

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 879

To provide technology implementation through the training of the American work force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4 (legislative day, APRIL 19), 1993

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide technology implementation through the training of the American work force, 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 “Work Force Enhance-
5 ment for Technology Transfer Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds and declares the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) Skilled American workers are as essential to
10 the Nation’s productivity and long-term competitive-

1 ness as are new technologies. As technologies become
2 more sophisticated and computer controlled, man-
3 agers and other workers in manufacturing firms who
4 are skilled in the effective utilization and operation
5 of those advanced and modern technologies will be-
6 come increasingly important to the Nation's inter-
7 national competitiveness, standard of living, and na-
8 tional security.

9 (2) When United States manufacturing firms
10 invest in advanced and modern technologies, they
11 can increase their productivity and competitiveness
12 by simultaneously investing in targeted worker train-
13 ing for the effective utilization and operation of
14 those specific technologies.

15 (3) United States manufacturing firms, particu-
16 larly smaller firms, are increasingly turning to the
17 expanding technology extension activities of the De-
18 partment of Commerce's National Institute of
19 Standards and Technology for technical and mana-
20 gerial assistance in order to identify and install the
21 best and most appropriate advanced and modern
22 technologies.

23 (4) With its extensive knowledge of the best
24 available technologies, the National Institute of
25 Standards and Technology, with its associated Re-

1 regional Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing
2 Technology and, when established, its Manufactur-
3 ing Outreach Centers, can provide training in the ef-
4 fective utilization and operation of these tech-
5 nologies, can promote the development of effective
6 training materials for these technologies, and can
7 serve as a clearinghouse for information on the best
8 available training materials.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to en-
10 hance the international competitiveness, standard of liv-
11 ing, and national security of the United States by expand-
12 ing the current technology extension activities of the De-
13 partment of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards
14 and Technology (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
15 “Institute”) to include worker training in the effective uti-
16 lization and operation of specific advanced and modern
17 technologies.

18 **SEC. 3. WORKER TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**

19 In addition to existing responsibilities and authorities
20 prescribed by law, the Secretary of Commerce (hereafter
21 in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), through the
22 Director of the Institute (hereafter in this Act referred
23 to as the “Director”), shall direct Regional Centers for
24 the Transfer of Manufacturing Technology and, when es-
25 tablished, Manufacturing Outreach Centers, to utilize,

1 when appropriate, their expertise and capability to assist
2 managers and other workers in United States manufactur-
3 ing firms in effectively utilizing and operating advanced
4 and modern technologies—

5 (1) by making available assessments of the
6 needs of United States manufacturing firms for
7 worker training in the effective utilization and oper-
8 ation of specific technologies the firms have adopted
9 or are planning to adopt;

10 (2) by making available to United States manu-
11 facturing firms information on commercially and
12 publicly provided worker training services, including
13 those provided by United States sources of tech-
14 nologies, in the effective utilization and operation of
15 specific technologies the firms have adopted or are
16 planning to adopt; and

17 (3) by making available to United States manu-
18 facturing firms accessible and affordable training
19 services for the effective utilization and operation of
20 specific technologies the firms have adopted or are
21 planning to adopt when such training is not avail-
22 able from commercially or other publicly provided
23 training services.

1 **SEC. 4. WORKER TRAINING ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION**
2 **DISSEMINATION.**

3 In addition to existing responsibilities and authorities
4 prescribed by law, the Secretary, through the Director and
5 in consultation with appropriate Federal officials and with
6 leaders of industry and labor, shall assist managers and
7 other workers in United States manufacturing firms in ef-
8 fectively utilizing and operating advanced and modern
9 technologies—

10 (1) by establishing and managing a clearing-
11 house for information, to be available through the
12 National Technology Transfer Center to the Re-
13 gional Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing
14 Technology, to the Manufacturing Outreach Centers
15 when they are established, to other technology train-
16 ing entities, or directly to United States manufactur-
17 ing firms, on the best available training material and
18 services for the effective utilization and operation of
19 specific advanced and modern technologies;

20 (2) by encouraging United States providers of
21 advanced and modern technologies for manufactur-
22 ing firms to develop training material specifically de-
23 signed for the managers and other workers respon-
24 sible for utilizing and operating such technologies;
25 and

1 (3) by establishing as an important criterion in
2 the assessment of advanced and modern technologies
3 the availability of training material specifically de-
4 signed for the managers and other workers respon-
5 sible for utilizing and operating such technologies.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
8 retary for the establishment and management of a tech-
9 nology training clearinghouse \$2,000,000 for fiscal year
10 1994 and \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 and
11 1996.

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