

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6142

To direct the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Education to, jointly, develop a workforce training and education program to prepare workers for careers in the alternative energy and energy efficiency industries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Mr. TONKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Education to, jointly, develop a workforce training and education program to prepare workers for careers in the alternative energy and energy efficiency industries.

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 “Green Workforce De-
5 velopment Through Community Colleges Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to direct the Secretary of
3 Labor, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Edu-
4 cation (in this Act referred to as the “Secretaries”) to,
5 jointly, develop a workforce training and education pro-
6 gram to prepare workers for careers in the alternative en-
7 ergy and energy efficiency industries.

8 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall
11 establish and convene an advisory commission (in this Act
12 referred to as the “Commission”).

13 (b) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The duties of the
14 Commission shall be to carry out the following:

15 (1) Review and analyze the skill needs of the al-
16 ternative energy and energy efficiency fields.

17 (2) Identify and define career pathways, includ-
18 ing coursework, certification, and other training
19 needed for career development in the following ca-
20 reer areas in the alternative energy and energy effi-
21 ciency fields:

22 (A) Wind power, including the construction
23 and maintenance of commercial and residential
24 wind turbines.

25 (B) Solar power, including commercial and
26 residential photovoltaic installation.

1 (C) Geo-thermal energy, including home
2 and commercial heating and cooling and other
3 applications.

4 (D) Training of energy auditors to perform
5 energy efficiency audits on both residential and
6 commercial structures.

7 (E) Energy efficient retrofit and renova-
8 tion of residential and commercial structures.

9 (3) Recommend a curriculum framework and
10 best practices for educational and workforce training
11 programs related to each career area described in
12 paragraph (2), by consulting with leaders in alter-
13 native energy and energy efficiency fields, includ-
14 ing—

15 (A) community colleges identified by the
16 Secretaries as leaders, or having the best prac-
17 tices, in alternative energy workforce develop-
18 ment;

19 (B) State energy offices and other local
20 agencies with expertise in energy efficiency; and

21 (C) representatives from the alternative en-
22 ergy industry and trade unions that represent
23 workers in the alternative energy industry.

24 (4) In making recommendations under para-
25 graph (3), the Commission shall take into account

1 variations in the skill level, work experience, and
2 education of students who may participate in the
3 educational and workforce training programs de-
4 scribed in such paragraph.

5 (5) Not later than 12 months after the date on
6 which the first train-the-trainers grant is awarded
7 under section 5, submit to the Secretaries of Labor,
8 Energy, and Education, and the Committee on Edu-
9 cation and Labor of the House of Representatives
10 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
11 and Pensions of the Senate, a report on that in-
12 cludes—

13 (A) the Commission’s findings with regard
14 to identifying career pathways related to the ca-
15 reer areas described in paragraph (2);

16 (B) the Commission’s recommendations re-
17 garding the curriculum framework for such ca-
18 reer areas; and

19 (C) other information and recommenda-
20 tions on best practices with respect to teaching
21 in such career areas that the Commission con-
22 siders appropriate.

23 (6) Assist the Secretaries in administering the
24 grant program established under section 5.

25 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-
2 mission shall be composed of 15 members appointed
3 not later than 45 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act as follows:

5 (A) 5 individuals appointed by the Sec-
6 retary of Energy.

7 (B) 5 individuals appointed by the Sec-
8 retary of Labor.

9 (C) 5 individuals appointed by the Sec-
10 retary of Education.

11 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Of the members ap-
12 pointed under subparagraph (A), a minimum of—

13 (A) 5 members shall represent employers
14 in the energy efficiency field; and

15 (B) 5 members shall be experts in alter-
16 native energy workforce education in commu-
17 nity colleges.

18 (3) TERMS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be
20 appointed for the life of the Commission.

21 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Com-
22 mission shall be filled in the manner in which
23 the original appointment was made.

1 (4) COMPENSATION.—All members of the Com-
2 mission shall serve voluntarily and without addi-
3 tional compensation.

4 (5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Labor
5 shall designate a member of the Commission to be
6 the Chairperson of the Commission.

7 (6) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall—

8 (A) hold its first meeting not later than 30
9 days after the date on which a majority of the
10 members of the Commission have been ap-
11 pointed; and

12 (B) meet at the call of the Chairperson.

13 (7) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
14 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
15 lesser number may hold hearings.

