

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2053

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. Kaine) 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 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The
9 term “appropriate Federal agency” means—

- 1 (A) the Department of Defense;
2 (B) the Department of Energy;
3 (C) the Department of Homeland Security;
4 (D) the Department of Transportation; or
5 (E) the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Energy.

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

15 **SEC. 3. MARITIME AND ENERGY WORKFORCE TECHNICAL**
16 **TRAINING ENHANCEMENT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—

18 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
19 award grants to eligible institutions to expand on ex-
20 isting programs in maritime and energy workforce
21 technical training, including by—

- 22 (A) admitting more students to the pro-
23 gram;
24 (B) training faculty;
25 (C) expanding facilities;

1 (D) creating new maritime career path-
2 ways, including a pathway from an associate
3 degree to a baccalaureate degree;

4 (E) awarding credit for prior learning ex-
5 perience; and

6 (F) increasing cooperation with, as appli-
7 cable—

8 (i) an appropriate Federal agency; or

9 (ii) the National Science Foundation.

10 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—To be eligible to
11 receive a grant under paragraph (1), an institution
12 shall be an institution of higher education that—

13 (A) is a community college or other public
14 postsecondary educational institution;

15 (B) is located in close proximity to marine
16 or port facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic
17 Ocean, Pacific Ocean, or Great Lakes;

18 (C) offers a maritime training and edu-
19 cation program; and

20 (D) has an established association with—

21 (i) a port authority or other estab-
22 lished seaport or inland port facility; and

23 (ii) an appropriate Federal agency.

24 (3) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pri-
25 ority in awarding grants under this subsection to eli-

1 gible institutions that have entered into a partner-
2 ship with an appropriate Federal agency.

3 (4) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under
4 this subsection shall be in amounts of not less than
5 \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

6 (b) REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS.—

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

12 (2) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible institution
13 seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an
14 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
15 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
16 retary may require, including—

17 (A) demonstration of a willingness and
18 ability to participate in a partnership described
19 in subsection (a)(3); and

20 (B) a commitment and demonstration of
21 an ability to maintain maritime and energy
22 workforce technical training programs after the
23 end of the grant period.

24 (c) GRANT USES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
2 awarded a grant under subsection (a) shall use
3 grant amounts to carry out—

4 (A) training relating to maritime or energy
5 transportation, logistics, and supply chain man-
6 agement;

7 (B) training relating to shipbuilding and
8 ship repair;

9 (C) enhancement of academic and work-
10 force training programs providing training for
11 maritime and energy employment, including
12 certifications and apprenticeships;

13 (D) salary supplementation for faculty in
14 maritime or energy training and education;

15 (E) operation and maintenance of mari-
16 time or energy-related equipment and tech-
17 nology for use in instructional programs;

18 (F) acquisition of marine vessels, safety
19 equipment, ship simulators, electronic naviga-
20 tion devices, fire suppression equipment, phys-
21 ical and chemical measuring instruments, sam-
22 pling devices, and other assets and equipment
23 for use in maritime or energy training and edu-
24 cation;

1 (G) renovation or construction of buildings
2 to house maritime or energy training and edu-
3 cation programs; or

4 (H) tuition reimbursement for successful
5 completion of a maritime or energy course, pro-
6 gram, or certification.

7 (2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—An eligi-
8 ble institution awarded a grant under subsection (a)
9 may not use greater than 50 percent of the grant
10 amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

11 (3) ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.—To the max-
12 imum extent practicable, an eligible institution
13 awarded a grant under subsection (a) shall give
14 preference to veterans in admission to maritime or
15 energy training and education programs.

16 (4) GRANT PERIOD.—An eligible institution
17 awarded a grant under subsection (a) may use the
18 grant funds for the 3-year period following the
19 award of the grant.

20 (d) GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GRANT PRO-
21 GRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In developing the grant pro-
23 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary may award
24 a grant to an eligible nonprofit organization to pro-

1 vide assistance to the Secretary in carrying out this
2 section.

