

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 17

To consolidate certain Federal job training programs by developing a system of vouchers to provide to dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged adults the opportunity to choose the type of job training that most closely meets the needs of such workers and adults, by establishing a one-stop career center system to provide high quality job training and employment-related services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. BREAU, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. REID, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To consolidate certain Federal job training programs by developing a system of vouchers to provide to dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged adults the opportunity to choose the type of job training that most closely meets the needs of such workers and adults, by establishing a one-stop career center system to provide high quality job training and employment-related services, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Working Americans Opportunity Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—JOB TRAINING VOUCHERS

- Sec. 101. Establishment.
- Sec. 102. Individual choice.
- Sec. 103. Eligibility.
- Sec. 104. Obtaining a voucher.
- Sec. 105. Oversight and accountability.
- Sec. 106. Eligibility requirements for job training providers.
- Sec. 107. Evaluation of voucher system.
- Sec. 108. Apportionment of funds.

TITLE II—CONSOLIDATION OF FEDERAL JOB TRAINING
PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Consolidation of programs.

TITLE III—EMPLOYMENT-RELATED INFORMATION AND SERVICES
THROUGH ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS

- Sec. 301. One-stop career centers.
- Sec. 302. Access to information.
- Sec. 303. Direct loans to United States workers.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS

- Sec. 401. Consolidation and streamlining.
- Sec. 402. Report relating to income support.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 501. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 502. Effective date.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) increasing international competition, techno-
9 logical advances, and structural changes in the econ-
10 omy of the United States present new challenges to

1 private firms and public policymakers in creating a
2 skilled workforce with the ability to adapt to change
3 and progress;

4 (2) a substantial number of workers in the
5 United States lose jobs due to the constantly chang-
6 ing world and national economies rather than cycli-
7 cal downturns, with more than 2,000,000 full-time
8 workers permanently displaced annually due to plant
9 closures, production cutbacks, and layoffs;

10 (3) the current response of the Federal Govern-
11 ment to dislocation and structural employment is a
12 patchwork of categorical programs, with varying eli-
13 gibility requirements and different sets of services
14 and benefits;

15 (4) the lack of coherence among existing Fed-
16 eral job training programs creates administrative
17 and regulatory obstacles that hamper the efforts of
18 individuals who are seeking new jobs or reemploy-
19 ment;

20 (5) enacted in 1944, the Servicemen's Readjust-
21 ment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the "G.I.
22 Bill of Rights"), helped millions of World War II
23 veterans and, later, Korean and Vietnam War veter-
24 ans, finance college educations and assisted in build-
25 ing the middle class of the United States;

1 (6) restructuring the current job training sys-
2 tem, with respect to dislocated and disadvantaged
3 workers, in a manner that is conceptually similar to
4 the G.I. Bill of Rights will help millions of workers
5 in the United States to become more competitive in
6 today's dynamic world economy, in which most of
7 the workers—

8 (A) can expect to move to new jobs a num-
9 ber of times, voluntarily or by layoff; and

10 (B) must upgrade their skills continuously;

11 (7) success in this ever-changing environment
12 depends, in part, on an individual's effective man-
13 agement of the individual's career based on personal
14 choice and reliable information;

15 (8) there is insufficient job market information
16 and assistance regarding access to job training op-
17 portunities that lead to good employment opportuni-
18 ties;

19 (9) only a small fraction of individuals eligible
20 for current Federal job training are now served, and
21 by removing obstacles and layers of administrative
22 costs, more funds will be made available to individ-
23 uals to enable such individuals to receive the job
24 training of their choice; and

1 (10) while the Federal Government proceeds to
2 create a new marketplace for job training, the Fed-
3 eral Government must also maintain a commitment
4 to providing intensive services to assist individuals
5 who are economically disadvantaged adults.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

7 (1) enhance the choices available to dislocated
8 workers, and economically disadvantaged adults, who
9 want to upgrade their work skills and learn new
10 skills to compete in a changing economy;

11 (2) enable individuals to make choices that are
12 best for the careers of such individuals;

13 (3) consolidate job training programs and pro-
14 vide a simple voucher system that relies on individ-
15 ual choice and provides high quality job market in-
16 formation;

17 (4) allow an individual to tailor job training and
18 education to the personal needs of such individual so
19 that such individual may remain in long-term em-
20 ployment yet have the means to be flexible when
21 necessary; and

22 (5) create a system that provides timely and re-
23 liable information to individuals to use to assist such
24 individuals in making the best choices with respect
25 to the use of vouchers for job training.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act:

3 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The
4 term “community-based organization” means a pri-
5 vate nonprofit organization that—

6 (A) is representative of a community or a
7 significant segment of a community; and

8 (B) provides job training and employment-
9 related services.

