

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4932

To establish a fund consisting of donations from private industry to provide financial support for unemployed individuals to obtain information technology certifications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2014

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a fund consisting of donations from private industry to provide financial support for unemployed individuals to obtain information technology certifications.

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 “Increasing Technology
5 Skills Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
3 Department of Labor a fund to be known as the Informa-
4 tion Technology Certification Fund (referred to in this Act
5 as the “Fund”).

6 (b) DEPOSITS.—The Fund shall consist of amounts
7 donated by any person, partnership, or corporation, in-
8 cluding nonprofit organizations and foundations that
9 pledges to continue to donate a consistent amount for a
10 minimum of three consecutive years.

11 (c) ADMINISTRATION AND USE OF FUNDS.—The
12 Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of Labor and
13 used to carry out the grant program established under sec-
14 tion 4.

15 **SEC. 3. EMPLOYERS HIRING INDIVIDUALS COMPLETING**
16 **THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CERTIFI-**
17 **CATION PROGRAM ELIGIBLE FOR WORK OP-**
18 **PORTUNITY CREDIT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 51(d)(1) of the Internal
20 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the
21 end of subparagraph (H), by striking the period at
22 the end of subparagraph (I) and inserting “, or”, and by
23 adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

24 “(J) a certified information technology cer-
25 tification program graduate.”.

1 (b) CERTIFIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CER-
2 TIFICATION PROGRAM GRADUATE.—Section 51(d) is
3 amended by redesignating paragraphs (11), (12), (13),
4 and (14) as paragraphs (12), (13), (14), and (15), respec-
5 tively, and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following
6 new paragraph:

7 “(11) CERTIFIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
8 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GRADUATE.—The term
9 ‘certified information technology certification pro-
10 gram graduate’ means any individual who has been
11 awarded a certificate of completion under section
12 5(f) of the Increasing Technology Skills Act of 2014
13 for completing the information technology certifi-
14 cation program established under such Act during
15 the 1-year period ending on the hiring date.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall apply to individuals who begin work with
18 the employer after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—From funds available in the Fund
21 established by section 2, the Secretary of Labor shall
22 award grants, on a competitive basis, to States through
23 the State boards.

24 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-
25 tion, a State board shall submit to the Secretary an appli-

1 cation at such time and containing such information as
2 the Secretary shall determine.

3 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State board shall use grant
4 funds to provide financial support to qualified individuals
5 for participation in an information technology certification
6 program, in accordance with section 5.

7 **SEC. 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION TECH-**
8 **NOLOGY CERTIFICATION.**

9 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC
10 AWARENESS.—Each State receiving a grant under section
11 4 shall—

12 (1) identify information technology certification
13 programs within the State and the requirements
14 necessary for a qualified individual to participate in
15 each program;

16 (2) disseminate information, through one-stop
17 centers and by other means, regarding such certifi-
18 cation programs and the availability of financial sup-
19 port from the grant funds to enable qualified indi-
20 viduals to participate in such programs; and

21 (3) assist qualified individuals in determining
22 which information technology certification program
23 such individual is most qualified for and best meets
24 the goals of such individual.

1 (b) APPLICATION OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—A
2 qualified individual seeking to participate in an informa-
3 tion technology certification program and receive financial
4 support shall submit an application to a local one-stop cen-
5 ter containing such information as the State Board shall
6 determine.

7 (c) SELECTION.—Qualified individuals shall be se-
8 lected by the local one-centers, in conjunction with local
9 chambers of commerce where appropriate, for participa-
10 tion based on their overall qualification for the certifi-
11 cation programs taking into consideration their experi-
12 ence, skills, and competency, including high school level
13 or better competency in typing, math, reading, and writ-
14 ing.

15 (d) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES.—Financial support may be
16 provided to pay for the costs to the qualified individual
17 of preparatory classes, study materials, and examination
18 expenses for the information technology certification pro-
19 gram.

20 (e) ONE-TIME PARTICIPATION.—Qualified individ-
21 uals selected to receive financial support under this section
22 may only participate once. Such participation consists of
23 a single information technology certification, regardless of
24 whether the individual obtains the certification. Such cer-

1 tification may consist of multiple preparatory classes and
2 multiple examinations.

3 (f) CERTIFICATE.—The State board shall award a
4 certificate of completion to each individual who completes
5 the program and obtains a certification.

6 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GUIDANCE AND FACILITA-**
7 **TION.**

8 (a) BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SELECTION
9 GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Labor shall create an intro-
10 ductory program for use in one-stop centers to provide
11 background information to participants on information
12 technology certification programs, to ensure such partici-
13 pants meet the necessary requirements, and suggest which
14 certification program a participant should pursue accord-
15 ing to his or her experience, skills and competency.

16 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
17 NEEDS.—In consultation with local chambers of com-
18 merce, the Secretary shall identify the certification pro-
19 grams that best meet the employment needs in each local
20 area.

21 (c) WEBSITE.—The Secretary of Labor shall make
22 the information required under subsections (a) and (b)
23 available on an Internet website. Such website shall also
24 include information on participating persons, partner-
25 ships, and corporations who donate money to the fund es-

1 tablished by section 2, unless the person, partnership, or
2 corporation requests that this information not be included
3 on the website.

4 (d) FACILITATION OF IN-KIND DONATIONS.—The
5 Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the State boards,
6 local one-stop centers, and local chambers of commerce,
7 shall facilitate the placing of in-kind donations of text-
8 books or other study materials by entities described in sec-
9 tion 2(b) with qualified individuals participating in certifi-
10 cation programs.

11 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

12 As used in this Act—

13 (1) the term “information technology certifi-
14 cation program” means any course of study or train-
15 ing in computer science or information technology
16 that culminates with an individual earning a certifi-
17 cation or other industry-recognized credential that
18 attests to the individual’s qualification to perform a
19 job or task that entails the application of computers
20 and telecommunications equipment;

21 (2) the term “qualified individual” means an
22 individual who—

23 (A) at the time he or she submits an appli-
24 cation for financial support under section 5, has

1 been unemployed for a period of not less than
2 6 months; or

3 (B) is a veteran of the Armed Services;

4 (3) the term “one-stop center” means a one-
5 stop operator as defined in section 101 of the Work-
6 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801); and

7 (4) the term “State board” means a State
8 workforce investment board established under sec-
9 tion 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
10 (29 U.S.C. 2811).

○