

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7242

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to train individuals in construction trades and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to train individuals in construction trades 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 “Homebuilders Corps
5 Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOMEBUILDERS CORPS.**

7 (a) RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE.—Sec-
8 tion 148 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
9 (29 U.S.C. 3198) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(f) RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE.—In
 2 carrying out the activities under this subtitle, the Sec-
 3 retary shall prioritize the expansion of training programs
 4 in residential construction trades, including carpentry,
 5 plumbing, electrical trades, masonry, and heating, ventila-
 6 tion, and air conditioning.”.

7 (b) EMPLOYER INCENTIVES FOR HIRING JOB CORPS
 8 GRADUATES.—Section 148 of the Workforce Innovation
 9 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3198) is further amended
 10 by adding at the end the following:

11 “(g) EMPLOYER INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR HIRING
 12 JOB CORPS GRADUATES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 14 the date of enactment of the Homebuilders Corps
 15 Act of 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the
 16 Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish a program
 17 to provide grants to residential construction firms
 18 that—

19 “(A) hire a graduate of a Job Corps resi-
 20 dential construction program within 6 months
 21 of the graduate completing such program; and

22 “(B) employ such graduate for a consecu-
 23 tive 12-month period.

24 “(2) AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this
 25 Act shall be in an amount equal to \$5,000.

1 “(3) CERTIFICATION.—To be eligible to receive
 2 a grant under this Act, the residential construction
 3 firm shall submit to the Secretary at such time, in
 4 such manner, and containing such information as
 5 the Secretary may require, including a W-2, payroll
 6 tax filings, or any other documentation to verify the
 7 firm employed the Job Corps graduate for a con-
 8 secutive 12-month period.”.

9 (c) INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS; AUTHORIZATION OF
 10 APPROPRIATIONS.—Subtitle C of the Workforce Innova-
 11 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is
 12 amended—

13 (1) by redesignating section 162 as section 163;

14 (2) by inserting after section 161 the following:

15 **“SEC. 162. INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AND CURRICULA**
 16 **ALIGNMENT.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall facilitate
 18 agreements between the Secretary and large trade associa-
 19 tions that operate in the residential construction industry
 20 for such associations to accept Job Corps graduates into
 21 registered apprenticeship programs related to residential
 22 construction.

23 “(b) CURRICULA UPDATE.—Not later than 24
 24 months after the date of enactment of the Homebuilders
 25 Corps Act of 2026, and for each 24-month period there-

1 after, the Secretary shall ensure that each workforce coun-
2 cil reviews and updates residential construction curricula
3 to incorporate new construction technologies.”; and

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

5 **“SEC. 164. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RES-**
6 **IDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS.**

7 “There are authorized to be appropriated
8 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 to carry out—

9 “(1) the grant program described in section
10 148(g);

11 “(2) the prioritization requirement described in
12 section 148(f); and

13 “(3) the activities described in section 162.”.

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