

Calendar No. 351116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 876**

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Jobs for our
3 Heroes Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENERGY-READY VETS PROGRAM.**

5 Title XI of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
6 16411 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“SEC. 1107. ENERGY-READY VETS PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
10 sure that veterans have the credentials and training nec-
11 essary to secure careers in the energy industry.

12 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERV-
14 ICE.—The term ‘active military, naval, or air service’
15 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of
16 title 38, United States Code.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘eligi-
18 ble participant’ means a veteran who—

19 “(A) was discharged or released from serv-
20 ice in the active military, naval, or air service
21 during the most recent 1-year period; or

22 “(B)(i) was discharged or released from
23 service in the active military, naval, or air serv-
24 ice during the 2-year period immediately pre-
25 ceding the most recent 1-year period; and

1 “(ii) receives the approval of the Secretary
2 to participate in the program.

3 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
4 the Energy-Ready Vets Program established under
5 subsection (c)(1).

6 “(4) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term ‘uni-
7 formed services’ has the meaning given such term in
8 section 10(a) of title 10, United States Code.

9 “(5) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the
10 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38,
11 United States Code.

12 “(c) ESTABLISHMENT; IMPLEMENTATION.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
14 tablish a program, to be known as the ‘Energy-
15 Ready Vets Program’, to prepare eligible partici-
16 pants for careers in the energy industry.

17 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall
18 ensure that the program is implemented by an ad-
19 ministrator, to be appointed by the Secretary from
20 among individuals with experience relating to mili-
21 tary service.

22 “(d) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in partner-
24 ship with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out
25 the program through the SkillBridge program of the

1 Department of Defense, under which the Secretary
2 shall provide standardized training courses, based, to
3 the maximum extent practicable, on existing indus-
4 try-recognized certification and training programs,
5 to prepare eligible participants in the program for
6 careers in the energy industry, including—

7 “(A) in the solar energy industry, ca-
8 reers—

9 “(i) as solar photovoltaic system in-
10 stallers;

11 “(ii) as solar technicians;

12 “(iii) as system inspectors; and

13 “(iv) in other areas relating to the
14 solar energy industry;

15 “(B) in the wind energy industry, ca-
16 reers—

17 “(i) in wind energy operations;

18 “(ii) in wind energy development;

19 “(iii) in wind energy manufacturing;

20 “(iv) as wind energy technicians;

21 “(v) in the support of all parts of the
22 wind energy supply chain; and

23 “(vi) in other areas relating to the
24 wind energy industry;

1 “(C) in the cybersecurity sector of the en-
2 ergy industry, careers in—

3 “(i) cybersecurity preparedness;

4 “(ii) cyber incident response and re-
5 covery;

6 “(iii) grid modernization, security,
7 and maintenance;

8 “(iv) resilience planning; and

9 “(v) other areas relating to the cyber-
10 security sector of the energy industry;

11 “(D) careers in other low-carbon emissions
12 sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy
13 industry identified by the Secretary; and

14 “(E) careers in sectors that plan, develop,
15 construct, maintain, and expand energy indus-
16 try infrastructure.

17 “(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
19 program, the Secretary shall ensure that the
20 courses described in paragraph (1)—

21 “(i) provide—

22 “(I) job training;

23 “(II) employment skills training,
24 including providing comprehensive

1 wraparound support services to eligi-
 2 ble participants that—

3 “(aa) enhance the training
 4 experience and promote the pro-
 5 fessional development of eligible
 6 participants; and

7 “(bb) help eligible partici-
 8 pants transition into the work-
 9 force; and

10 “(III) opportunities for intern-
 11 ships of not longer than 180 days;
 12 and

13 “(ii) are carried out primarily
 14 through—

15 “(I) internships; or

16 “(II) applied, work-based train-
 17 ing.

18 “(B) EXAM REQUIREMENT.—As a require-
 19 ment for completing a course described in para-
 20 graph (1), the Secretary shall require each eligi-
 21 ble participant in the course to earn an applica-
 22 ble industry-recognized entry-level certificate or
 23 other credential.

24 “(e) RECOGNITION OF ENTITIES.—The Secretary
 25 and the administrator of the program appointed under

1 subsection (c)(2), working jointly, shall establish and carry
 2 out a program to recognize commercial entities that hire
 3 eligible participants who receive certifications or other cre-
 4 dentials under the program, based on the proportion
 5 that—

6 “(1) the number of such eligible participants
 7 hired by the commercial entity; bears to

8 “(2) the number of such eligible participants
 9 hired by all commercial entities.

10 ~~“(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED~~
 11 ~~CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—~~

12 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection~~
 13 ~~(d), if an appropriate industry-recognized certifi-~~
 14 ~~cation and training program does not exist, the Sec-~~
 15 ~~retary shall establish a grant program to assist the~~
 16 ~~industry in developing such an industry-recognized~~
 17 ~~certification and training program.~~

18 ~~“(2) FUNDING.—Out of the amounts made~~
 19 ~~available under subsection (g)(1), the Secretary shall~~
 20 ~~use such sums as are necessary to carry out para-~~
 21 ~~graph (1).~~

22 ~~“(g) FUNDING.—~~

23 ~~“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—~~
 24 ~~There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-~~

1 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this
2 section.

3 ~~“(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—~~

4 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-~~
5 ~~graph (B), the Secretary shall allocate to each~~
6 ~~facility of the Department of Defense partici-~~
7 ~~pating in the program an amount based on a~~
8 ~~percentage of how many participants enroll in~~
9 ~~courses at the facility.~~

10 ~~“(B) APPLICATIONS.—A facility of the De-~~
11 ~~partment of Defense participating in the pro-~~
12 ~~gram and desiring funding under subparagraph~~
13 ~~(A) shall annually submit an application for~~
14 ~~such funding.~~

15 ~~“(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED~~
16 ~~CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—For purposes~~
17 ~~of subsection (d), if an appropriate industry-recognized cer-~~
18 ~~tification and training program does not exist, the Sec-~~
19 ~~retary shall establish a grant program to assist the industry~~
20 ~~in developing such an industry-recognized certification and~~
21 ~~training program.~~

22 ~~“(h)(g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the~~
23 ~~date on which the program is established, and annually~~
24 ~~thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report~~

1 describing the activities carried out under, and accom-
2 plishments of, the ~~program.~~ *program, including—*

3 “(1) *the number of veterans enrolled in the pro-*
4 *gram;*

5 “(2) *the regional distribution of those veterans;*

6 “(3) *the cost of certification under the program;*

7 “(4) *the rate of job placement;*

8 “(5) *the rate of job retention; and*

9 “(6) *the average salaries of veterans who were*
10 *enrolled in the program.”.*

Calendar No. 351

116TH CONGRESS
1ST Session
S. 876

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