10 (2) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—

11 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “dislocated
12 worker” means an individual who—

13 (i) has been terminated or laid off, or
14 has received a notice of termination or lay-
15 off, from employment, is eligible for or has
16 exhausted entitlement to unemployment
17 compensation, and is unlikely to return to
18 a previous industry or occupation;

19 (ii) has been terminated or laid off, or
20 has received a notice of termination or lay-
21 off, from employment as a result of any
22 permanent closure of, or any substantial
23 layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;

24 (iii) has been unemployed long-term
25 and has limited opportunities for employ-
26 ment or reemployment in the same or a

1 similar occupation in the area in which
2 such individual resides, including an older
3 individual who may have substantial bar-
4 riers to employment by reason of age;

5 (iv) was self-employed (including a
6 farmer, a rancher, and a fisher) and is un-
7 employed as a result of general economic
8 conditions in the community in which such
9 individual resides or because of a natural
10 disaster, subject to regulations prescribed
11 by the Secretary; or

12 (v) is an employee of the Department
13 of Defense or of a private defense contrac-
14 tor who has been terminated or laid off, or
15 has received a notice of termination or lay-
16 off, from employment as a result of the
17 closure or realignment of a military instal-
18 lation, or a reduction in defense spending
19 as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

20 (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED
21 INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary of Labor shall
22 establish categories of self-employed individuals
23 and of economic conditions and natural disas-
24 ters to which subparagraph (A)(iv) applies.

1 (C) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISPLACED HOME-
2 MAKERS.—The term “dislocated worker” shall,
3 for the purpose of applying provisions related to
4 job training and employment-related services
5 under titles I and III within a State, include a
6 displaced homemaker (as defined by the Sec-
7 retary of Labor in regulation), if the State de-
8 termines that such definition of the term is ap-
9 propriate and will not adversely affect the deliv-
10 ery of services to other dislocated workers in
11 the State.

12 (3) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED ADULT.—
13 The term “economically disadvantaged adult” means
14 an individual who is age 18 or older and who had
15 received an income, or is a member of a family that
16 had received a total family income, for the 6-month
17 period prior to application for the activity involved
18 (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child sup-
19 port payments, and welfare payments) that, in rela-
20 tion to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

21 (A) the poverty line (as defined by the Of-
22 fice of Management and Budget, and revised
23 annually in accordance with section 673(2) of
24 the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
25 U.S.C. 9902(2)), for an equivalent period; or

1 (B) 70 percent of the lower living standard
2 income level, for an equivalent period.

3 (4) JOB TRAINING PROVIDER.—The term “job
4 training provider” means a public agency, private
5 nonprofit organization, or private for-profit entity
6 that delivers job training.

7 (5) SERVICE DELIVERY AREA.—The term
8 “service delivery area” means an area established
9 under section 101 of the Job Training Partnership
10 Act (29 U.S.C. 1511).

11 (6) STATE.—The term “State”, used to refer to
12 a jurisdiction, means any of the several States of the
13 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
14 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
15 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-
16 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Repub-
17 lic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of
18 Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

19 (7) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ENTITY.—The
20 term “workforce development entity” means a pri-
21 vate industry council as described in section 102 of
22 the Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1512),
23 or such successor entity as may be established by
24 Federal statutory law specifically to serve as such
25 entity.

1 **TITLE I—JOB TRAINING**
2 **VOUCHERS**

3 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 The Secretary of Labor shall, pursuant to the re-
5 quirements of this title, establish a job training system
6 that provides vouchers to individuals for the purpose of
7 enabling the individuals to obtain job training.

8 **SEC. 102. INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon notification of approval of
10 an application submitted under section 104, an individual
11 may receive a voucher for a 2-year period, beginning on
12 the date on which the application is approved.

