

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 998

To establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. KEATING (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McEACHIN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. NEAL, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 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”.

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

3 The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
4 1331 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 33. OFFSHORE WIND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Beginning 360 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
10 retary may award offshore wind career training grants to
11 eligible entities for the purpose of developing, offering, or
12 improving educational or career training programs that
13 provide individuals in such programs skills necessary for
14 employment in the offshore wind industry.

15 “(b) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—

16 “(1) LIMITATION ON GRANT QUANTITY AND
17 SIZE.—An eligible entity may not be awarded—

18 “(A) more than one grant under this sec-
19 tion for which the eligible entity is the lead ap-
20 plicant; or

21 “(B) a grant under this section in excess
22 of \$2,500,000.

23 “(2) ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES.—

24 Not less than 25 percent of the total amount award-
25 ed under this section for a fiscal year shall be

1 awarded to eligible entities that are community col-
2 leges.

3 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity seeking to
4 receive a grant under this section may partner with one
5 or more of the following:

6 “(1) Another eligible entity (including an eligi-
7 ble entity that is a community college).

8 “(2) A State or local government.

9 “(3) A nonprofit organization.

10 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity may use a
11 grant awarded under this section for the following activi-
12 ties:

13 “(1) Occupational skills training, including cur-
14 riculum development, on-the-job training, and class-
15 room training.

16 “(2) Safety and health training.

17 “(3) The provision of basic skills, English as a
18 second language, and job readiness training.

19 “(4) Individual referral and tuition assistance
20 for a community college training program or simi-
21 larly situated training program operated by a non-
22 profit organization leading to a recognized postsec-
23 ondary credential (as such term is defined in section
24 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
25 (29 U.S.C. 3102)).

1 “(5) Internship programs in a field related to
2 offshore wind energy.

3 “(6) Customized training in conjunction with
4 an existing registered apprenticeship program or
5 labor-management partnership.

6 “(7) Incumbent worker and career ladder train-
7 ing and skill upgrading and retraining.

8 “(8) The implementation of transitional jobs
9 strategies.

10 “(9) Curriculum development at the under-
11 graduate and postgraduate levels.

12 “(10) Development and support of offshore
13 wind energy major, minor, or certificate programs.

14 “(11) Such other activities, as determined by
15 the Secretary, to meet the purposes of this section.

16 “(e) GRANT PROPOSALS.—

17 “(1) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR GRANT PRO-
18 POSALS.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a
19 grant under this section shall submit a grant pro-
20 posal to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
21 and containing such information as the Secretary
22 may require.

23 “(2) CONTENT OF GRANT PROPOSALS.—A
24 grant proposal submitted to the Secretary under this
25 section shall include a detailed description of—

1 “(A) the specific project for which the
2 grant proposal is submitted, including the man-
3 ner in which the grant will be used to develop,
4 offer, or improve an educational or career train-
5 ing program that will provide individuals in
6 such program skills necessary for employment
7 in the offshore wind industry;

8 “(B) any previous experience of the eligible
9 entity in providing such educational or career
10 training programs; and

11 “(C) the extent to which such project will
12 meet the educational or career training needs
13 identified under subsection (i).

14 “(f) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations,
16 the Secretary shall award grants under this section
17 based on an evaluation of—

18 “(A) the merits of the grant proposal;

19 “(B) the likely employment opportunities
20 available to individuals who complete the edu-
21 cational or career training program that the eli-
22 gible entity proposes to develop, offer, or im-
23 prove;

1 “(C) prior demand for such educational or
2 career training programs in the community
3 served by the eligible entity; and

4 “(D) the availability and capacity of exist-
5 ing educational or career training programs in
6 the community to meet future demand for such
7 programs.