3 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
4 grant under paragraph (1), a nonprofit organization
5 shall have not fewer than 10 years of experience in
6 working with eligible institutions on developing
7 workforce development programs.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
10 out this section \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016
11 through 2018.

12 **SEC. 4. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME AND EN-**
13 **ERGY WORKFORCE TECHNICAL TRAINING.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—

15 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, in
16 consultation with the Secretary of Transportation
17 and the Secretary of Labor, shall award grants to
18 not more than 10 eligible institutions—

19 (A) to establish within each eligible institu-
20 tion receiving a grant a center, to be known as
21 a “Center of Excellence in Maritime and En-
22 ergy Workforce Technical Training” (referred
23 to in this section as a “Center”); and

24 (B) through the Center established under
25 subparagraph (A), to improve and expand mari-

1 time and energy workforce training opportuni-
2 ties for veterans, members of the Armed
3 Forces, Federal employees, and civilians by—

4 (i) implementing new training pro-
5 grams, including training programs in—

6 (I) port-related transportation
7 systems;

8 (II) maritime and energy logistics
9 and supply chain management;

10 (III) small vessel repair;

11 (IV) maintenance of navigation
12 and deck cargo systems;

13 (V) maintenance of sophisticated
14 training equipment;

15 (VI) port-related transportation,
16 logistics, and supply chain manage-
17 ment;

18 (VII) shipbuilding and ship re-
19 pair; and

20 (VIII) operation and mainte-
21 nance of equipment and technology
22 for use in maritime and energy em-
23 ployment training; and

24 (ii) providing job placement services
25 in maritime and energy employment fields.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—To be eligible to
2 receive a grant under paragraph (1), an institution
3 shall be an institution of higher education that—

4 (A) is a community college or other public
5 postsecondary educational institution;

6 (B) operates an existing maritime or en-
7 ergy workforce training program;

8 (C) offers accredited programs in academic
9 areas relevant to maritime or energy-related
10 workforce training, including—

11 (i) port-related transportation, logis-
12 tics, and supply chain management; and

13 (ii) shipbuilding and ship repair;

14 (D) is well-recognized in the field of mari-
15 time workforce training; and

16 (E) has an established association with—

17 (i) a port authority or other estab-
18 lished seaport or inland port facility; and

19 (ii) an appropriate Federal agency.

20 (3) PRIORITY.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
22 graph (B), the Secretary shall give priority in
23 awarding grants under this section to eligible
24 institutions that have entered into, or dem-

1 onstrate the willingness and ability to enter
2 into—

3 (i) a memorandum of understanding
4 with an appropriate Federal agency; or

5 (ii) a cooperative agreement with an
6 appropriate private entity, as determined
7 by the Secretary.

8 (B) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
9 AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED.—

10 A memorandum of understanding or coopera-
11 tive agreement referred to in subparagraph (A)
12 shall provide for—

13 (i) the provision of resources, whether
14 in cash or in-kind, to the Center; or

15 (ii) assistance to the Center for—

16 (I) building maritime or energy
17 training capacity; or

18 (II) training Federal employees
19 in maritime fields.

20 (4) GRANT AMOUNT.—Grants awarded under
21 paragraph (1) shall be in amounts of not more than
22 \$1,500,000 per eligible institution.

23 (b) REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS.—

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

1 shall issue a request for applications from eligible in-
2 stitutions for a grant under subsection (a).

3 (2) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible institution
4 seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an
5 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
6 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
7 retary 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—

12 (A) to develop an agenda for maritime and
13 energy training and education;

14 (B) to fund expansion of maritime and en-
15 ergy training and education; or

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

19 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—An eligible institution
20 awarded a grant under subsection (a) may use the
21 grant funds for the 5-year period following the
22 award of the grant.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

1 out this section \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016
2 through 2018.

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