13 (b) **USE OF VOUCHERS FOR JOB TRAINING.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—An individual who is a recip-
15 ient of a voucher under subsection (a) may use such
16 voucher to pay for job training obtained from a job
17 training provider that meets the requirements of sec-
18 tion 106.

19 (2) **AUTHORIZED JOB TRAINING.**—The job
20 training described in paragraph (1) may include
21 training through—

22 (A) associate degree and nondegree pro-
23 grams at—

24 (i) two- and four-year colleges;

- 1 (ii) vocational and technical education
2 schools;
- 3 (iii) private for-profit and not-for-
4 profit training organizations;
- 5 (iv) public agencies and schools; and
- 6 (v) community-based organizations;
- 7 (B) employer work-based training pro-
8 grams; and
- 9 (C) in the case of individuals who are eco-
10 nomically disadvantaged adults, preemployment
11 training programs.

12 **SEC. 103. ELIGIBILITY.**

13 An individual shall be eligible to receive a voucher
14 under this title if such individual is—

- 15 (1) a dislocated worker; or
- 16 (2) an economically disadvantaged adult.

17 **SEC. 104. OBTAINING A VOUCHER.**

18 (a) APPLICATION.—An individual who desires to re-
19 ceive a voucher under this title shall submit an application
20 to the State at such time, in such manner, and accom-
21 panied by such information as the State may reasonably
22 require.

23 (b) ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—

1 (1) ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS.—Each one-
2 stop career center established under section 301
3 shall—

4 (A) provide applications for vouchers under
5 this title to interested individuals, assist such
6 individuals in completing such applications, and
7 collect completed applications for determination
8 of eligibility;

9 (B) provide performance-based information
10 to the applicants relating to job training provid-
11 ers eligible to receive payment by vouchers in
12 accordance with section 106;

13 (C) provide information to the applicants
14 on—

15 (i) the local economy and availability
16 of employment;

17 (ii) profiles of local industries; and

18 (iii) details of local labor market de-
19 mand; and

20 (D) carry out such other duties relating to
21 the voucher system as may be specified in regu-
22 lations issued by the Secretary of Labor.

23 (2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS.—The
24 Secretary of Labor shall issue regulations establish-
25 ing procedures to ensure that a one-stop career cen-

1 ter that is operated by an entity that is concurrently
2 an eligible job training provider under the voucher
3 system provides information to the applicants relat-
4 ing to the other eligible job training providers in the
5 service delivery area in an objective and equitable
6 manner.

7 **SEC. 105. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall
10 issue regulations that—

11 (1) specify the—

12 (A) voucher application requirements;

13 (B) form of the vouchers;

14 (C) use of the vouchers;

15 (D) method of redemption of the vouchers;

16 (E) most expeditious and effective process

17 of distribution (consistent with the findings and

18 purposes of this Act) of the vouchers to eligible

19 individuals; and

20 (F) the arrangements necessary to phase

21 in the voucher system in each State in a timely

22 manner;

23 (2) specify the duties and responsibilities of job

24 training providers under a voucher system under

25 this title;

1 (2) provides the performance-based information
2 required pursuant to subsection (c).

3 (b) ALTERNATIVE ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The State shall establish an
5 alternative eligibility procedure for job training pro-
6 viders desiring to receive payment by vouchers under
7 this title, but that are not eligible to participate in
8 programs under title IV of the Higher Education
9 Act of 1965.

10 (2) PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.—In establish-
11 ing the procedure described in paragraph (1), the
12 State shall establish minimum acceptable levels of
13 performance for job training providers based on fac-
14 tors and guidelines developed by the Secretary of
15 Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
16 cation. Such factors shall be comparable in rigor and
17 scope to the provisions of part H of title IV of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099a et
19 seq.) that are used to determine the eligibility of an
20 institution of higher education to participate in pro-
21 grams under such title and are appropriate to the
22 type of job training provider seeking eligibility under
23 this subsection and the nature of the job training to
24 be provided.

1 (3) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
2 (1), if the participation of an institution of higher
3 education in any of the programs under title IV of
4 the Higher Education Act of 1965 is terminated,
5 such institution shall not be eligible to receive funds
6 under this title for a period of 2 years beginning on
7 the date of such termination.

