

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2501

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, 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 “Offshore Wind Jobs
5 and Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE WIND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
9 merce of the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Natural Resources
11 of the House of Representatives.

12 (2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
13 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior
14 or community college” in section 312 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

16 (3) DISLOCATED WORKER.—The term “dis-
17 located worker” has the meaning given the term in
18 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
19 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

20 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
21 ty” means an entity that is—

22 (A) an institution of higher education; or

23 (B) a labor organization.

1 (5) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
2 gram” means the grant program established under
3 subsection (d).

4 (6) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means an
5 eligible entity that has received a grant under this
6 section.

7 (7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOY-
8 MENT.—The term “individual with a barrier to em-
9 ployment” has the meaning given the term in section
10 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
11 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 (8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
13 term “institution of higher education” has the
14 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (9) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term “lead appli-
17 cant” means the eligible entity that is primarily re-
18 sponsible for the preparation, conduct, and adminis-
19 tration of the project for which a grant is awarded
20 under this section.

21 (10) QUALIFIED INTERMEDIARY.—The term
22 “qualified intermediary” has the meaning given the
23 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
24 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

1 (11) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
2 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
3 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
4 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
5 U.S.C. 3102).

6 (12) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
7 GRAM.—The term “registered apprenticeship pro-
8 gram” means an apprenticeship program registered
9 under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known
10 as the “National Apprenticeship Act”) (50 Stat.
11 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

12 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
13 means the Secretary of Energy.

14 (14) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
16 United States Code.

17 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER
18 TRAINING NEEDS.—Not later than 120 days after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
20 tion with representatives from the offshore wind industry,
21 eligible entities, including eligible entities that are commu-
22 nity colleges and labor organizations, State and local gov-
23 ernments, ports, and nonprofit organizations, shall iden-
24 tify educational and career training needs with respect to
25 the offshore wind industry, including needs relating to

1 manufacturing, construction, installation, operation, engi-
2 neering training and education, and maintenance activi-
3 ties.

4 (c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) issue guidelines for the submission of grant
7 proposals under this section, which shall include a
8 list of the educational and career training needs
9 identified under subsection (b); and

10 (2) publish and maintain the guidelines de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) on a public website of the
12 Secretary.

13 (d) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not
14 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
15 the Secretary shall establish a grant program under which
16 the Secretary may award offshore wind career training
17 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of developing,
18 offering, or improving educational or career training pro-
19 grams that provide individuals who are enrolled in those
20 programs with skills that are necessary for employment
21 in the offshore wind industry.

22 (e) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—

23 (1) LIMITATION ON GRANT QUANTITY AND
24 SIZE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
25 may not award to an eligible entity—

1 (A) more than 1 grant for which the eligi-
2 ble entity is the lead applicant; or

3 (B) a grant that is in an amount that is
4 more than \$2,500,000.

5 (2) ALLOCATION TO ENTITIES WITH REG-
6 ISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.—The Sec-
7 retary shall ensure that, in a fiscal year, not less
8 than 25 percent of the total amount that the Sec-
9 retary awards in grants under this section is award-
10 ed to eligible entities that sponsor registered appren-
11 ticeship programs.

12 (3) ALLOCATION OF CONSTRUCTION AND MAIN-
13 TENANCE GRANTS.—To the maximum extent prac-
14 ticable, the Secretary shall ensure that grants relat-
15 ing to construction and maintenance career training
16 are reserved for—

17 (A) eligible entities that sponsor a reg-
18 istered apprenticeship program or offer a pre-
19 apprenticeship program that facilitates entry
20 into a registered apprenticeship program; and

21 (B) eligible entities that are participating
22 in a joint labor-management partnership.

23 (f) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity seeking to re-
24 ceive a grant under this section may partner with 1 or
25 more of the following:

1 (1) Another eligible entity, including an eligible
2 entity that is—

3 (A) a community college; or

4 (B) participating in a joint labor-manage-
5 ment partnership.

6 (2) A State or local government agency respon-
7 sible for education, workforce development, or off-
8 shore wind energy activities.

9 (3) A nonprofit organization.

10 (4) A qualified intermediary.

11 (g) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity may use a
12 grant awarded under this section to carry out—

13 (1) occupational skills training, including cur-
14 riculum and career pathway development, on-the-job
15 training, safety and health training, and classroom
16 training;

17 (2) incumbent worker and career ladder train-
18 ing and retraining, including skill upgrading and
19 transitional job strategizing;

20 (3) individual referral and tuition assistance for
21 a training program through which an individual may
22 attain a recognized postsecondary credential;

23 (4) customized training in conjunction with an
24 existing registered apprenticeship program or pre-

1 apprenticeship program, paid internship, or joint
2 labor-management partnership; and

3 (5) other activities that the Secretary deter-
4 mines meet the purposes of this section.

