

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2933

To promote effective registered apprenticeships, for skills, credentials, and employment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2017

Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. DESAULNIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To promote effective registered apprenticeships, for skills, credentials, and employment, 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 AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Leveraging Effective Apprenticeships to Rebuild Na-
6 tional Skills Act” or the “LEARNS Act”.

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

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

TITLE I—PROMOTING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS

- Sec. 101. Promoting registered apprenticeship programs.
 Sec. 102. Promoting integration with postsecondary education.

TITLE II—PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

- Sec. 201. Expanding registered apprenticeship programs.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) A highly skilled workforce is necessary to
 4 compete in the global economy, support economic
 5 growth, and maintain the standard of living of the
 6 United States.

7 (2) The apprenticeship model is a longstanding,
 8 on-the-job training and education model that pre-
 9 pares workers for the skill demands of particular oc-
 10 cupations and employers while, at the same time,
 11 providing the workers with recognized, portable cre-
 12 dentials, and wages while in training.

13 (3) The registered apprenticeship program
 14 model has been successful in skilled trade industries,
 15 including construction and manufacturing, as well as
 16 service industries, such as health care, and holds
 17 great potential for expansion into other industries.

18 (4) Registered apprenticeships are becoming in-
 19 creasingly innovative and diverse in their designs,
 20 partnerships, timeframes, and use of emerging con-

1 cepts such as competency-based learning, and will
2 continue to evolve to meet emerging skill require-
3 ments, while maintaining high standards and qual-
4 ity.

5 (5) Registered apprenticeship programs are an
6 essential element of an effective workforce develop-
7 ment system and help individuals attain a recognized
8 postsecondary credential, contributing to their per-
9 sonal economic sustainability.

10 (6) According to a report from the Georgetown
11 University Center on Education and the Workforce,
12 by 2020 the United States will face a shortage of
13 5,000,000 workers with recognized postsecondary
14 credentials.

15 (7) According to a 2012 report from the Annie
16 E. Casey Foundation, youth employment in the
17 United States has reached the lowest point since
18 World War II. More than 6,000,000 young people
19 ages 16 through 24 are disconnected from school
20 and work.

21 (8) A 2012 evaluation of registered apprentice-
22 ship programs in 10 States by Mathematica Policy
23 Research found that—

24 (A) individuals who completed registered
25 apprenticeship programs earned over \$240,000

1 more over their careers than individuals not
2 participating in such apprenticeship programs;

3 (B) the estimated social benefits of reg-
4 istered apprenticeship programs, including addi-
5 tional productivity of apprentices and the reduc-
6 tion in governmental expenditures as a result of
7 reduced use of unemployment compensation and
8 public assistance, exceeded the costs of the pro-
9 grams by more than \$49,000 per program; and

10 (C) the tax return on every Federal Gov-
11 ernment dollar invested in registered appren-
12 ticeship programs was \$27.

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

14 (1) to increase the number of highly skilled
15 workers in the United States, particularly in in-de-
16 mand industry sectors and occupations;

17 (2) to increase the attainment of recognized
18 postsecondary credentials by participants;

19 (3) to increase awareness about the value of the
20 registered apprenticeship program model as an effec-
21 tive earn-and-learn model for students, workers, and
22 employers;

23 (4) to support the development and expansion
24 of registered apprenticeship programs with employ-
25 ers, joint labor-management partnerships, trade and

1 professional associations, and other program spon-
2 sors, that offer jobs that lead to economic self-suffi-
3 ciency;

4 (5) to support the development and expansion
5 of effective pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to
6 success in a registered apprenticeship program;

7 (6) to support a closer alignment between reg-
8 istered apprenticeship programs, the workforce de-
9 velopment system, career and technical education,
10 and postsecondary education, including institutions
11 of higher education; and

12 (7) to support innovative models of effective
13 work-based learning.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
17 trator” means the Administrator of the Office of Ap-
18 prenticeship appointed under section 101(a).

19 (2) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
20 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
21 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
22 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

23 (3) EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.—The
24 term “educational service agency”—

1 (A) has the meaning given the term in sec-
2 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801); and

4 (B) includes a collaborative of those agen-
5 cies.

6 (4) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “high school”
7 means a nonprofit institutional day or residential
8 school that—

9 (A) provides secondary education, as deter-
10 mined under State law;

11 (B) grants a diploma, as defined by the
12 State; and

13 (C) includes, at least, grade 12.

