

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6704

To require the Secretary of Labor to establish a grant program for States to improve or establish a credential repository, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to establish a grant program for States to improve or establish a credential repository, 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 “Credential Repository  
5 and Transparency in States Act” or the “CReatES Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide assistance to  
8 States for the collection, development, analysis, and shar-  
9 ing of information on—

10 (1) all of the credentials offered in each State;

1           (2) the quality of such credentials, including  
2 their use by employers for making employment-re-  
3 lated decisions;

4           (3) education and career pathways that lead to  
5 such credentials and occupations in a State; and

6           (4) the sharing of such information with indi-  
7 viduals in each State, enabling them to make in-  
8 formed education and career choices.

9 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

10 (a) AUTHORIZATION AND LIMITATIONS.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-  
12 able under section 4, the Secretary, in consultation  
13 with the Secretary of Education, shall award grants,  
14 on a competitive basis, to States to establish, ex-  
15 pand, or improve a State credential repository that  
16 contains information on each covered program, cre-  
17 dential, and training provider in the State.

18           (2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this  
19 Act shall be awarded for a period of 3 years.

20           (3) AMOUNT.—In awarding a grant under this  
21 Act, the Secretary—

22                   (A) may not award a grant in excess of  
23 \$10,000,000; and

24                   (B) in deciding the amount of a grant,  
25 shall take into consideration—

1 (i) the number of credentials offered  
2 in the State; and

3 (ii) the number of training providers  
4 in the State.

5 (4) TIMING.—Not later than 90 days after the  
6 Secretary receives an application submitted under  
7 subsection (b), the Secretary shall make a deter-  
8 mination as to whether the State that submitted  
9 such application will receive a grant under this Act.

10 (5) LIMIT.—The Secretary may only award one  
11 grant to a State.

12 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant,  
13 a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at  
14 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
15 tion as the Secretary shall require, including—

16 (1) information on how the State will establish,  
17 expand, or improve a credential repository that satis-  
18 fies requirements under subsection (d);

19 (2) information on the data policy a State will  
20 establish under subsection (c)(1)(B);

21 (3) a description of any products, tools, serv-  
22 ices, or resources that a State develops pursuant to  
23 subsection (c)(1)(E);

1           (4) an assurance that the credential repository  
2 will be interoperable with other State credential re-  
3 positories; and

4           (5) an assurance that the State will establish  
5 and maintain the credential repository in accordance  
6 with the requirements under subsection (d).

7 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—

8           (1) MANDATORY USE.—A State awarded a  
9 grant under this Act shall—

10           (A) establish a credential repository, as de-  
11 scribed in subsection (d), through a process  
12 that includes input from the public;

13           (B) establish a data policy for such reposi-  
14 tory that addresses how the State will ensure  
15 that the repository meets the requirements de-  
16 scribed in subsection (d);

17           (C) assist training providers in the State  
18 in the collection of information on the primary  
19 indicators of performance described in section  
20 116(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and  
21 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)) for  
22 each covered program;

23           (D) provide guidance to education, job,  
24 and career counselors in the State on how to  
25 use the credential repository; and

1           (E) develop or facilitate access to products,  
2           tools, services, and other resources, using the  
3           information and linked, open, and interoperable  
4           data contained in the credential repository, that  
5           benefit workers, employers, educators, coun-  
6           selors, policymakers, and others.

7           (2) **AUTHORIZED USE.**—If a State carries out  
8           all of the activities under paragraph (1), the State  
9           may use any excess grant funds to publicize the re-  
10          pository of the State to individuals in the State.

11          (d) **CREDENTIAL REPOSITORY.**—A State that re-  
12          ceives a grant under this Act shall establish a publicly ac-  
13          cessible credential repository that—

14               (1) identifies—

15                     (A) each credential offered in the State;

16                     and

17                     (B) each training provider in the State;

18               (2) includes information on—

19                     (A) with respect to each training provider

20                     in the State—

21                             (i) process and outcome quality indi-

22                             cators of such training provider for each

23                             covered program offered by such training

24                             provider; and

1                   (ii) each credential for which such  
2                   training provider offers a covered program;

3                   (B) with respect to each covered program  
4                   offered in the State—

5                   (i) the competencies and skills an in-  
6                   dividual develops by completing such cov-  
7                   ered program; and

8                   (ii) the cost of enrollment for an indi-  
9                   vidual to enroll in such program;