8 “(2) PRIORITY.—Priority in awarding grants
9 under this section shall be given to an eligible entity
10 that—

11 “(A) is—

12 “(i) an institute of higher education
13 that has formed a partnership with a labor
14 organization; or

15 “(ii) a labor organization that has
16 formed a partnership with an institute of
17 higher education;

18 “(B) has entered into a memorandum of
19 understanding with an employer in the offshore
20 wind industry to foster workforce development;

21 “(C) is located in an economically dis-
22 tressed area;

23 “(D) focuses on individuals who are—

24 “(i) displaced workers (particularly
25 workers displaced from the offshore oil and

1 gas, onshore fossil fuel, nuclear energy, or
2 fishing industries);

3 “(ii) veterans, members of the reserve
4 components of the Armed Forces, or
5 former members of such reserve compo-
6 nents;

7 “(iii) unemployed;

8 “(iv) seeking employment pathways
9 out of poverty and into economic self-suffi-
10 ciency;

11 “(v) at-risk youth; or

12 “(vi) formerly incarcerated, adju-
13 dicated, nonviolent offenders; or

14 “(E) with respect to an eligible entity that
15 is an institution of higher education, has a high
16 percentage or number of low-income or minority
17 students.

18 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
19 retary shall, to the extent practicable, award grants
20 under this section in a manner that provides for a
21 reasonable geographic distribution, except that the
22 Secretary shall not be required to award grants
23 equally among different regions of the United
24 States.

1 “(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A grant awarded
2 under this section may not be used to satisfy any non-
3 Federal funds matching requirement under any other pro-
4 vision of law.

5 “(h) GRANTEE DATA COLLECTION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee, with respect to
7 the educational or career training program for which
8 the grantee received a grant under this section, shall
9 collect and report to the Secretary on an annual
10 basis the following:

11 “(A) The number of participants enrolled
12 in the educational or career training program.

13 “(B) The number of participants that have
14 completed the educational or career training
15 program.

16 “(C) The services received by such partici-
17 pants, including a description of training, edu-
18 cation, and supportive services.

19 “(D) The amount spent by the grantee per
20 participant.

21 “(E) The rate of job placement of partici-
22 pants in the offshore wind industry or related
23 fields.

24 “(F) The rate of employment retention—

1 “(i) if the eligible entity is not an in-
2 stitution of higher education, 1 year after
3 completion of the educational or career
4 training program; or

5 “(ii) if the eligible entity is an institu-
6 tion of higher education, 1 year after com-
7 pletion of the educational or career train-
8 ing program or 1 year after the participant
9 is no longer enrolled in such institution of
10 higher education, whichever is later.

11 “(2) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—The data
12 collected and reported under this subsection shall be
13 disaggregated by—

14 “(A) race;

15 “(B) low-income status;

16 “(C) disability; and

17 “(D) English language proficiency.

18 “(3) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Sec-
19 retary shall assist grantees in the collection of data
20 under this subsection by making available, where
21 practicable, low-cost means of tracking the labor
22 market outcomes of participants and by providing
23 standardized reporting forms, where appropriate.

24 “(i) IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER
25 TRAINING NEEDS.—Not later than 120 days after the

1 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in
2 consultation with the offshore wind industry, eligible enti-
3 ties, including eligible entities that are community col-
4 leges, State and local governments, labor organizations,
5 and nonprofit organizations, shall identify the educational
6 and career training needs of such industry, including
7 needs related to construction and installation, engineering,
8 manufacturing, operation, and maintenance activities rel-
9 evant to the offshore wind industry.

10 “(j) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 240 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

12 “(1) promulgate guidelines for the submission
13 of grant proposals under this section, including a list
14 of the educational and career training needs identi-
15 fied under subsection (i); and

16 “(2) publish and maintain such guidelines on a
17 public website of the Secretary.

18 “(k) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18
19 months after the date of the enactment of this section,
20 and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
21 a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
22 House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and
23 Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Edu-
24 cation and Labor of the House of Representatives, and
25 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

1 sions of the Senate on the grant program established by
2 this section. The report shall include a description of the
3 grantees and the activities for which grantees used a grant
4 awarded under this section.

5 “(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this sec-
7 tion \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
8 2026.

9 “(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
11 munity college’ has the meaning given the term ‘jun-
12 ior or community college’ in section 312(f) of the
13 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
15 tity’ means an entity that is—

16 “(A) an institution of higher education, as
17 such term is defined in section 101 of the High-
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); or

19 “(B) a labor organization.

20 “(3) GRANTEE.—The term ‘grantee’ means an
21 eligible entity that has received a grant under this
22 section.

23 “(4) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term ‘lead appli-
24 cant’ means the eligible entity that is primarily re-
25 sponsible for the preparation, conduct, and adminis-

1 tration of the project for which the grant was award-
2 ed.

3 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with
5 the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Education,
6 and the Secretary of Labor.”.

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