16 (d) STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.—

17 (1) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
19 appoint up to 3 additional staff who will report
20 to the Chairperson.

21 (B) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL
22 SERVICE LAWS.—The staff of the Commission
23 shall be appointed subject to the provisions of
24 title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
25 ments in the competitive service, and shall be

1 paid in accordance with the provisions of 51
2 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title
3 relating to classification and General Schedule
4 pay rates.

5 (2) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-
6 quest of the Chairman of the Commission, the head
7 of any Federal department or agency may detail, on
8 a nonreimbursable basis, any personnel of that de-
9 partment or agency to the Commission to assist it
10 in carrying out its duties under this Act.

11 (e) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

12 (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commis-
13 sion may, for the purpose of carrying out its duties
14 under this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at such
15 times and places, take testimony, and receive evi-
16 dence as the Commission considers appropriate.

17 (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any
18 member or agent of the Commission may, if author-
19 ized by the Commission, take any action which the
20 Commission is authorized to take by this subsection.

21 (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commis-
22 sion may secure directly from any department or
23 agency of the Federal Government information nec-
24 essary to enable it to carry out its duties under this
25 Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Com-

1 mission, the head of that department or agency shall
2 furnish that information to the Commission.

3 (4) STUDIES.—The Commission may conduct
4 studies to enable it to carry out its duties under this
5 Act.

6 (5) MAILS.—The Commission may use the
7 United States mails in the same manner and under
8 the same conditions as other departments and agen-
9 cies of the Federal Government.

10 (f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
11 on 90 days after submitting its final report under sub-
12 section (b)(5).

13 **SEC. 4. POSTING REPORT ON WEBSITE.**

14 Upon receipt of the report under section 3(b)(5), the
15 Secretary of Labor, Education, and Energy shall post on
16 the Internet website of the Department of Labor, Edu-
17 cation, and Energy, respectively, the report.

18 **SEC. 5. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
20 under section 8 to carry out this section, not earlier than
21 fiscal year 2011, the Secretaries shall, jointly, award
22 grants to community colleges for the purposes of providing
23 education and workforce training in the alternative energy
24 and energy efficiency fields.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
2 Act, a community college shall submit an application to
3 the Secretaries at such time, in such manner, and con-
4 taining such information as the Secretaries may require.
5 Such application shall include—

6 (1) an identification of employment opportuni-
7 ties in the alternative energy and energy efficiency
8 fields in the area served by the community college
9 and the specific skills needed to obtain such employ-
10 ment opportunities, based on information from—

11 (A) existing labor market and industry
12 analyses;

13 (B) local workforce investment boards; or

14 (C) private, non-profit organizations or
15 nonprofit business or economic development or-
16 ganizations;

17 (2) an assurance that the community college
18 will carry out detailed market research to assess,
19 with respect to the area served by the community
20 college—

21 (A) the current and projected employment
22 opportunities and labor demand in the alter-
23 native energy and energy efficiency fields; and

24 (B) the job skills necessary to obtain such
25 employment opportunities; and

1 (3) an assurance that the community college
2 will use the information described in paragraph (1)
3 and the market research carried out by the college
4 under paragraph (2) to establish education and
5 workforce training programs that correspond to the
6 employment opportunities in the alternative energy
7 and energy efficiency fields in the area served by the
8 community college, and the skills needs to obtain
9 such opportunities.

10 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—A community college receiving
11 a grant under this Act shall use such grant funds to—

12 (1) establish educational and workforce training
13 programs that—

14 (A) correspond to the employment opportu-
15 nities in such fields, and the skills needs with
16 respect to such opportunities in the area served
17 by the community college, as determined by the
18 information obtained, and the market research
19 carried out, by the community college under
20 subsection (b);

21 (B) incorporate—

22 (i) following the completion of the
23 Commission’s report pursuant to section
24 3(b)(5) curriculum recommend private
25 non-profit or not-for-profit business/eco-

1 nomic development organizations developed
2 by the Commission pursuant to such sec-
3 tion; and

4 (ii) best practices developed by com-
5 munity colleges pursuant to section 6;

6 (2) assist students and graduates of the edu-
7 cational and workforce training program in appren-
8 ticeship and employment placement in the alter-
9 native energy and energy efficiency fields;