14 (5) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
15 TION.—The term “in-demand industry sector or oc-
16 cupation” has the meaning given the term in section
17 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
18 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

19 (6) LOCAL AND STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOP-
20 MENT BOARDS.—The terms “local workforce devel-
21 opment board” and “State workforce development
22 board” have the meanings given the terms “local
23 board” and “State board”, respectively, in section 3
24 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
25 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

1 (7) NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM.—The
2 term “national apprenticeship system” means the
3 collective group of registered apprenticeship pro-
4 grams and pre-apprenticeship programs in the Na-
5 tion (including the rules and regulations governing
6 the 2 types of programs).

7 (8) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-
8 TION.—The term “postsecondary educational institu-
9 tion” means an institution of higher education, as
10 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act
11 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

12 (9) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The
13 term “pre-apprenticeship program” means a pro-
14 gram or set of strategies that—

15 (A) is designed to prepare individuals to
16 enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship
17 program;

18 (B) is carried out by an eligible entity
19 (meaning an entity described in section
20 101(b)(2)(C) that has an application approved
21 under section 101(b)(3)) that has a documented
22 partnership with at least 1 sponsor of a reg-
23 istered apprenticeship program; and

24 (C) includes each of the following elements:

1 (i) Training (including a curriculum
2 for the training), aligned with industry
3 standards and reviewed and approved an-
4 nually by sponsors of the registered ap-
5 prenticeships within the documented part-
6 nership, that will prepare individuals by
7 teaching the skills and competencies need-
8 ed to enter one or more registered appren-
9 ticeship programs.

10 (ii) Provision of hands-on training and
11 theoretical education to individuals that—

12 (I) accurately simulates the in-
13 dustry and occupational conditions of
14 the registered apprenticeship program
15 described in subparagraph (B);

16 (II) is carried out in a manner
17 that includes proper observation of su-
18 pervision and safety protocols; and

19 (III) is carried out in a manner
20 that does not displace a paid em-
21 ployee.

22 (iii) A formal agreement with a spon-
23 sor of a registered apprenticeship program
24 that would enable participants who suc-
25 cessfully complete the pre-apprenticeship

1 program to enter directly into the reg-
2 istered apprenticeship program (if a place
3 in the program is available), and includes
4 agreements concerning earning credit rec-
5 ognized by a postsecondary educational in-
6 stitution for skills and competencies ac-
7 quired during the pre-apprenticeship pro-
8 gram.

9 (10) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
10 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
11 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
12 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
13 U.S.C. 3102).

14 (11) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
15 GRAM.—The term “registered apprenticeship pro-
16 gram” means a program registered under the Act of
17 August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National
18 Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
19 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

20 (12) SECRETARY.—Except as provided in sec-
21 tion 102 or as otherwise modified, the term “Sec-
22 retary” means the Secretary of Labor, acting
23 through the Administrator.

24 (13) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means an
25 employer, joint labor-management partnership, trade

1 association, professional association, labor organiza-
 2 tion, or other entity that administers a registered
 3 apprenticeship program.

4 **TITLE I—PROMOTING** 5 **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS**

6 **SEC. 101. PROMOTING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-** 7 **GRAMS.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF APPREN-
 9 TICESHIP.—

10 (1) OFFICE.—There is established, in the Em-
 11 ployment and Training Administration of the De-
 12 partment of Labor, an Office of Apprenticeship.

13 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall be
 14 headed by an Administrator of the Office of Appren-
 15 ticeship appointed by the Assistant Secretary for
 16 Employment and Training. The Assistant Secretary
 17 shall appoint an individual who has the dem-
 18 onstrated knowledge of registered apprenticeship
 19 programs necessary to serve as the Administrator.

