals with a disability, indi-
12 viduals with substance abuse issues, veterans,
13 military spouses, individuals experiencing home-
14 lessness, individuals impacted by the criminal or
15 juvenile justice system, and foster and former
16 foster youth;

17 (B) that are in high-need social service-re-
18 lated industries, sectors, or occupations, such as
19 direct care workers and early childhood edu-
20 cators;

21 (C) that target individuals currently or re-
22 cently incarcerated; or

23 (D) among small- and medium-sized em-
24 ployers.

1 (2) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
2 TION GRANTS FOR SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-
3 NESSES.—An eligible entity that receives funds
4 under this section shall use such funds to encourage
5 participation of small- and medium-sized businesses
6 in apprenticeship programs, which may include—

7 (A) providing financial assistance to em-
8 ployers to support costs related to the pro-
9 grams, such as training incumbent workers as
10 mentors or employees supervising the on-the-job
11 learning;

12 (B) supporting the cost of related instruc-
13 tion or wages for program participants during
14 related instruction;

15 (C) providing technical assistance to small-
16 and medium-sized businesses on the program
17 registration process and leveraging other avail-
18 able funds to support carrying out such pro-
19 grams; or

20 (D) establishing or expanding partnerships
21 to support program development or expansion,
22 including establishing or expanding industry or
23 sector partnerships to ensure inclusion of small-
24 and medium-sized businesses.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term
4 “apprenticeship program” means an apprenticeship
5 registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-
6 monly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”;
7 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

8 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
9 ty” means—

10 (A) a program sponsor;

11 (B) a State workforce development board
12 or State workforce agency, or a local workforce
13 development board or local workforce develop-
14 ment agency;

15 (C) an education and training provider, or
16 a consortium thereof;

17 (D) a State apprenticeship agency;

18 (E) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
19 tion;

20 (F) an industry or sector partnership, a
21 group of employers, a trade association, or a
22 professional association that sponsors an ap-
23 prenticeship program;

24 (G) a Governor;

25 (H) a labor organization or joint labor
26 management organization; or

1 (I) a qualified intermediary.

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