

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8187

To require technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and  
for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2022

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr.  
STEWART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Com-  
mittee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To require technology grants to strengthen domestic mining  
education, 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 “Mining Schools Act  
5 of 2022”.

6       **SEC. 2. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC**  
7               **MINING EDUCATION.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the  
2 Mining Professional Development Advisory Board  
3 established by subsection (d)(1).

4           (2) MINING INDUSTRY.—The term “mining in-  
5 dustry” means the mining industry of the United  
6 States, consisting of the search for, extraction,  
7 beneficiation, refining, smelting, and processing of,  
8 naturally occurring metal and nonmetal minerals  
9 from the earth.

10          (3) MINING PROFESSION.—The term “mining  
11 profession” means the body of jobs directly relevant  
12 to—

13               (A) the exploration, planning, execution,  
14 and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining  
15 sites; and

16               (B) the extraction, including the separa-  
17 tion, refining, alloying, smelting, concentration,  
18 and processing, of mineral ores.

19          (4) MINING SCHOOL.—The term “mining  
20 school” means—

21               (A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or  
22 mineral engineering program accredited by the  
23 Accreditation Board for Engineering and Tech-  
24 nology, Inc., that is located at an institution of  
25 higher education (as defined in section 101 of

1 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
2 1001)); or

3 (B) a geology or engineering program or  
4 department that is located at a 4-year public in-  
5 stitution of higher education (as so defined) lo-  
6 cated in a qualified State.

7 (5) QUALIFIED STATE.—The term “qualified  
8 State” means a State that, in the 5 years preceding  
9 the date of an application for a grant under this sec-  
10 tion, averaged not less than \$2,000,000,000 in the  
11 combined categories of “Mining (except oil and  
12 gas)” and “Support activities for mining”, according  
13 to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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

16 (b) DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING  
17 PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program to  
18 strengthen domestic mining education under which the  
19 Secretary shall award competitive grants to mining schools  
20 for the purposes described in paragraph (4).

21 (c) GRANTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant  
23 program established under subsection (b), the Sec-  
24 retary shall award not more than 10 grants each  
25 year to mining schools.

1           (2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

2           (A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-  
3           tent practicable, the Secretary shall select re-  
4           cipients for grants under paragraph (1) to en-  
5           sure geographic diversity among grant recipi-  
6           ents to ensure that region-specific specialties  
7           are developed for region-specific geology.

8           (B) TIMELINE.—

9           (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
10          award the first grant under paragraph (1)  
11          not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
12          actment of this Act.

13          (ii) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—Each  
14          year following the first year in which  
15          grants are awarded pursuant to clause (i),  
16          the Secretary shall award subsequent  
17          grants by not later than 1 year after the  
18          date on which the grants were awarded the  
19          previous year.

20          (3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—In  
21          selecting recipients for grants under paragraph (1)  
22          and determining the amount of each grant, the Sec-  
23          retary shall take into consideration the recommenda-  
24          tions of the Board under subparagraphs (A) and (B)  
25          of subsection (d)(3).

1           (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A mining school shall use  
2       grant funds received under this section—

3           (A) to recruit students to the mining  
4       school, including through awarding scholar-  
5       ships; and

6           (B) to enhance and support programs re-  
7       lated to, as applicable—

8           (i) mining, mineral extraction effi-  
9       ciency, and related processing technology;

10          (ii) emphasizing critical mineral and  
11       rare earth element exploration, extraction,  
12       and refining;

13          (iii) reclamation technology and prac-  
14       tices for active mining operations;

15          (iv) the development of reprocessing  
16       systems and technologies that facilitate  
17       reclamation that fosters the recovery of re-  
18       sources at abandoned mine sites;

19          (v) mineral extraction methods that  
20       reduce environmental and human impacts;

21          (vi) technologies to extract, refine,  
22       separate, melt, or produce minerals, in-  
23       cluding rare earth elements;

24          (vii) reducing dependence on foreign  
25       energy and mineral supplies through in-

1           creased domestic critical mineral produc-  
2           tion;

3           (viii) enhancing the competitiveness of  
4           United States energy and mineral tech-  
5           nology exports;

6           (ix) the extraction or processing of co-  
7           inciding mineralization, including rare  
8           earth elements, within coal, coal processing  
9           byproduct, overburden, or coal residue;

10          (x) enhancing technologies and prac-  
11          tices relating to mitigation of acid mine  
12          drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in  
13          the reclamation of land and water re-  
14          sources adversely affected by mining;

15          (xi) enhancing exploration and charac-  
16          terization of new or novel deposits, includ-  
17          ing rare earth elements and critical min-  
18          erals within phosphate rocks, uranium-  
19          bearing deposits, and other nontraditional  
20          sources;

21          (xii) meeting challenges of extreme  
22          mining conditions, such as deeper deposits  
23          or offshore or cold region mining; and

24          (xiii) mineral economics, including  
25          analysis of supply chains, future mineral

1 needs, and unconventional mining re-  
2 sources.

3 (d) MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVI-  
4 SORY BOARD.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an advi-  
6 sory board, to be known as the “Mining Professional  
7 Development Advisory Board”.

8 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-  
9 posed of 6 members, to be appointed by the Sec-  
10 retary not later than 180 days after the date of en-  
11 actment of this Act, of whom—

12 (A) 3 shall be individuals who are actively  
13 working in the mining profession and for the  
14 mining industry; and

15 (B) 3 shall have experience in academia  
16 implementing and operating professional skills  
17 training and education programs in the mining  
18 sector.

19 (3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

20 (A) evaluate grant applications received  
21 under subsection (c) and make recommenda-  
22 tions to the Secretary for selection of grant re-  
23 cipients under that subsection;

1 (B) propose the amount of the grant for  
2 each applicant recommended to be selected  
3 under subparagraph (A); and

4 (C) perform oversight to ensure that grant  
5 funds awarded under subsection (c) are used  
6 for the purposes described in paragraph (4) of  
7 that subsection.

8 (4) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve  
9 for a term of 4 years.

10 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

11 (A) shall not affect the powers of the  
12 Board; and

13 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as  
14 the original appointment was made by not later  
15 than 180 days after the date on which the va-  
16 cancy occurs.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
19 appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000  
20 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2030.

21 (2) REQUIREMENT.—At the end of each fiscal  
22 year, any amounts made available under paragraph  
23 (1) for that fiscal year that are not awarded as



- 1 grants under subsection (c) shall be returned to the
- 2 Treasury.