20 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator,
 21 through the Office of Apprenticeship, shall carry out
 22 responsibilities including—

23 (A) determining whether an apprenticeship
 24 program meets the requirements to become a
 25 registered apprenticeship program and main-

1 tains the standards necessary to remain a reg-
2 istered apprenticeship program;

3 (B) managing the national apprenticeship
4 system;

5 (C) carrying out activities under subsection
6 (b) to promote effective pre-apprenticeship pro-
7 grams;

8 (D) promoting awareness about registered
9 apprenticeship programs, including carrying out
10 activities under subsection (c);

11 (E) engaging in regular updates of the reg-
12 istration process, ensuring that such process is
13 easily accessible and efficient for use by spon-
14 sors of registered apprenticeship programs;

15 (F) regularly engaging with the National
16 Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships and en-
17 sure that the required reports of the Committee
18 are submitted to the Secretary and transmitted
19 to Congress;

20 (G) promoting greater diversity in reg-
21 istered apprenticeship programs and pre-ap-
22 prenticeship programs, including by promoting
23 outreach to underrepresented populations,
24 youth, and veterans and supporting the develop-
25 ment of apprenticeship models;

1 (H) providing for evaluations and research,
2 as described in subsection (e);

3 (I) providing technical assistance to spon-
4 sors of registered apprenticeship programs, en-
5 tities who are interested in developing and be-
6 coming sponsors of registered apprenticeship
7 programs, and eligible entities carrying out pre-
8 apprenticeship programs; and

9 (J) coordinating and aligning registered
10 apprenticeship programs with other Federal
11 education and training programs, including
12 those authorized under the Workforce Innova-
13 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
14 seq.) and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
15 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301
16 et seq.).

17 (b) SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-AP-
18 PRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.—

19 (1) SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall support the
20 development of pre-apprenticeship programs.

21 (2) GRANTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds available
23 under subsection (f), the Secretary shall make
24 grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities
25 to provide the Federal share of the cost of car-

1 rying out projects that support that develop-
2 ment.

3 (B) PERIOD.—The Secretary shall make
4 initial grants under this paragraph for periods
5 of not more than 3 years, except that if an eli-
6 gible entity demonstrates satisfactory perform-
7 ance under paragraph (6) by the end of that
8 third year, the Secretary may extend the grant
9 period up to an additional 1 year for that enti-
10 ty.

11 (C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to
12 receive a grant from the Secretary under this
13 subsection, an entity shall be a public-private
14 partnership consisting of—

15 (i) a local educational agency, high
16 school, area career and technical school (as
17 defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins
18 Career and Technical Education Act of
19 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)), educational serv-
20 ice agency (as defined in section 8101 of
21 the Elementary and Secondary Education
22 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), 2- or 4-
23 year postsecondary educational institution,
24 or collaborative of such entities;

1 (ii) in a State with a State entity rec-
2 ognized by the Secretary of Labor to reg-
3 ister apprenticeship programs in that
4 State, that entity;

5 (iii) an industry or business, con-
6 sisting of an employer, a group of employ-
7 ers, a trade association, a professional as-
8 sociation, or an entity that sponsors a reg-
9 istered apprenticeship program;

10 (iv) a State workforce development
11 board or local workforce development
12 board; and

13 (v) to the maximum extent prac-
14 ticable—

15 (I) a labor organization associ-
16 ated with the industry or occupation
17 related to the pre-apprenticeship pro-
18 gram involved; and

19 (II) a community-based organiza-
20 tion that provides pre-apprenticeship
21 programs, as appropriate.

22 (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
23 grant from the Secretary under this subsection, an
24 entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at

1 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
2 formation as the Secretary may require, including—

3 (A) a description of the training and cur-
4 riculum described in section 3(9)(C)(i), and how
5 the proposed pre-apprenticeship program makes
6 individuals who successfully complete the pre-
7 apprenticeship program qualified to enter into
8 an established registered apprenticeship pro-
9 gram;

10 (B) evidence that there are or will be suffi-
11 cient openings available in the registered ap-
12 prenticeship program referenced in subpara-
13 graph (A) to enable the registered apprentice-
14 ship program sponsor to place into a cor-
15 responding registered apprenticeship those indi-
16 viduals who successfully complete the pre-ap-
17 prenticeship program;

18 (C) information about the entity that dem-
19 onstrates the existence of an active, advisory
20 partnership between the partners described in
21 paragraph (2)(C) and the capacity, of a train-
22 ing and education provider in the entity, to pro-
23 vide the training and education services nec-
24 essary for a pre-apprenticeship program; and

1 (D) information about the proposed pre-
2 apprenticeship program that demonstrates—

3 (i) that the program is in an in-de-
4 mand industry or occupation in the region
5 in which the project is located;

6 (ii) the use of integrated work-based
7 and academic learning that may include
8 training in the workplace;

9 (iii) the inclusion of career exploration
10 focused activities, such as job shadowing,
11 career information activities, and résumé
12 preparation, in the program;

