

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4981

To provide eligible institutions with grant funds to support programs of study for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide eligible institutions with grant funds to support programs of study for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

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 “Skilled Workforce for
5 America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—The term “eligi-
9 ble institution” means an institution of higher edu-

1 cation, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (2) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
4 TION.—The term “in-demand industry sector or oc-
5 cupation” has the meaning given the term in section
6 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
7 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

8 (3) LOCAL BOARD.—The term “local board”
9 has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the
10 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
11 U.S.C. 3102).

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

14 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants,
16 on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions to enable
17 those eligible institutions to fund programs to prepare stu-
18 dents to work in in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
19 tions and wrap-around services to support such students,
20 as described in section 5.

21 (b) GRANT DURATION.—The period of a grant under
22 this Act shall not exceed 4 years.

23 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

24 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—An eligible insti-
25 tution desiring a grant under this Act shall submit to the

1 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
2 and containing or accompanied by such information, as
3 the Secretary may reasonably require.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under
5 subsection (a) shall—

6 (1) describe how a grant under this Act
7 would—

8 (A) prepare students to—

9 (i) work in an in-demand industry sec-
10 tor or occupation; or

11 (ii) teach courses in in-demand indus-
12 try sectors or occupations at the secondary
13 and post-secondary level;

14 (B) benefit students served by the eligible
15 institution; and

16 (C) reflect the needs of local employers;

17 (2) describe how funds awarded by a grant
18 under this Act would be used; and

19 (3) contain other information as the Secretary
20 considers necessary to determine the nature of the
21 local workforce needs, the quality of the proposed
22 program, and the capability of the applicant to carry
23 out the program.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

2 An eligible institution receiving a grant under this
3 Act, in collaboration with the local board, shall use grant
4 funds to—

5 (1) establish and support programs of study in
6 in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

7 (2) provide academic and nonacademic wrap-
8 around services to students enrolled in those pro-
9 grams of study, including—

10 (A) mentorship and advisement;

11 (B) financial literacy;

12 (C) academic support;

13 (D) tuition reimbursement;

14 (E) childcare assistance;

15 (F) transportation; and

16 (G) reimbursement for equipment; and

17 (3) establish or support such additional pro-
18 grams as the Secretary may determine.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
21 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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