

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2923

To require the Secretary of Energy to award grants to expand programs in maritime and energy workforce technical training, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 require the Secretary of Energy to award grants to expand programs in maritime and energy workforce technical training, 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 “Maritime and Energy
5 Workforce Technical Training Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARITIME AND ENERGY WORKFORCE TECHNICAL**
2 **TRAINING ENHANCEMENT.**

3 (a) GRANTS REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in
5 this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall award
6 grants to enable eligible community colleges and
7 other public institutions of higher education to ex-
8 pand upon existing programs in maritime and en-
9 ergy workforce technical training, including by ad-
10 mitting more students, training faculty, expanding
11 facilities, creating new maritime career pathways
12 from associate degree to baccalaureate degree pro-
13 grams and awarding credit for prior learning experi-
14 ence, or increasing cooperation with the Department
15 of Energy, the Department of Defense, the Depart-
16 ment of Homeland Security, the Department of
17 Transportation, the Department of Veterans Affairs,
18 or the National Science Foundation. In developing
19 the grant program, the Secretary may award a grant
20 to a nonprofit organization with a track record of at
21 least 10 years of expertise in working with commu-
22 nity colleges on developing workforce development
23 programs, to provide assistance to the Secretary in
24 carrying out the requirements of this Act.

25 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pri-
26 ority in the award of grants under this section to eli-

1 gible institutions that have entered into a partner-
2 ship with the Department of Energy, the Depart-
3 ment of Defense, the Department of Homeland Se-
4 curity, the Department of Transportation, or the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 (3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under
7 this section shall be in amounts of not less than
8 \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

9 (b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
12 thereafter for 2 years, the Secretary shall issue a re-
13 quest for proposals from eligible institutions for
14 grants under this section.

15 (2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that
16 seeks the award of a grant under this section shall
17 submit an application therefor to the Secretary at
18 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
19 such information as the Secretary may require, in-
20 cluding—

21 (A) demonstration of a willingness and
22 ability to participate in a partnership described
23 in subsection (a)(2), if any; and

24 (B) a commitment, and demonstration of
25 an ability, to maintain maritime and energy

1 workforce technical training programs after the
2 end of the grant period.

3 (c) GRANT USES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
5 awarded a grant under this section shall use grant
6 amounts to carry out any of the following:

7 (A) Training related to maritime or energy
8 transportation, logistics, and supply chain man-
9 agement.

10 (B) Training related to shipbuilding and
11 ship repair.

12 (C) Enhancement of academic and work-
13 force training programs, to include certifi-
14 cations and apprenticeships, providing training
15 for maritime and energy employment.

16 (D) Salary supplementation for faculty in
17 maritime or energy training and education.

18 (E) Operation and maintenance of mari-
19 time or energy related equipment and tech-
20 nology for use in instructional programs.

21 (F) Acquisition of marine vessels, safety
22 equipment, ship simulators, electronic naviga-
23 tion devices, fire suppression equipment, phys-
24 ical and chemical measuring instruments, sam-
25 pling devices, and other assets and equipment

1 for use in maritime or energy related training
2 and education.

3 (G) Renovation or construction of build-
4 ings to house maritime or energy training and
5 education programs.

6 (H) Tuition reimbursement for successful
7 completion of a maritime or energy course, pro-
8 gram, or certification.

9 (2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—An eligi-
10 ble institution awarded a grant under this section
11 may use not more than 50 percent of the grant
12 amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

13 (3) ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.—An eligible in-
14 stitution awarded a grant under this section shall
15 give preference in admission to maritime or energy
16 training and education programs to veterans, to the
17 extent practicable.

18 (4) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible in-
19 stitution awarded a grant under this section may use
20 the grant funds for a period of three years after the
21 award of the grant.

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) The term “eligible institution” means a
24 community college or other public postsecondary
25 educational institution located in close proximity to

1 marine or port facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, At-
2 lantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, or Great Lakes offering
3 a maritime training and education program, and
4 which has an established association with—

5 (A) a port authority or other established
6 seaport or inland port facility; and

7 (B) the Department of Energy, the De-
8 partment of Defense, the Department of Home-
9 land Security, the Department of Transpor-
10 tation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or
11 other appropriate government agencies.