13 (iv) if the entity carrying out the
14 project includes a high school, that the
15 model to be used for the program leads to
16 a high school diploma for participants
17 without such a diploma;

18 (v) how the pre-apprenticeship pro-
19 gram is aligned with and leverages re-
20 sources of career and technical education
21 programs, programs and services author-
22 ized under the Workforce Innovation and
23 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.),
24 or activities of entities that provide sup-

1 portive services for participants in pre-ap-
2 prenticeship programs; and

3 (vi) that the project aligns with an es-
4 tablished registered apprenticeship pro-
5 gram, including that the model used for
6 the program leads to the attainment of
7 skills and competencies necessary for en-
8 trance into the registered apprenticeship
9 program for participants.

10 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that
12 receives a grant under this subsection shall use
13 the grant funds to carry out a project that im-
14 plements a pre-apprenticeship program.

15 (B) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—The eligible
16 entity shall use the grant funds—

17 (i) to pay for the cost of training or
18 education associated with the pre-appren-
19 ticeship program;

20 (ii) for curriculum development that
21 align with the requirements of the appro-
22 priate registered apprenticeship programs
23 and learning assessments;

1 (iii) to maintain a connection between
2 the pre-apprenticeship program and reg-
3 istered apprenticeship program;

4 (iv) for assessments of potential par-
5 ticipants for, and enrollment of the partici-
6 pants in, the pre-apprenticeship program;
7 and

8 (v) to conduct evaluations described in
9 paragraph (6)(B).

10 (C) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The eligible
11 entity may use the grant funds for—

12 (i) teacher training, including pro-
13 viding externship opportunities for teachers
14 to learn about the skill needs of the indus-
15 try or occupation that the pre-apprentice-
16 ship program focuses on;

17 (ii) stipends for participants during
18 work-based training in the program; or

19 (iii) coordination of activities under
20 this subsection with activities carried out
21 under the Carl D. Perkins Career and
22 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
23 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) or the Workforce In-
24 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
25 3101 et seq.).

1 (5) FEDERAL SHARE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of
3 the cost described in paragraph (2)(A) shall be
4 75 percent.

5 (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The eligible
6 entity may contribute the non-Federal share of
7 the cost in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, in-
8 cluding plant, equipment, or services.

9 (6) PERFORMANCE.—

10 (A) MEASURES.—The Secretary shall iden-
11 tify a set of common measures that, at a min-
12 imum, include measures of entry into a reg-
13 istered apprenticeship program and that are
14 aligned with performance accountability meas-
15 ures described in section 116(c) of the Work-
16 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
17 U.S.C. 3141(c)) for the local workforce develop-
18 ment area (meaning a local area, as defined in
19 section 3 of that Act) and with corresponding
20 measures under the Carl D. Perkins Career and
21 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
22 2301 et seq.), as appropriate.

23 (B) EVALUATIONS.—Each eligible entity
24 that receives a grant to carry out a project
25 under this subsection shall arrange for another

1 qualified entity to conduct an evaluation, or
2 shall participate in a Department of Labor
3 sponsored evaluation, of the project using the
4 identified common measures, and shall, to the
5 extent practicable, cooperate with the evaluator
6 in any evaluations of activities carried out
7 under this section.

8 (C) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary shall
9 use the results of an evaluation for a project to
10 determine whether to extend the grant period,
11 or renew a grant, for the project under para-
12 graph (2)(B).

13 (c) PROMOTING AWARENESS OF REGISTERED AP-
14 PRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—To promote awareness about
16 registered apprenticeship programs, the Secretary,
17 in cooperation with the Secretary of Education and
18 the Secretary of Commerce, shall ensure that timely,
19 current information about the value of registered ap-
20 prenticeship programs in the labor market is made
21 available through a range of widely accessible for-
22 mats and venues. The information shall be made
23 available to businesses, trade associations, profes-
24 sional associations, students, parents, workers, edu-
25 cational institutions, workforce and economic devel-

1 opment organizations, and State and local elected of-
2 ficials.

