

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 291

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the
Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant
Program of the Department of Agriculture.

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 “Creating Access to
5 Rural Employment and Education for Resilience and Suc-
6 cess Act” or the “CAREERS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 379I of the Consolidated
9 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is
10 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

3 (i) in clause (iii)—

4 (I) by striking subclause (I) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(I) an institution of higher edu-
7 cation (as defined in section 101, and
8 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
9 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
11 1002(a)(1)));”;

12 (II) by redesignating subclauses
13 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and
14 (IV), respectively, and inserting after
15 subclause (I) the following:

16 “(II) an area career and tech-
17 nical education school (as defined in
18 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
19 reer and Technical Education Act of
20 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));”;

21 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-
22 designated by subclause (II) of this
23 clause), by striking “and”;

24 (ii) in clause (iv)—

1 (I) by striking subclause (IV)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(IV) an institution of higher
4 education (as defined in section 101,
5 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
6 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
8 1002(a)(1)));”; and

9 (II) by redesignating subclause
10 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting
11 after subclause (IV) the following:

12 “(V) an area career and technical
13 education school (as defined in section
14 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
15 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
16 U.S.C. 2302); or”; and

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(v) in the case of a career pathway
20 program, includes 1 or more member of
21 the local workforce development board es-
22 tablished under section 107 of the Work-
23 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and
24 serving the region to ensure such program
25 is integrated with the activities carried out

1 by the local workforce development board;
2 and”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career
5 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section
6 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
7 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

8 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—
9 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the
10 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
11 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
12 3102).”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by inserting “carry out career
17 pathway programs or industry or sector
18 partnerships aligned with industry sectors
19 in rural communities” before the 3rd
20 comma;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “and” at the end;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(C) address workforce challenges faced by
4 specific industry sectors in rural communities;
5 and

6 “(D) promote targeted skills development
7 initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance
8 economic development in rural regions.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “ca-
12 reer pathway program, or industry or
13 sector partnerships” before the semi-
14 colon; and

15 (II) in clause (ii)—

16 (aa) by inserting “career
17 pathway program, or industry or
18 sector partnerships” before “to
19 provide”; and

20 (bb) by inserting “leadership
21 development,” before “cus-
22 tomized”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
24 “and” at the end;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
2 the period and inserting “; and”; and

3 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to
6 carry out activities to address the issues of
7 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and
8 youth migration.”; and

9 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
10 ing the following;

11 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
12 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of
13 grants or participants in providing grants under
14 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway
15 programs, industry or sector partnerships, and re-
16 lated programming.”;

17 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
19 period and inserting “; or”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(C) to support career pathway programs
22 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried
23 out in industries in rural communities, includ-
24 ing—

1 “(i) telecommunications or broadband
2 services;

3 “(ii) water, waste water, and disposal
4 services;

5 “(iii) electric supply services;

6 “(iv) conservation practices and man-
7 agement;

8 “(v) health care;

9 “(vi) child care;

10 “(vii) manufacturing;

11 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-
12 tion, processing, and distribution; and

13 “(ix) any other sectors that are identi-
14 fied by the local workforce development
15 board serving the region to be an in-de-
16 mand industry sector or occupation, as de-
17 fined in section 3 of the Workforce Innova-
18 tion and Opportunity Act.”;

19 (4) in subsection (e)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
21 the end;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

23 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or” at
24 the end; and

1 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as
 2 clause (xix) and inserting after clause
 3 (xvii) the following:

4 “(xviii) the number of individuals who
 5 have completed skills development, recog-
 6 nized postsecondary credentials, or gained
 7 specialized education through career path-
 8 ways programs or industry or sector part-
 9 nership; or”; and

10 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated
 11 by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by
 12 striking the period and inserting “; and”;
 13 and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program
 16 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-
 17 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for
 18 individuals who participate in the program on the in-
 19 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of
 20 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation
 21 and Opportunity Act.”; and

22 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through
 23 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2030”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 25 subsection (a) shall take effect on such date as the Sec-

1 retary of Agriculture shall determine, which shall be not
2 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act.

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