

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 987

To establish a grant program for domestic maritime workforce training and education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish a grant program for domestic maritime workforce training and education, 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. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR DOMESTIC**
4 **MARITIME WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDU-**
5 **CATION.**

6 Section 54102 of title 46, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “of Transpor-
9 tation”;

1 (2) in subsection (b), in the subsection heading,
2 by striking “ASSISTANCE” and inserting “COOPERA-
3 TIVE AGREEMENTS”;

4 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d);

6 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
7 graph (2), by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
9 the Secretary of Transportation.”; and

10 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

14 In this subsection, the term ‘eligible institution’
15 means an institution of higher education (as defined
16 in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that offers a 2-year program of
18 study, a 1-year program of training, or is a postsec-
19 ondary vocational institution.

20 “(2) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
22 after the date of enactment of the Maritime Ad-
23 ministration Authorization and Improvement
24 Act, the Secretary may award maritime career
25 training grants to eligible institutions for the

1 purpose of developing, offering, or improving
2 educational or career training programs for
3 American workers related to the maritime work-
4 force.

5 “(B) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of enactment of the Maritime Ad-
7 ministration Authorization and Improvement
8 Act, the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) promulgate guidelines for the
10 submission of grant proposals under this
11 subsection; and

12 “(ii) publish and maintain such guide-
13 lines on the website of the Department of
14 Transportation.

15 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not
16 award a grant under this subsection in an amount
17 that is more than \$20,000,000.

18 “(4) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
20 that desires to receive a grant under this sub-
21 section shall submit to the Secretary a grant
22 proposal that includes a detailed description
23 of—

24 “(i) the specific project for which the
25 grant proposal is submitted, including the

1 manner in which the grant will be used to
2 develop, offer, or improve an educational
3 or career training program that is suited
4 to maritime industry workers;

5 “(ii) the extent to which the project
6 for which the grant proposal is submitted
7 will meet the educational or career training
8 needs of maritime workers in the commu-
9 nity served by the eligible institution;

10 “(iii) the extent to which the project
11 for which the grant proposal is submitted
12 fits within any overall strategic plan devel-
13 oped by an eligible community; and

14 “(iv) any previous experience of the
15 eligible institution in providing maritime
16 educational or career training programs.

17 “(B) COMMUNITY OUTREACH REQUIRED.—

18 In order to be considered by the Secretary, a
19 grant proposal submitted by an eligible institu-
20 tion under this subsection shall—

21 “(i) demonstrate that the eligible in-
22 stitution—

23 “(I) reached out to employers to
24 identify—

1 “(aa) any shortcomings in
2 existing maritime educational
3 and career training opportunities
4 available to workers in the com-
5 munity; and

6 “(bb) any future employ-
7 ment opportunities within the
8 community and the educational
9 and career training skills re-
10 quired for workers to meet the
11 future maritime employment de-
12 mand; and

13 “(II) reached out to other simi-
14 larly situated institutions in an effort
15 to benefit from any best practices that
16 may be shared with respect to pro-
17 viding maritime educational or career
18 training programs to workers eligible
19 for training; and

20 “(ii) include a detailed description
21 of—

22 “(I) the extent and outcome of
23 the outreach conducted under clause
24 (i);

1 “(II) the extent to which the
2 project for which the grant proposal is
3 submitted will contribute to meeting
4 any shortcomings identified under
5 clause (i)(I)(aa) or any maritime edu-
6 cational or career training needs iden-
7 tified under clause (i)(I)(bb); and

8 “(III) the extent to which em-
9 ployers, including small- and medium-
10 sized firms within the community,
11 have demonstrated a commitment to
12 employing workers who would benefit
13 from the project for which the grant
14 proposal is submitted.

15 “(5) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the appro-
17 piation of funds, the Secretary shall award a
18 grant under this subsection based on—

19 “(i) a determination of the merits of
20 the grant proposal submitted by the eligi-
21 ble institution to develop, offer, or improve
22 maritime educational or career training
23 programs to be made available to workers;

24 “(ii) an evaluation of the likely em-
25 ployment opportunities available to workers

1 who complete a maritime educational or
2 career training program that the eligible
3 institution proposes to develop, offer, or
4 improve;

5 “(iii) an evaluation of prior demand
6 for training programs by workers in the
7 community served by the eligible institu-
8 tion, as well as the availability and capac-
9 ity of existing maritime training programs
10 to meet future demand for training pro-
11 grams; and

12 “(iv) any prior designation of an insti-
13 tution as a Center of Excellence for Do-
14 mestic Maritime Workforce Training and
15 Education.

16 “(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A
17 grant awarded under this subsection may not
18 be used to satisfy any private matching require-
19 ment under any other provision of law.

20 “(6) PUBLIC REPORT.—Not later than Decem-
21 ber 15 in each of the calendar years 2021 through
22 2023, the Secretary shall make available on a pub-
23 lically available website a report and provide a brief-
24 ing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
25 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on

1 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
2 Representatives—

3 “(A) describing each grant awarded under
4 this subsection during the preceding fiscal year;
5 and

6 “(B) assessing the impact of each award of
7 a grant under this subsection in a fiscal year
8 preceding the fiscal year referred to in subpara-
9 graph (A) on workers receiving training.

10 “(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this subsection \$200,000,000.”.

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