3 (2) INFORMATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL
4 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.—To promote
5 awareness about registered apprenticeship programs
6 within the workforce development system, the Sec-
7 retary shall disseminate information on the value of
8 registered apprenticeship programs, to State and
9 local workforce development boards described in sub-
10 section (b)(2)(C)(iv), which information shall in-
11 clude—

12 (A) a list of registered apprenticeship pro-
13 grams in the State involved;

14 (B) guidance for training staff of the
15 workforce development system within the State
16 on the value of registered apprenticeship pro-
17 grams, including relevant placement, retention
18 and earnings information, as a training option
19 for participants;

20 (C) guidance on how individual training
21 accounts under section 134(c)(3) of the Work-
22 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
23 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)) could be used by partici-
24 pants for a registered apprenticeship program;
25 and

(D) guidance on how performance accountability measures under section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141) apply to participants in registered apprenticeship programs, including relevant placement, retention and earnings information.

(3) INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, INDUSTRY GROUPS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.—To promote awareness about registered apprenticeship programs to workers and employers, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall provide information about the value of registered apprenticeship programs, including relevant placement, retention and earnings information, through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151), to employers, trade associations, professional associations, industry groups, and labor organizations, which information shall include, at a minimum—

(A) a list of registered apprenticeship programs in the State;

(B) information on how to develop a registered apprenticeship program; and

1 (C) information on financial resources
2 available to assist with the establishment and
3 implementation of registered apprenticeship
4 programs.

5 (4) INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND
6 SCHOOLS.—To promote awareness about registered
7 apprenticeship programs among students and school
8 staff, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Sec-
9 retary of Education, shall disseminate information
10 on the value of registered apprenticeship programs,
11 including relevant placement, retention and earnings
12 information, to high schools, area career and tech-
13 nical education schools (as defined in subsection
14 (b)(2)(C)(i)), 2- and 4-year postsecondary edu-
15 cational institutions, and educational service agen-
16 cies, to enable, at a minimum—

17 (A) parents to understand registered ap-
18 prenticeship programs and their value in post-
19 secondary education and career pathways;

20 (B) students to understand registered ap-
21 prenticeship programs and their value in career
22 pathways;

23 (C) career and academic counselors to un-
24 derstand registered apprenticeship programs as
25 a valuable postsecondary education option for

1 students leading to job placement in in-demand
2 industries and occupations; and

3 (D) school administrators, workforce and
4 economic development coordinators, and teach-
5 ers and faculty to assist with the development,
6 implementation, and continuation of registered
7 apprenticeship programs.

8 (d) SECRETARY'S NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
9 ON APPRENTICESHIPS.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in
12 the Department of Labor a National Advisory
13 Committee on Apprenticeships, referred to in
14 this section as the “Advisory Committee”.

15 (B) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Com-
16 mittee shall have—

17 (i) 21 voting members appointed by
18 the Secretary, composed of—

19 (I) 7 representatives of employers
20 who participate in a registered ap-
21 prenticeship program, including em-
22 ployers who participate in a registered
23 apprenticeship program sponsored by
24 a joint labor-management partnership;

1 (II) 7 representatives of labor or-
2 ganizations who have responsibility
3 for the administration of a registered
4 apprenticeship program sponsored by
5 a joint labor-management partnership;

6 (III) 7 representatives of State
7 apprenticeship agencies, community
8 organizations with significant experi-
9 ence with a registered apprenticeship
10 program, and 2- or 4-year postsec-
11 ondary educational institutions with
12 at least one articulation agreement
13 with the entity administering a reg-
14 istered apprenticeship program; and

15 (ii) members who are ex officio non-
16 voting representatives from the Depart-
17 ments of Labor, Commerce, Education,
18 Energy, Housing and Urban Development,
19 and Health and Human Services.

20 (C) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members shall
21 be selected upon the basis of their experience
22 and competence concerning apprenticeships.

23 (D) TERMS.—The Secretary shall appoint
24 the members for terms of 4 years.

1 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall des-
2 ignate one of the members of the Advisory Com-
3 mittee to serve as Chairperson of the Advisory Com-
4 mittee.

5 (3) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall
6 hold not fewer than 2 meetings during each calendar
7 year. All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall
8 be open to the public. A transcript shall be kept of
9 each meeting and made available for public inspec-
10 tion.

11 (4) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall
12 advise, consult with, and make recommendations to
13 the Secretary on matters relating to the administra-
14 tion of this title and the Act of August 16, 1937
15 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship
16 Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et
17 seq.).

