

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 78

To authorize the Secretary of Labor to make grants to States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to carry out employment training programs to assist long-term unemployed job hunters obtain the skills and training to reenter the workforce and fill jobs in high-growth sectors of the economy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Labor to make grants to States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to carry out employment training programs to assist long-term unemployed job hunters obtain the skills and training to reenter the workforce and fill jobs in high-growth sectors of the economy.

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 “New Chance for a New
5 Start in Life Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,
4 in December 2013, the number of long-term unem-
5 ployed job hunters, persons jobless for 27 weeks or
6 more, exceeded 3.9 million, which constitutes ap-
7 proximately 37.7 percent of the unemployed, among
8 the highest rates in recent history;

9 (2) the Bureau of Labor Statistics also esti-
10 mates that the health care and social assistance sec-
11 tors will account for almost a third of the projected
12 job growth from 2014 to 2024 and that employment
13 in the construction sector is expected to see a large
14 increase, while still not reaching levels of the Great
15 Recession of 2007, and that manufacturing is pro-
16 jected to experience a slight decline in employment
17 over the projection period; and

18 (3) reducing the number of persons in long-
19 term unemployed status by providing training oppor-
20 tunities to obtain the skills needed to fill the jobs in
21 the employment sectors predicted to experience the
22 greatest rates of growth is an important national
23 goal.

24 **SEC. 3. COMPENSATED EMPLOYMENT TRAINING GRANTS.**

25 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Subject to the availability of
26 appropriations for such funds, the Secretary of Labor

1 shall make grants to States, units of local government,
2 and Indian tribes to carry out the activities described in
3 subsection (b). Grants under this section may be made on
4 such terms and conditions as the Secretary may deter-
5 mine.

6 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under
7 this Act shall use the grant for the following purposes:

8 (1) To create compensated training programs
9 that offer training to assist long-term unemployed
10 persons obtain the skills and training to reenter the
11 workforce and fill jobs in sectors of the economy
12 projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to have
13 the highest rates of demand during the period 2014
14 to 2024.

15 (2) To provide compensation to participants in
16 training programs to temporarily aid in their finan-
17 cial distress.

18 (3) To partner with cities and non-profit orga-
19 nizations to provide apprenticeships and internships.

20 (4) To provide training and employment oppor-
21 tunities for veterans.

22 (5) To partner with historically Black colleges
23 and universities and Hispanic serving colleges and
24 universities along with local community college sys-
25 tems to create innovative retraining programs for

1 minorities focused on retooling workers for jobs in
2 the growth sectors of healthcare, biotech, and infor-
3 mation technology.

4 (6) To provide access to public healthcare pro-
5 grams for participants.

6 (7) To create training programs for ex-offend-
7 ers in an effort to reduce recidivism.

8 (8) To aid newly trained participants in secur-
9 ing employment within the field of their newly ac-
10 quired expertise.

11 (c) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of receiving a grant
12 under this Act, a grant recipient shall—

13 (1) comply with nondiscrimination standards of
14 the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

15 (2) allocate not less than 80 percent of the
16 funding allocated under the grant to wages, benefits,
17 and support activities, including child care services
18 to individuals receiving compensated training under
19 such a grant; and

20 (3) institute a program to aid newly trained
21 participants in securing employment in their new
22 area of expertise.

23 (d) INELIGIBILITY OF FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL
24 INSTITUTIONS.—A State, unit of local government, or In-
25 dian tribe receiving a grant under this Act may not part-

1 ner with nor provide any grant funds to a for-profit edu-
2 cational institution for the provision of any of the pro-
3 grams or services described in subsection (b).

4 (e) NO EFFECT ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT
5 COMPENSATION.—An individual may participate in any
6 program or receive any services funded by a grant under
7 this Act, including the receipt of compensation described
8 in subsection (b)(2) notwithstanding the fact that such in-
9 dividual is receiving unemployment compensation. An indi-
10 vidual's participation or receipt of services or compensa-
11 tion funded by a grant under this Act shall not be a cause
12 for any reduction of the amount of unemployment com-
13 pensation that such individual is otherwise entitled to.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
16 necessary to carry out this Act.

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