5 (h) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR GRANT PRO-
6 POSALS.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a grant
7 under this section shall submit a grant proposal to the
8 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and, in accord-
9 ance with the guidelines issued under subsection (c)(1),
10 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

11 (i) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
13 appropriations, the Secretary may award a grant
14 under this section only after an evaluation of—

15 (A) the merits of the grant proposal with
16 respect to the grant;

17 (B) the employment opportunities or pro-
18 jected employment opportunities, including the
19 projected wages and benefits, available to indi-
20 viduals who complete the educational or career
21 training program that the eligible entity apply-
22 ing for the grant proposes to develop, offer, or
23 improve;

24 (C) the availability and capacity of existing
25 educational or career training programs in the

1 community served by the eligible entity applying
2 for the grant to meet future demand for the
3 educational or career training programs; and

4 (D) the employment opportunities or pro-
5 jected employment opportunities for members of
6 groups that have been historically underserved
7 in the engineering and construction of energy
8 facilities or the engineering and manufacture of
9 energy facility components.

10 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
11 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
12 entities that—

13 (A) are—

14 (i) institutions of higher education
15 that have formed partnerships with labor
16 organizations; or

17 (ii) labor organizations that have
18 formed partnerships with institutions of
19 higher education;

20 (B) have entered into a memorandum of
21 understanding with 1 or more employers in the
22 offshore wind industry to partner on the estab-
23 lishment or expansion of the educational or ca-
24 reer training program that the eligible entity

1 applying for the grant proposes to develop,
2 offer, or improve; or

3 (C) will use the grant funds to assist indi-
4 viduals who are—

5 (i) dislocated workers, with a focus on
6 workers displaced from the offshore oil and
7 gas, onshore fossil fuel, nuclear energy, or
8 fishing industry;

9 (ii) veterans, members of the reserve
10 components of the Armed Forces, or
11 former members of those reserve compo-
12 nents; or

13 (iii) individuals with a barrier to em-
14 ployment.

15 (j) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A grant awarded
16 under this section may not be used to satisfy any non-
17 Federal funds matching requirement under any other pro-
18 vision of law.

19 (k) GRANTEE DATA COLLECTION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee shall collect and
21 report to the Secretary on an annual basis the fol-
22 lowing information regarding the educational or ca-
23 reer training program for which the grantee receives
24 a grant under this section:

1 (A) The number of participants enrolled in
2 the educational or career training program (re-
3 ferred to in this subsection as “participants”).

4 (B) The number of participants that com-
5 pleted the educational or career training pro-
6 gram during the previous 1-year period.

7 (C) The services received in the edu-
8 cational or career training program by the par-
9 ticipants, including a description of training,
10 educational, and supportive services.

11 (D) The amount of grant funds expended
12 by the grantee per participant.

13 (E) The rate of job placement of partici-
14 pants in the offshore wind industry or related
15 fields that have completed the educational or
16 career training program.

17 (F) The rate at which participants are re-
18 tained in positions of employment 1 year after
19 the date on which the participant has completed
20 the program.

21 (G) The percentage of participants enrolled
22 in the educational or career training program
23 who obtain a recognized postsecondary creden-
24 tial or a secondary school diploma or its recog-

1 nized equivalent not later than 1 year after
2 exiting the program.

3 (2) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—The data col-
4 lected and reported under this subsection shall be
5 disaggregated by—

6 (A) each population specified in subpara-
7 graphs (A) through (M) of section 3(24) of the
8 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
9 U.S.C. 3102(24));

10 (B) race;

11 (C) ethnicity;

12 (D) sex; and

13 (E) age.

14 (3) DATA COLLECTION ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-
15 retary shall assist grantees in the collection of data
16 under this subsection—

17 (A) by making available, in coordination
18 with the Secretary of Labor and where prac-
19 ticable, low-cost means of tracking the labor
20 market outcomes of participants; and

21 (B) by providing standardized reporting
22 forms, where appropriate.

23 (l) TECHNICAL AND OVERSIGHT ASSISTANCE.—The
24 Secretary shall provide technical assistance and over-
25 sight—

1 (1) to assist eligible entities in applying for
2 grants under this section; and

3 (2) to assist grantees in administering grants
4 received under this section.

5 (m) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18
7 months after the date on which the grant program
8 is established, the Secretary shall submit to the ap-
9 propriate committees of Congress an initial report
10 describing the results of the grant program, includ-
11 ing a description of—

12 (A) the grantees that were awarded a
13 grant under this section; and

14 (B) the activities for which the grantees
15 described in subparagraph (A) used a grant
16 awarded under this section.

17 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2
18 years after the date on which the initial report is
19 submitted under paragraph (1), and every 2 years
20 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a report describing
22 the results of the grant program for the 2-year pe-
23 riod preceding the report.

24 (n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000
3 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

4 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Sec-
5 retary may use not more than 2 percent of the
6 amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for each
7 fiscal year for administrative expenses, including ex-
8 penses relating to providing technical assistance and
9 oversight activities under subsection (1).

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