18 (5) PERSONNEL.—

19 (A) PROCUREMENT.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of
21 the Advisory Committee may procure the
22 temporary and intermittent services of vot-
23 ing members of the Advisory Committee
24 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
25 States Code, at rates for individuals that

1 do not exceed the daily equivalent of the
2 annual rate of basic pay prescribed for
3 level V of the Executive Schedule under
4 section 5316 of such title.

5 (ii) OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE
6 UNITED STATES.—All members of the Ad-
7 visory Committee who are officers or em-
8 ployees of the United States shall serve
9 without compensation in addition to that
10 received for their services as officers or
11 employees of the United States.

12 (B) STAFF.—The Secretary shall supply
13 the Committee with an executive secretary and
14 provide such secretarial, clerical, and other
15 services as the Secretary determines to be nec-
16 essary to enable the Advisory Committee to
17 conduct its business.

18 (6) PERMANENT COMMITTEE.—Section 14 of
19 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
20 App.) shall not apply to the advisory committee.

21 (e) EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.—

22 (1) EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVI-
23 TIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS TITLE.—For the
24 purpose of improving the management and effective-
25 ness of the programs and activities carried out

1 under this title, the Secretary shall provide for the
2 continuing evaluation, by an independent entity, of
3 the programs and activities, including activities car-
4 ried out under subsection (a)(3)(C). Such evalua-
5 tions shall address—

6 (A) the general effectiveness of such pro-
7 grams and activities in relation to their cost, in-
8 cluding the extent to which the programs and
9 activities—

10 (i) improve the skill and employment
11 competencies of participants in comparison
12 to comparably situated individuals who did
13 not participate in such programs and ac-
14 tivities; and

15 (ii) to the extent feasible, increase the
16 level of total employment and recognized
17 postsecondary credential attainment over
18 the level that would have existed in the ab-
19 sence of such programs and activities;

20 (B) the impact of the programs and activi-
21 ties for the participants, sponsors, and employ-
22 ers;

23 (C) the return on investment of Federal,
24 State, local, sponsor, employer, and other fund-
25 ing for registered apprenticeships to capture the

1 full level of investment in, and impact of, reg-
2 istered apprenticeships;

3 (D) the longitudinal outcomes for partici-
4 pants in the programs and activities; and

5 (E) the impact of specific policies on the
6 general effectiveness of such programs and ac-
7 tivities.

8 (2) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may conduct,
9 through an independent entity, research on best
10 practices in registered apprenticeship programs and
11 pre-apprenticeship programs and other issues relat-
12 ing to such programs.

13 (3) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations and research
14 conducted under this subsection shall utilize appro-
15 priate methodology and research designs.

16 (4) REPORTS.—The independent entity carrying
17 out the evaluations described in paragraph (1) or re-
18 search described in paragraph (2) shall prepare and
19 submit to the Secretary a final report containing the
20 results of the evaluations or research, respectively,
21 and including policy recommendations. The final re-
22 port shall be made available for public inspection.
23 Not later than 36 months after the date of enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall produce a final

1 report related to the return on investment described
2 in paragraph (1)(C).

3 (5) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
4 60 days after the completion of all the final reports
5 described in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall
6 transmit the final reports to the Committee on Edu-
7 cation and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
9 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

10 (6) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall de-
11 velop a mechanism to make research developed
12 under this title publically available in a timely man-
13 ner.

14 (f) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not
15 less than 10 percent of the funds appropriated under sub-
16 section (g) for each fiscal year for grants to States. A
17 State that receives such a grant shall use the grant funds
18 for the purpose of assisting the Administrator in carrying
19 out the activities under this section, and may use the grant
20 funds to support the voluntary establishment of a State
21 apprenticeship office, if no such office exists in the State.

22 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and each subsequent
25 year.

1 **SEC. 102. PROMOTING INTEGRATION WITH POSTSEC-**
2 **ONDARY EDUCATION.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COLLABORATIVE.—The term “Collabo-
5 rative” means the Registered Apprenticeship-College
6 Collaborative established under subsection (b)(1).

7 (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
8 means the Secretary of Labor, acting through the
9 Administrator, working jointly with the Secretary of
10 Education, acting through the Assistant Secretary
11 for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Edu-
12 cation.