12 (2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given
13 that term in section 101 of title 38, United States
14 Code.

15 (e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for
17 each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, \$12,000,000
18 to carry out this section.

19 **SEC. 3. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME AND EN-**
20 **ERGY WORKFORCE TECHNICAL TRAINING.**

21 (a) **GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consulta-
23 tion with the Secretary of Transportation and the
24 Secretary of Labor, shall award a grant to no more

1 than 10 eligible institutions to enable the eligible in-
2 stitutions to—

3 (A) establish Centers of Excellence in Mar-
4 itime and Energy Workforce Technical Training
5 (in this section referred to as the “Centers”);
6 and

7 (B) enable eligible institutions to improve
8 and expand maritime and energy workforce
9 training opportunities for veterans, members of
10 the Armed Forces, Federal employees, and civil-
11 ians by implementing new programs in such
12 training areas as—

13 (i) port related transportation sys-
14 tems, maritime and energy logistics and
15 supply chain management, small vessel re-
16 pair, maintenance of navigation and deck
17 cargo systems, maintenance of sophisti-
18 cated training equipment, port related
19 transportation, logistics, and supply chain
20 management, shipbuilding and ship repair,
21 operation and maintenance of equipment
22 and technology for use in maritime and en-
23 ergy employment training; and

24 (ii) job placement in maritime and en-
25 ergy related employment fields.

1 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pri-
2 ority in the award of grants under this section to eli-
3 gible institutions that have in force, or demonstrate
4 the willingness and ability to enter into, memoranda
5 of understanding with the Department of Energy,
6 the Department of Defense, the Department of
7 Homeland Security, the Department of Transpor-
8 tation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or other
9 appropriate government agencies, or a cooperative
10 agreement with an appropriate private sector entity,
11 which memorandum of understanding or cooperative
12 agreement provides for either, or both, of the fol-
13 lowing:

14 (A) The provision of resources, whether in
15 cash or in kind, to the Center.

16 (B) Assistance for the Center in building
17 maritime or energy training capacity, or in
18 training Federal employees in maritime fields.

19 (3) GRANT AMOUNT.—Grants awarded under
20 this section shall be in amounts of not more than
21 \$1,500,000 per Center.

22 (b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall issue a request for proposals from eligible insti-
2 tutions for a grant under this section.

3 (2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that
4 seeks the award of the grant under this section shall
5 submit an application therefor to the Secretary at
6 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
7 such information as the Secretary may require.

8 (c) GRANT USES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
10 awarded a grant under this section shall use the
11 grant amount for purposes as follows:

12 (A) To develop an agenda for maritime
13 and energy training and education.

14 (B) To fund expansion of maritime and
15 energy training and education.

16 (C) To publish or otherwise disseminate
17 findings relating to best practices in maritime
18 and energy training and education.

19 (2) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—Eligible insti-
20 tutions awarded grants under this section may use
21 the grant amount for a period of five years after the
22 award of the grant.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) The term “eligible institution” means a
25 community college or other public educational insti-

1 tution located in close proximity to port or other ma-
2 rine facilities on the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean,
3 Pacific Ocean, or Great Lakes that—

4 (A) operates an existing maritime or en-
5 ergy workforce training program;

6 (B) offers accredited programs in academic
7 areas such as port related transportation, logis-
8 tics, and supply chain management and ship-
9 building and ship repair, among other areas rel-
10 evant to maritime or energy related workforce
11 training;

12 (C) is well recognized in the field of mari-
13 time workforce training; and

14 (D) has an established association with—

15 (i) a port authority; and

16 (ii) the Department of Energy, the
17 Department of Defense, the Department of
18 Homeland Security, the Department of
19 Transportation, the Department of Vet-
20 erans Affairs, or other appropriate govern-
21 ment agencies.

22 (2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given
23 that term in section 101 of title 38, United States
24 Code.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for
3 each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, \$12,000,000
4 to carry out this section.

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