8 (c) PERFORMANCE-BASED INFORMATION.—

9 (1) CONTENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall
10 identify performance-based information that is to be
11 submitted by job training providers desiring to re-
12 ceive payment by vouchers under this title. Such in-
13 formation may include information relating to—

14 (A) the percentage of students completing
15 the programs conducted by a job training pro-
16 vider;

17 (B) the rates of licensure of graduates of
18 the programs conducted by such job training
19 provider;

20 (C) the percentage of graduates of the pro-
21 grams conducted by such job training provider
22 that meet industry-specific skill standards;

23 (D) the rates of placement and retention in
24 employment, and earnings of, the graduates of

1 the programs conducted by such job training
2 provider;

3 (E) the percentage of graduates of the pro-
4 grams conducted by such job training provider
5 who obtained employment in an occupation re-
6 lated to such programs conducted by such pro-
7 vider; and

8 (F) the warranties or guarantees provided
9 by such job training provider relating to the
10 skill levels or employment to be attained by
11 graduates of the programs conducted by such
12 provider.

13 (2) ADDITIONS.—The State may, pursuant to
14 the approval of the Secretary of Labor, prescribe ad-
15 ditional performance-based information that shall be
16 submitted by job training providers pursuant to this
17 subsection.

18 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

19 (1) STATE AGENCY.—The Governor shall des-
20 ignate a State agency to collect, verify, and dissemi-
21 nate the performance-based information submitted
22 pursuant to subsection (c).

23 (2) APPLICATION.—A job training provider de-
24 siring to be eligible to receive funds under this title
25 shall submit the information required under sub-

1 section (c) to the State agency designated under
2 paragraph (1) at such time and in such form as
3 such State agency may require.

4 (3) LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—The State
5 agency designated under paragraph (1) shall compile
6 a list of eligible job training providers, accompanied
7 by the performance-based information submitted,
8 and disseminate such list and information to the
9 one-stop career centers established under section
10 301, and other appropriate entities within the State.

11 (4) ACCURACY OF INFORMATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the State agency de-
13 termines that a job training provider submitted
14 inaccurate performance-based information
15 under this subsection, such provider shall be
16 disqualified from receiving funds under this
17 title for a period of 2 years beginning on the
18 date of such determination, unless such pro-
19 vider can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the
20 State agency designated pursuant to paragraph
21 (1), that the information was provided in good
22 faith.

23 (B) APPEAL.—The State shall establish a
24 procedure for a job training provider to appeal
25 a determination by a State agency that results

1 in a disqualification under subparagraph (A).
2 Such procedure shall provide an opportunity for
3 a hearing and include appropriate time limits to
4 ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

5 (5) ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING INFORMA-
6 TION.—The State agency designated under para-
7 graph (1) may provide technical assistance to a job
8 training provider in developing the performance-
9 based information required under subsection (c).
10 Such assistance may include facilitating the utiliza-
11 tion of State administrative records, such as unem-
12 ployment compensation wage records, and conduct-
13 ing other appropriate coordination activities.

14 (6) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Labor
15 shall consult with the Secretary of Education re-
16 garding the eligibility of institutions of higher edu-
17 cation to participate in programs under this title.

18 **SEC. 107. EVALUATION OF VOUCHER SYSTEM.**

19 The Secretary of Labor shall annually—

20 (1) monitor the effectiveness of the voucher sys-
21 tem;

22 (2) evaluate the benefit of such system to
23 voucher recipients under this title and the taxpayer;
24 and

1 (3) submit information obtained from such eval-
2 uation to the appropriate committees of Congress.

3 **SEC. 108. APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall,
5 without in any way reducing the commitment of, or the
6 level of effort by, the Federal Government to improve the
7 job training, employment, and earnings of all workers and
8 jobseekers (particularly in hard-to-serve communities), ap-
9 portion sums appropriated under section 501 to each
10 State for each fiscal year in accordance with subsections
11 (b) and (c), to enable States and service delivery areas
12 in the States to carry out this title and title III.

