

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4572

To amend the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize a State to reimburse certain costs incurred by the State in providing training to workers after a petition for certification of eligibility for trade adjustment assistance has been filed, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Mr. NOLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize a State to reimburse certain costs incurred by the State in providing training to workers after a petition for certification of eligibility for trade adjustment assistance has been filed, 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 “Workforce Training
5 Enhancement Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The viability of the domestic steel industry
2 is crucial to the United States economy and national
3 security.

4 (2) The steel and taconite iron mining indus-
5 tries have been severely impacted by the foreign
6 dumping and overproduction of steel and are contin-
7 ually faced with unfair trade practices.

8 (3) In 2014, United States imports of steel and
9 steel products increased by 36 percent and captured
10 28 percent of the total United States steel market.
11 In 2015, United States imports of steel and steel
12 products continued to increase, and captured 29 per-
13 cent of the total United States steel market.

14 (4) In 1974, Congress enacted the Trade Act of
15 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.), which established the
16 trade adjustment assistance program under chapter
17 2 of title II of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.) to
18 assist workers who have been adversely affected by
19 trade.

20 (5) The trade adjustment assistance program
21 provides vital benefits and services to workers whose
22 employment has been adversely affected by foreign
23 trade. Those benefits and services include education
24 and training, income support, relocation assistance,

1 job search assistance, and the health coverage tax
2 credit.

3 (6) Since the inception of the trade adjustment
4 assistance program, more than 5,000,000 United
5 States workers have been certified as eligible for
6 benefits and services under the program.

7 (7) As of September 30, 2015, the trade adjust-
8 ment assistance program had served more than
9 2,200,000 workers.

10 (8) In fiscal year 2015, the Department of
11 Labor certified 413 petitions for eligibility for the
12 trade adjustment assistance program, which pro-
13 vided access to trade adjustment assistance benefits
14 for 57,631 workers.

15 (9) In 2015, more than 13,000 new partici-
16 pants were enrolled in the trade adjustment assist-
17 ance for workers program and the program provided
18 services and benefits to more than 47,000 workers.

19 (10) From fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year
20 2015, the average processing time for a petition
21 under the trade adjustment assistance for workers
22 program was 49.1 days and the average processing
23 time for fiscal year 2015 was 47.2 days.

24 (11) The trade adjustment assistance program
25 provides vital education and training services to as-

1 sist trade-affected workers to acquire new skills and
2 prepare for new employment.

3 (12) From 2012 through 2015, more than
4 9,800 steelworkers and iron ore miners in 17 States
5 lost their jobs as a result of increases in imports of
6 steel and steel products and were certified as eligible
7 to apply for the trade adjustment assistance pro-
8 gram.

9 (13) In fiscal year 2015, more than 6,500 steel-
10 workers were certified as eligible for trade adjust-
11 ment assistance, including workers who were laid off
12 or furloughed in 2014.

13 (14) In order to empower workers who have
14 been adversely affected by foreign trade, States
15 should have the option of providing the funding for
16 vital educational and training programs for workers
17 while their petitions for certification of eligibility for
18 trade adjustment assistance is pending.

19 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF STATES TO REIMBURSE CER-**
20 **TAIN COSTS OF PROVIDING TRAINING TO**
21 **WORKERS AFTER A PETITION FOR TRADE AD-**
22 **JUSTMENT ASSISTANCE IS FILED.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 236(a)(6) of the Trade
24 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(6)) is amended by adding
25 at the end the following:

1 “(C)(i) If the conditions described in clause (ii) are
2 met, a State may use the funds distributed to the State
3 under paragraph (2) to reimburse the costs of providing
4 training to a worker before the worker is approved for
5 training under paragraph (1) paid by—

6 “(I) the State from funds provided by the
7 State;

8 “(II) the State or local workforce development
9 areas within the State from funds available under
10 subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and
11 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151 et seq.); or

12 “(III) an eligible entity under section 170 of
13 that Act (29 U.S.C. 3225) in the State from funds
14 available under that section.

15 “(ii) The conditions described in this clause are met
16 if—

17 “(I) as of the date of the reimbursement under
18 clause (i) the worker is covered by a certification for
19 eligibility under subchapter A; and

20 “(II) the training, the costs of which are being
21 reimbursed—

22 “(aa) commenced after the date on which
23 the total or partial separations of the group of
24 workers covered by the certification for eligi-
25 bility began or threatened to begin; and

1 “(bb) meets the requirements for approval
2 of training under paragraph (1).”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
4 236(a)(4)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.
5 2296(a)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “No” and inserting
6 “Except as provided in paragraph (6)(C), no”.

○