10 (3) coordinate with the secondary schools and
11 vocational schools in the area served by the commu-
12 nity college to assist such schools in providing edu-
13 cational services in the alternative energy and energy
14 efficiency fields for students enrolled in such schools
15 (such as by assisting in the development of a cur-
16 riculum or apprenticeship program in such fields);
17 and

18 (4) coordinate with local workforce investment
19 boards to ensure—

20 (A) access to enroll in the programs estab-
21 lished under paragraph (1) to individuals par-
22 ticipating in workforce investment activities in
23 the local area; and

24 (B) that the programs provide access to
25 enrollment in the programs to—

- 1 (i) dislocated workers;
- 2 (ii) workers who are transitioning into
- 3 careers in the alternative energy or energy
- 4 efficiency fields;
- 5 (iii) underrepresented minorities; and
- 6 (iv) low-income individuals.

7 **SEC. 6. TRAIN THE TRAINERS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the
9 amount reserved under section 8(b), the Secretaries shall,
10 jointly, award grants to up to 10 community colleges iden-
11 tified by the Secretaries as leaders in education and work-
12 force training in the alternative energy and energy effi-
13 ciency fields to develop best practices with respect to such
14 education and training.

15 (b) APPLICATION.—A community college desiring to
16 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
17 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
18 information that the Secretaries may require, which shall,
19 at a minimum, include information with respect to—

- 20 (1) the training program in the alternative en-
21 ergy and energy efficiency fields that is being carried
22 out by the community college;
- 23 (2) the facility where the program is being car-
24 ried out;
- 25 (3) the curriculum for such program; and

1 (4) any partnerships the community college—

2 (A) has established with representatives of
3 businesses, educational institutions, or other or-
4 ganizations that have expertise in the alter-
5 native energy or energy efficiency fields; and

6 (B) that have provided training experience
7 opportunities in such fields for students in the
8 program.

9 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—A community college receiving
10 a grant under this section shall use such funds to develop
11 best practices in instruction and instructor training with
12 respect to education and workforce training programs car-
13 ried out pursuant to section 5. Such funds may be used
14 by the community college to cover any costs associated
15 with the development of the best practices, including—

16 (1) instructor salaries; and

17 (2) the purchase of equipment and supplies.

18 **SEC. 7. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

19 Funds made available under this Act shall be used
20 to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
21 and local funds that would otherwise be expended to carry
22 out activities under this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVA-**
2 **TION.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000 to carry
5 out this Act for fiscal year 2012 and for each of the suc-
6 ceeding 4 fiscal years.

7 (b) RESERVATION.—Of the amount appropriated
8 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, 15 percent shall be
9 made available to carry out section 6 for such fiscal year.

10 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

11 For purposes of this Act:

12 (1) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FIELDS.—The term
13 “alternative energy fields” means solar, wind, geo-
14 thermal, and energy efficiency fields.

15 (2) CAREER PATHWAYS.—The term “career
16 pathways” means a clear sequence of coursework
17 and credentials enabling career development in a
18 particular field that assists individuals of varying
19 skill levels to enter and progress in jobs in that field.

20 (3) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
21 nity college” means a public institution of higher
22 education at which the highest degree that is pre-
23 dominantly awarded to students is an associate’s de-
24 gree.

25 (4) DISLOCATED WORKER.—The term “dis-
26 located worker” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of
2 1998.

3 (5) ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIELDS.—The term
4 “energy efficiency fields” means energy efficiency
5 auditing for residential and commercial structures
6 and energy efficiency retrofit for residential and
7 commercial structures.

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

12 (7) LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD.—
13 The term “local workforce investment board” refers
14 to the term in section 117 of the Workforce Invest-
15 ment Act of 1998.

16 (8) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The term “low-
17 income” individual means an individual from a fam-
18 ily whose taxable income for the preceding year did
19 not exceed 150 percent an amount equal to the pov-
20 erty level determined by using criteria of poverty es-
21 tablished by the Bureau of the Census.

22 (9) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
23 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in
24 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (10) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of
3 Labor.

4 (11) VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.—The term “voca-
5 tional school” means—

6 (A) a specialized public secondary school
7 used exclusively or principally for the provision
8 of career and technical education to individuals
9 who are available for study in preparation for
10 entering the labor market; or

11 (B) the department of a public secondary
12 school exclusively or principally used for pro-
13 viding career and technical education in not
14 fewer than 5 different occupational fields to in-
15 dividuals who are available for study in prepa-
16 ration for entering the labor market.

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