13 (b) ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY.—

14 (1) FUNDING FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS.—
15 From the sums appropriated pursuant to section
16 501 for each fiscal year, the Secretary of Labor shall
17 determine the portion of the sums to be made avail-
18 able for providing job training and employment-re-
19 lated services for dislocated workers under this title
20 and title III, which shall be not less than the total
21 amount made available to the States for such pur-
22 pose for fiscal year 1997. The Secretary shall appor-
23 tion such portion among the States, based on consid-
24 eration of factors described in subsection (c), as ap-
25 propriate.

1 (2) FUNDING FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVAN-
2 TAGED ADULTS.—From the sums appropriated pur-
3 suant to section 501 for each fiscal year, the Sec-
4 retary of Labor shall determine the portion of the
5 sums to be made available for providing job training
6 and employment-related services for economically
7 disadvantaged adults under this title and title III.
8 The Secretary shall apportion such total amount
9 among the States, based on consideration of factors
10 described in subsection (c), as appropriate.

11 (c) CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS FOR APPORTION-
12 MENT TO STATES.—The apportionment of the portions
13 described in subsection (b) by the Secretary to each State
14 shall be based on the following factors:

15 (1) The relative number of unemployed individ-
16 uals who reside in each State as compared to the
17 total number of unemployed individuals in all the
18 States.

19 (2) The relative excess number of unemployed
20 individuals who reside in each State as compared to
21 the total excess number of unemployed individuals in
22 all the States.

23 (3) The relative number of individuals who have
24 been unemployed for 15 weeks or more and who re-

1 side in each State as compared to the total number
2 of such individuals in all the States.

3 (4) The relative number of economically dis-
4 advantaged adults who reside in each State as com-
5 pared to the total number of such adults in all the
6 States.

7 (d) STATE RESERVE.—

8 (1) DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDS.—From the
9 amount apportioned to each State from the portion
10 described in subsection (b)(1), the State may reserve
11 to carry out State activities, including rapid re-
12 sponse assistance (as described in section 314(b) of
13 the Job Training Partnership Act, as in existence on
14 the date of enactment of this Act (29 U.S.C.
15 1661e(b))) and State administration, an amount
16 that is not greater than the proportion of funds re-
17 served for State activities under title III of the Job
18 Training Partnership Act, as in existence on such
19 date (29 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) for fiscal year 1997.

20 (2) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
21 ADULTS.—From the amount apportioned to each
22 State from the portion described in subsection
23 (b)(2), the State may reserve to carry out State ac-
24 tivities, including State administration, an amount
25 that is not greater than the proportion of funds re-

1 served for State activities under part A of title II of
2 the Job Training Partnership Act, as in existence on
3 the date of enactment of this Act (29 U.S.C. 1601
4 et seq.) for fiscal year 1997.

5 (e) CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS FOR APPORTION-
6 MENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS.—The appor-
7 tionment of amounts received by each State under subsection
8 (c), and not reserved under subsection (d), to service deliv-
9 ery areas within such State shall be based on the following
10 factors:

11 (1) The relative number of unemployed individ-
12 uals who reside in each service delivery area within
13 the State as compared to the total number of unem-
14 ployed individuals in all such service delivery areas.

15 (2) The relative excess number of unemployed
16 individuals who reside in each service delivery area
17 within the State as compared to the total excess
18 number of unemployed individuals in all such service
19 delivery areas.

20 (3) The relative number of individuals who have
21 been unemployed for 15 weeks or more and who re-
22 side in each service delivery area within the State as
23 compared to the total number of such individuals in
24 all such service delivery areas.

1 (4) The relative number of economically dis-
2 advantaged adults who reside in each service delivery
3 area within the State as compared to the total num-
4 ber of such adults in all such service delivery areas.

5 (f) FUNDS FOR VOUCHERS.—Not less than 75 per-
6 cent of funds apportioned to a service delivery area under
7 subsection (e) and used for job training under this Act
8 by the service delivery area shall be made available in the
9 form of vouchers to individuals in such area who are eligi-
10 ble under section 103.

11 (g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
12 term “excess number of unemployed individuals” means
13 the number that represents unemployed individuals in ex-
14 cess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in a State
15 or service delivery area, as appropriate.