13 (b) COLLABORATIVE WITH 2- AND 4-YEAR POSTSEC-
14 ONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—

15 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall
16 establish and maintain a voluntary Registered Ap-
17 prenticeship-College Collaborative. The Collaborative
18 shall consist of the sponsors carrying out registered
19 apprenticeship programs, 2- or 4-year postsecondary
20 educational institutions, and organizations that rep-
21 resent such programs or institutions, that agree to
22 meet certain criteria in order to support the pur-
23 poses described in paragraph (2).

24 (2) PURPOSES.—The Collaborative shall sup-
25 port the purposes of—

1 (A) promoting stronger connections be-
2 tween the registered apprenticeship programs
3 involved and participating 2- and 4-year post-
4 secondary educational institutions;

5 (B) promoting the translation of experi-
6 ence in a registered apprenticeship program to
7 academic credit at participating 2- and 4-year
8 postsecondary educational institutions;

9 (C) facilitating the enrollment of an indi-
10 vidual who has completed a registered appren-
11 ticeship program (referred to in this section as
12 an “apprentice”) at a participating 2- or 4-year
13 postsecondary educational institution for the
14 purpose of attaining academic credit toward an
15 associate’s or more advanced degree;

16 (D) advancing the attainment of associ-
17 ate’s and more advanced degrees by appren-
18 tices;

19 (E) promoting the attainment of recog-
20 nized postsecondary credentials with value in
21 the labor market; and

22 (F) expanding awareness about the value
23 of registered apprenticeship programs as a
24 postsecondary education option.

1 (3) PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—The Secre-
2 taries shall establish criteria that any interested 2-
3 or 4-year postsecondary educational institution or
4 sponsor shall meet in order to participate in the Col-
5 laborative, which criteria shall include, at a min-
6 imum—

7 (A) for a 2- or 4-year postsecondary edu-
8 cational institution—

9 (i) agreement to recognize and accept
10 the academic credit (as assessed under
11 subparagraph (B)(i)) earned by an appren-
12 tice for, and the assessment of the appren-
13 tice’s learning in, a registered apprenticeship
14 program at another participating in-
15 stitution;

16 (ii) agreement to have a formal ar-
17 ticulation agreement with a participating
18 sponsor of a registered apprenticeship pro-
19 gram, other than a 2- or 4-year postsec-
20 ondary educational institution; and

21 (iii) agreement to provide certain in-
22 formation, as determined by the Secre-
23 taries, to the Collaborative; and

24 (B) for a sponsor—

1 (i) agreement to participate in third-
2 party evaluations of the quality and rigor
3 of the program offerings in order to deter-
4 mine the value of academic credit for
5 learning during a registered apprenticeship
6 program;

7 (ii) agreement to have a formal ar-
8 ticulation agreement with a participating
9 2- or 4-year postsecondary educational in-
10 stitution; and

11 (iii) agreement to provide certain in-
12 formation, as determined by the Secre-
13 taries, to the Collaborative.

14 (4) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—In order to participate
16 in the Collaborative, interested 2- or 4-year
17 postsecondary educational institutions and
18 sponsors shall agree to meet certain conditions
19 determined by the Secretaries.

20 (B) CONDITIONS.—Such conditions shall
21 address, at a minimum—

22 (i) how learning during a registered
23 apprenticeship program, including related
24 instruction and on-the-job training, will be
25 assessed for academic credit;

1 (ii) how programs and procedures, es-
2 pecially those related to admissions, credit
3 transfer, and recognition of such learning
4 will be structured to support accessibility
5 for apprentices;

6 (iii) how the structure and scheduling
7 of courses will be developed in a way that
8 supports the matriculation of apprentices;
9 and

10 (iv) how residency requirements will
11 support the transferability of credit earned
12 by apprentices.

13 (5) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—The
14 Secretaries shall maintain a publicly accessible
15 website identifying, at a minimum—

16 (A) the participating members of the Col-
17 laborative in each State;

18 (B) a model for articulation agreements,
19 and copies of some exemplary articulation
20 agreements for illustrative purposes; and

21 (C) such other information as the Secre-
22 taries determine to be necessary to promote
23 awareness of the Collaborative and its members.

24 (6) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (A) ADMINISTRATIVE.—The Secretaries
2 shall use 30 percent of the funds appropriated
3 under subsection (c) to establish and maintain
4 the Collaborative and the website referred to in
5 paragraph (5), to support the advisory com-
6 mittee referred to in paragraph (6), and for
7 technical assistance, evaluation, and research
8 activities.

