

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 291

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture.

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 “Creating Access to  
5 Rural Employment and Education for Resilience and Suc-  
6 cess Act” or the “CAREERS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 379I of the Consolidated  
9 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is  
10 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

3 (i) in clause (iii)—

4 (I) by striking subclause (I) and  
5 inserting the following:

6 “(I) an institution of higher edu-  
7 cation (as defined in section 101, and  
8 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section  
9 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education  
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,  
11 1002(a)(1));”;

12 (II) by redesignating subclauses  
13 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and  
14 (IV), respectively, and inserting after  
15 subclause (I) the following:

16 “(II) an area career and tech-  
17 nical education school (as defined in  
18 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-  
19 reer and Technical Education Act of  
20 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302);”;

21 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-  
22 designated by subclause (II) of this  
23 clause), by striking “and”;

24 (ii) in clause (iv)—

1 (I) by striking subclause (IV)  
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(IV) an institution of higher  
4 education (as defined in section 101,  
5 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of  
6 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-  
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,  
8 1002(a)(1));”; and

9 (II) by redesignating subclause  
10 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting  
11 after subclause (IV) the following:

12 “(V) an area career and technical  
13 education school (as defined in section  
14 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
15 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
16 U.S.C. 2302); or”; and

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(v) in the case of a career pathway  
20 program, includes 1 or more member of  
21 the local workforce development board es-  
22 tablished under section 107 of the Work-  
23 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and  
24 serving the region to ensure such program  
25 is integrated with the activities carried out

1 by the local workforce development board;  
2 and”;

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career  
5 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section  
6 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
7 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

8 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—  
9 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the  
10 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-  
11 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
12 3102).”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
16 graph (A), by inserting “carry out career  
17 pathway programs or industry or sector  
18 partnerships aligned with industry sectors  
19 in rural communities” before the 3rd  
20 comma;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
22 “and” at the end;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
24 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(C) address workforce challenges faced by  
4 specific industry sectors in rural communities;  
5 and

6 “(D) promote targeted skills development  
7 initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance  
8 economic development in rural regions.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “ca-  
12 reer pathway program, or industry or  
13 sector partnerships” before the semi-  
14 colon; and

15 (II) in clause (ii)—

16 (aa) by inserting “career  
17 pathway program, or industry or  
18 sector partnerships” before “to  
19 provide”; and

20 (bb) by inserting “leadership  
21 development,” before “cus-  
22 tomized”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
24 “and” at the end;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
2 the period and inserting “; and”; and

3 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to  
6 carry out activities to address the issues of  
7 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and  
8 youth migration.”; and

9 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-  
10 ing the following;

11 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-  
12 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of  
13 grants or participants in providing grants under  
14 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway  
15 programs, industry or sector partnerships, and re-  
16 lated programming.”;

17 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
19 period and inserting “; or”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(C) to support career pathway programs  
22 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried  
23 out in industries in rural communities, includ-  
24 ing—

1 “(i) telecommunications or broadband  
2 services;

3 “(ii) water, waste water, and disposal  
4 services;

5 “(iii) electric supply services;

6 “(iv) conservation practices and man-  
7 agement;

8 “(v) health care;

9 “(vi) child care;

10 “(vii) manufacturing;

11 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-  
12 tion, processing, and distribution; and

13 “(ix) any other sectors that are identi-  
14 fied by the local workforce development  
15 board serving the region to be an in-de-  
16 mand industry sector or occupation, as de-  
17 fined in section 3 of the Workforce Innova-  
18 tion and Opportunity Act.”;

19 (4) in subsection (e)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
21 the end;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

23 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or” at  
24 the end; and

1 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as  
2 clause (xix) and inserting after clause  
3 (xvii) the following:

4 “(xviii) the number of individuals who  
5 have completed skills development, recog-  
6 nized postsecondary credentials, or gained  
7 specialized education through career path-  
8 ways programs or industry or sector part-  
9 nership; or”; and

10 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated  
11 by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by  
12 striking the period and inserting “; and”;  
13 and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program  
16 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-  
17 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for  
18 individuals who participate in the program on the in-  
19 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of  
20 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation  
21 and Opportunity Act.”; and

22 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through  
23 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2030”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
25 subsection (a) shall take effect on such date as the Sec-



1   retary of Agriculture shall determine, which shall be not  
2   later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this  
3   Act.

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