16 **TITLE II—CONSOLIDATION OF**
17 **FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PRO-**
18 **GRAMS**

19 **SEC. 201. CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that the consolidation and streamlining of Federal
22 job training programs should be accomplished without in
23 any way reducing the commitment of, or the level of effort
24 provided by, the Federal Government to improve the job

1 training, employment, and earnings of all workers and job-
2 seekers (particularly in hard-to-serve communities).

3 (b) REPEALS OF FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PRO-
4 GRAMS.—The following provisions are repealed:

5 (1) Section 6(d)(4) of the Food Stamp Act of
6 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)).

7 (2) Section 106(b)(7) of the Job Training Part-
8 nership Act (29 U.S.C. 1516(b)(7)).

9 (3) Section 123 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1533).

10 (4) Section 204(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
11 1604(d)).

12 (5) Part A of title II of such Act (29 U.S.C.
13 1601 et seq.).

14 (6) Section 302(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
15 1652(c)).

16 (7) Part A of title III of such Act (29 U.S.C.
17 1661 et seq.).

18 (8) Section 325 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1662d).

19 (9) Section 325A of such Act (29 U.S.C.
20 1662d–1).

21 (10) Section 326 of such Act (29 U.S.C.
22 1662e).

23 (11) Sections 301 through 303 of such Act (29
24 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.).

1 (12) The Displaced Homemakers Self-Suffi-
2 ciency Assistance Act (29 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

3 (13) Subtitle C of title VII of the Stewart B.
4 McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5 11441 et seq.).

6 (14) Subchapter I of chapter 421 of title 49,
7 United States Code.

8 (15) Title II of Public Law 95-250 (92 Stat.
9 172).

10 **TITLE III—EMPLOYMENT-RELAT-**
11 **ED INFORMATION AND SERV-**
12 **ICES THROUGH ONE-STOP CA-**
13 **REER CENTERS**

14 **SEC. 301. ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each service delivery area re-
16 ceiving funds under this Act shall develop and implement
17 a network of one-stop career centers for the area to pro-
18 vide access for jobseekers, workers, and businesses to a
19 comprehensive array of high quality job training described
20 in section 102(b)(2) and employment-related services (in-
21 cluding provision of information) described in subsections
22 (f) and (g).

23 (b) PROCEDURES.—Each workforce development en-
24 tity for a service delivery area, in conjunction with the ap-
25 propriate local chief elected official for the area, shall ne-

1 negotiate with the State a method for establishing one-stop
2 career centers (including designating one-stop career cen-
3 ter operators) for the area, consistent with criteria estab-
4 lished by the Secretary of Labor.

5 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Each entity within the
6 service delivery area that provides the services specified
7 in subsection (f) or (g) shall be eligible to be designated
8 as a one-stop career center operator.

9 (d) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary of
10 Labor shall establish a performance standard system for
11 assessing the performance of each one-stop career center
12 operator.

13 (e) PERIOD OF SELECTION.—Each one-stop career
14 center operator shall be designated for 2-year period.
15 Every 2 years, the workforce development entity for a
16 service delivery area shall reevaluate the designation of
17 one-stop career center operators for the area, based on
18 performance under the standards established under sub-
19 section (d).

20 (f) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES TO INDIVID-
21 UALS.—Each one-stop career center for a service delivery
22 area may make available—

23 (1) outreach to make individuals aware of, and
24 encourage the use of, services available from

1 workforce development programs operating in the
2 service delivery area;

3 (2) intake and orientation to the information
4 and services available through the one-stop career
5 center;

6 (3) assistance in filing initial claims for unem-
7 ployment compensation;

8 (4) initial assessments (including appropriate
9 testing) of the skill levels and service needs of indi-
10 viduals, including basic skills, occupational skills,
11 work experience, employability, interest, aptitude,
12 and supportive service needs;

13 (5) job search assistance, including resume and
14 interview preparation and workshops;

15 (6) information relating to the supply, demand,
16 price, and quality of job training available in each
17 service delivery area in the State involved, including
18 performance-based information provided pursuant to
19 section 106(c);

20 (7) job market information, including—

21 (A) data on the local economy and avail-
22 ability of employment;

23 (B) profiles of local industries;

24 (C) details of local labor market demand;

25 and

1 (D) local demographic and socioeconomic
2 characteristics;

3 (8) referral to appropriate job training and em-
4 ployment services, and to other services described in
5 this subsection, in the service delivery area;

6 (9) supportive services, including child care;

7 (10) job development; and

8 (11) counseling.