9 (B) FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.—The
10 Secretaries shall use 70 percent of the appro-
11 priated funds to carry out, directly or by grant
12 or contract with an eligible entity, activities
13 consisting of—

14 (i) providing funding to Collaborative
15 participants to support the development of
16 articulation agreements with other Collabo-
17 rative participants;

18 (ii) providing funding to the Collabo-
19 rative to support the assessment of learn-
20 ing during a registered apprenticeship pro-
21 gram, for academic credit;

22 (iii) providing funding to the Collabo-
23 rative to support third-party evaluations of
24 the quality and rigor of program offerings,
25 referred to in paragraph (3)(B)(i), which

1 evaluations shall be conducted by an entity
2 that meets minimum criteria as established
3 by the Secretaries;

4 (iv) providing curriculum develop-
5 ment, for participating institutions and
6 sponsors; and

7 (v) carrying out other purposes that
8 will help participating 2- and 4-year post-
9 secondary educational institutions and
10 sponsors meet the requirements of para-
11 graphs (3) and (4).

12 (C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to
13 receive a grant or contract under subparagraph
14 (B), an entity shall be a partnership comprised
15 of—

16 (i) at least 1-, 2-, or 4-year postsec-
17 ondary educational institution participating
18 in the Collaborative; and

19 (ii) at least 1 sponsor of a registered
20 apprenticeship program participating in
21 the Collaborative.

22 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and each subsequent year.

1 **TITLE II—PROGRAM DEVELOP-**
2 **MENT AND ENHANCEMENT**

3 **SEC. 201. EXPANDING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-**
4 **GRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide pay-
6 ments of assistance for eligible sponsors of new (as of the
7 date of submission of an application under subsection (b))
8 registered apprenticeship programs, or for eligible spon-
9 sors of existing registered apprenticeship programs that
10 add employers as new (as of such date) partners, which
11 may include joint labor-management registered appren-
12 ticeship programs.

13 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive pay-
14 ments under this section for a registered apprenticeship
15 program, a sponsor shall submit an application to the Sec-
16 retary including information demonstrating that (as of the
17 date of submission)—

18 (1)(A) for a new registered apprenticeship pro-
19 gram, the program received recognition as a reg-
20 istered apprenticeship program within the 36
21 months preceding that date; or

22 (B) for an existing registered apprenticeship
23 program (which may include joint labor-management
24 registered apprenticeship programs), employers were

1 added as new partners within the 36 months pre-
2 ceding that date;

3 (2) the sponsor offered jobs that lead to eco-
4 nomic self-sufficiency, as determined by a local
5 workforce development board located in the same
6 local workforce development area (meaning a local
7 area, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Inno-
8 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102));

9 (3) the sponsor has demonstrated success in en-
10 rolling, instructing, advancing, and graduating indi-
11 viduals in the relevant registered apprenticeship pro-
12 gram, and in the employment of such individuals
13 after completion of the program; and

14 (4) the sponsor had not received a payment
15 under subsection (d) for that registered apprentice-
16 ship program.

17 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—In providing assistance under
18 this section, the Secretary shall arrange to provide pay-
19 ments as described in subsection (a) for eligible sponsors,
20 as funds are available under this section. Funds made
21 available through such a payment shall be used to reim-
22 burse an eligible sponsor for the allowable costs of estab-
23 lishing or expanding the registered apprenticeship pro-
24 gram involved. The maximum total payment to any one

1 sponsor may not exceed \$25,000 or 50 percent of the al-
2 lowable costs.

3 (d) DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into
4 arrangements with State workforce development boards to
5 make disbursements through the local workforce develop-
6 ment boards described in subsection (b)(2) to provide the
7 payments to the eligible sponsors.

8 (e) EVALUATIONS.—Sponsors receiving grants under
9 this section shall, to the extent practicable, cooperate with
10 the Secretary in the conduct of evaluations of the activities
11 carried out under this section.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
14 appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000
15 for fiscal year 2018 and each subsequent year.

16 (2) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve
17 5 percent of the amount appropriated under para-
18 graph (1) for a fiscal year for distribution to the
19 State workforce development boards and local work-
20 force development boards, to pay for the costs of the
21 boards associated with making determinations under
22 subsection (b)(2) and disbursements under sub-
23 section (d), and as funds remain available, other

- 1 costs of administration and management, technical
- 2 assistance, research, and evaluation under this Act.