10                  (C) with respect to each credential offered  
11                  in the State—

12                  (i) the training providers that offer  
13                  such credential;

14                  (ii) any assessment that an individual  
15                  is required to take to earn such credential;

16                  (iii) the cost to an individual of each  
17                  such assessment;

18                  (iv) any postsecondary credit or equiv-  
19                  alent transfer value recommendations of  
20                  such credential, such as the recommenda-  
21                  tions provided by the American Council on  
22                  Education’s National Guide, guidance from  
23                  a statewide education coordinating entity,  
24                  or recommendations or guidance from a

1 comparably similar entity, as available and  
2 appropriate;

3 (v) the career pathway or program of  
4 study that such credential is a part, as ap-  
5 plicable;

6 (vi) the outcomes associated with such  
7 credential, including—

8 (I) the earning and employment  
9 status of individuals after earning  
10 such credential;

11 (II) the completion and pass  
12 rates of individuals in each career  
13 pathway or program of study for  
14 which the individual earned such cre-  
15 dential; and

16 (III) other calculations, including  
17 the return on investment, as deter-  
18 mined by the State, for an individual  
19 after earning such credential;

20 (vii) the job skills an individual devel-  
21 ops in earning such credential; and

22 (viii) the industries and occupations  
23 for which such credential prepares an indi-  
24 vidual;

1           (3) aligns with, complements, and enhances eli-  
2           gibility lists or criteria for training providers, such  
3           as the eligibility criteria established under section  
4           122(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
5           Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(b)), or a program or pathway  
6           approval process required by the Carl D. Perkins  
7           Career and Technical Education Act of 2006  
8           (U.S.C.) or chapter 33 of title 38, United States  
9           Code (otherwise known as the Post 9/11 Education  
10          Assistance Program);

11          (4) is updated on a continuous basis to ensure  
12          the accuracy and recency of the information and  
13          data in the repository;

14          (5) uses data formats that—

15                (A) are transparent, linked, open, and  
16                interoperable with other State credential reposi-  
17                tories;

18                (B) are aligned with widely recognized and  
19                adopted standards, which may include the use  
20                of credential transparency description language  
21                specifications; and

22                (C) allow for open access to the data in the  
23                repository across State and national borders  
24                and industry sectors for guidance counseling,



1 career navigation, and other comparably similar  
2 activities;

3 (6) has functions to search, discover, compare,  
4 and analyze each credential, covered program, and  
5 training provider in the State; and

6 (7) includes any other information as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the  
8 Secretary of Education.

9 (e) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In carrying out the ac-  
10 tivities under this Act, a State shall not collect or include  
11 in the repository any personally identifiable information.

12 (f) REPORT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and on an annual  
15 basis thereafter, a State that receives a grant under  
16 this Act shall submit to the Secretary a report at  
17 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
18 formation as the Secretary may require, including  
19 information on the improvement or development and  
20 implementation of the credential repository in such  
21 State.

22 (2) REDUCED BURDEN.—The Secretary, in co-  
23 ordination with the Secretary of Education, and in  
24 consultation with the States receiving a grant under  
25 this Act, shall implement processes to reduce the

1       burden of reporting information required to be re-  
2       ported under this Act.

3       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

4           (1) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term “covered  
5       program” means a program that is offered to indi-  
6       viduals to earn a credential.

7           (2) CREDENTIAL.—The term “credential”  
8       means an education or occupational qualification or  
9       achievement used to indicate suitability for a future  
10      educational opportunity or career opportunity, in-  
11      cluding diplomas, digital badges, certificates, certifi-  
12      cations, a recognized postsecondary credential, occu-  
13      pational or professional licenses, microcredentials,  
14      and degrees of all types and levels.

15          (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”, unless  
16      otherwise specified in this Act, means the Secretary  
17      of Labor.

18          (4) TRAINING PROVIDER.—The term “training  
19      provider” means an entity that offers a covered pro-  
20      gram.

21          (5) WIOA TERMS.—The terms “career path-  
22      way”, “recognized postsecondary credential”, and  
23      “State” have the meanings given such terms in sec-  
24      tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
25      Act (29 U.S.C. 3113).

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
3 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this  
4 Act for fiscal year 2025.

5 (b) REMAIN AVAILABLE.—The funds appropriated  
6 under this section shall remain available until September  
7 30, 2027.

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