9 (g) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES TO EMPLOY-
10 ERS.—Each one-stop career center for a service delivery
11 area may provide to employers, at the request of the em-
12 ployers—

13 (1) information relating to supply, demand,
14 price, and quality of job training available in each
15 service delivery area in the State;

16 (2) customized screening and referral of individ-
17 uals for employment;

18 (3) customized assessment of skills of the work-
19 ers of the employer;

20 (4) an analysis of the skill needs of the em-
21 ployer; and

22 (5) other specialized employment and training
23 services.

1 **SEC. 302. ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that accurate, timely,
3 and relevant data regarding employment, job training, job
4 skills, and job training opportunities are useful for individ-
5 uals making choices about the careers of such individuals.

6 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Labor is author-
7 ized to make arrangements to develop and provide through
8 one-stop career centers and other appropriate mechanisms
9 relevant job market information to interested individuals,
10 including voucher recipients under title I, jobseekers, em-
11 ployers, and workers.

12 **SEC. 303. DIRECT LOANS TO UNITED STATES WORKERS.**

13 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the William D.
14 Ford Federal Direct Loan Program authorized by part D
15 of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 1087a et seq.), is a valuable financing tool for United
17 States workers who desire to take advantage of training
18 and education programs, consistent with the goals of such
19 workers, to learn new skills for careers that may bring
20 higher salaries and improved quality of life.

21 (b) AWARENESS.—The Department of Education
22 shall endeavor to make known the value and availability
23 of direct loans through the William D. Ford Federal Di-
24 rect Loan Program authorized by part D of title IV of
25 the Higher Education Act of 1965 through cooperative ar-
26 rangements with one-stop career centers, training and

1 educational training programs, State agencies, and other
2 Federal agencies.

3 **TITLE IV—REPORTS AND PLANS**

4 **SEC. 401. CONSOLIDATION AND STREAMLINING.**

5 (a) REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING NONCOVERED FED-
6 ERAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Not later than Janu-
7 ary 1, 1998, and each year thereafter, the Secretary of
8 Labor shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that
9 describes how additional Federal job training programs
10 not covered by this Act can be consolidated into a more
11 integrated and accountable workforce development system
12 that better meets the needs of jobseekers, workers, and
13 business.

14 (b) PLAN ON USE OF COMMON DEFINITIONS, MEAS-
15 URES, STANDARDS, AND CYCLES.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 of Labor shall develop a plan that, wherever practicable,
18 requires the Federal job training programs to use common
19 definitions, common outcome measures, common eligibility
20 standards, and common funding cycles in order to make
21 such training programs more accessible.

22 **SEC. 402. REPORT RELATING TO INCOME SUPPORT.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that—

1 (1) many dislocated workers and economically
2 disadvantaged adults are unable to enroll in long-
3 term job training because such workers and adults
4 lack income support after unemployment compensa-
5 tion is exhausted;

6 (2) evidence suggests that long-term job train-
7 ing is among the most effective adjustment service
8 in assisting dislocated workers and economically dis-
9 advantaged adults to obtain employment and en-
10 hance wages; and

11 (3) there is a need to identify options relating
12 to how income support may be provided to enable
13 dislocated workers and economically disadvantaged
14 adults to participate in long-term job training.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
16 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall pre-
17 pare and submit to Congress a report that—

18 (1) examines the need for income support to en-
19 able dislocated workers and economically disadvan-
20 taged adults to participate in long-term job training;

21 (2) identifies options relating to how such in-
22 come support may be provided to such workers and
23 adults; and

24 (3) contains such recommendations as the Sec-
25 retary of Labor determines are appropriate.

1 **TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

2 **SEC. 501. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
4 priated to carry out titles I and III such sums as may
5 be necessary for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

6 (b) PROGRAM YEAR.—Appropriations for any fiscal
7 year for activities carried out under this Act shall be avail-
8 able for obligation only on the basis of a program year.
9 The program year shall begin on July 1 in the fiscal year
10 for which the appropriation is made.

11 **SEC. 502. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1998.

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