

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3258

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mrs. BUSTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment.

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 “Workers Opportunity  
5 and Retraining Competitive Grant Program Act of 2015”  
6 or the “WORC Grant Program Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING WORKER TRANSITION SCHOLAR-**  
2 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle D of title I of the Work-  
4 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 2916)  
5 is amended by adding after section 171 the following new  
6 section:

7 **“SEC. 171A. MANUFACTURING WORKER TRANSITION**  
8 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
10 manufacturing worker scholarship program to award  
11 States competitive grants to be used to provide scholar-  
12 ships to dislocated workers or unemployed individuals  
13 through State and local boards to support worker’s en-  
14 deavors to transition into manufacturing positions.

15 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

16 “(1) WORKER ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for  
17 the scholarship program established under this sec-  
18 tion, dislocated workers or unemployed individuals  
19 shall be enrolled in a qualifying manufacturing  
20 training course designed to provide skills for employ-  
21 ment in manufacturing.

22 “(2) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—State or local  
23 boards participating in the scholarship program es-  
24 tablished under this section shall—

1           “(A) have formal agreements or partner-  
2           ships with qualifying manufacturing training  
3           course providers; and

4           “(B) have commitments from local employ-  
5           ers, community leaders, and State or local eco-  
6           nomic development initiatives to mentor dis-  
7           located workers or unemployed individuals in  
8           order to aid their transition into manufacturing  
9           industries.

10          “(c) ACTIVITIES.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Activities to be carried out  
12           under the scholarship program established under  
13           this section shall be coordinated by State or local  
14           boards, including transferring scholarship awards to  
15           qualifying manufacturing training course providers  
16           on behalf of the dislocated workers or unemployed  
17           individuals receiving scholarships.

18           “(2) STATE AND LOCAL BOARD DISCRETION.—  
19           For purposes of scholarship awards distributed by a  
20           State or local board, such board shall define the  
21           term ‘manufacturing’.

22           “(3) REPAYMENT UPON ELIGIBILITY VIOLA-  
23           TIONS.—If a dislocated worker or unemployed indi-  
24           vidual does not complete the qualifying manufac-  
25           turing training course or substitutes non-manufac-

1 turing courses for manufacturing courses, the  
2 amount of the awarded scholarship shall be repaid to  
3 the State or local board.

4 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

5 “(1) MONETARY AWARD LIMIT.—Scholarship  
6 funding for any dislocated worker or unemployed in-  
7 dividual may not exceed \$2,000 per year.

8 “(2) ELIGIBILITY LIMIT.—Scholarship funding  
9 for any dislocated worker or unemployed individual  
10 may not exceed 2 years.

11 “(3) SCHOLARSHIP USE LIMIT.—A scholarship  
12 awarded under this section may only be used for  
13 payment towards qualifying manufacturing training  
14 courses.

15 “(4) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES LIMIT.—A scholar-  
16 ship awarded under this section may not be used for  
17 supportive services.

18 “(e) QUALIFYING MANUFACTURING TRAINING  
19 COURSE DEFINED.—The term ‘qualifying manufacturing  
20 training course’—

21 “(1) means any course or job training activity  
22 that is offered by a postsecondary educational insti-  
23 tution, area vocational education school, or other eli-  
24 gible provider that—

1           “(A) provides knowledge and skills related  
2           to manufacturing in emerging industries or in-  
3           dustries where there are jobs available in the  
4           community, as determined by a State or local  
5           board; and

6           “(B) offers credits or other credentials to  
7           enrollees for completion of the program; and

8           “(2) may include internships or apprenticeships  
9           that provide credit or other credentials for comple-  
10          tion of the program.”.

11          (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table  
12          of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Innovation  
13          and Opportunity Act is amended by inserting after the  
14          item relating to section 171 the following new item:

“Sec. 171A. Manufacturing worker transition scholarship program.”.

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