

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9121

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 2026

Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions, 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 referred to as the “Manufacturing
5 Jobs for Veterans Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—To en-
9 courage the employment of eligible veterans in manufac-
10 turing, the Secretary of Labor, as part of the Veteran’s

1 Workforce Investment Program, shall carry out a pilot
2 program to be known as the “Veterans Manufacturing
3 Employment Program”. Under the pilot program, the Sec-
4 retary shall award competitive grants to three States for
5 the establishment and administration of a State program
6 to make grants to manufacturing employers and joint
7 labor-management organizations that provide to eligible
8 veterans covered training, on-the-job training, apprentice-
9 ships, and training that leads to a recognized postsec-
10 ondary credential. Such a program shall be known as a
11 “State Manufacturing Employment Program”.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible to re-
13 ceive a grant under the pilot program, a State shall submit
14 to the Secretary an application that includes each of the
15 following:

16 (1) A proposal for the expenditure of grant
17 funds to establish and administer a public-private
18 partnership program designed to—

19 (A) provide to eligible veterans covered
20 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeships,
21 and training that leads to a recognized postsec-
22 ondary credential; and

23 (B) ensure sustainable employment in
24 high-wage, high-skill jobs in manufacturing.

25 (2) Evidence that the State has—

1 (A) a population of eligible veterans of an
2 appropriate size to carry out the State program;

3 (B) a robust and diverse manufacturing in-
4 dustry, as determined by the Secretary; and

5 (C) the ability to carry out the State pro-
6 gram described in the proposal under para-
7 graph (1).

8 (3) Such other information and assurances as
9 the Secretary may require.

10 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that is the recipient
11 of a grant under this section shall use the grant for the
12 following purposes:

13 (1) Making grants to manufacturing employers
14 and joint labor-management organizations to reim-
15 burse such employers and organizations for the cost
16 of providing to eligible veterans covered training, on-
17 the-job training, apprenticeships, and training that
18 leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

19 (2) Conducting outreach to inform manufac-
20 turing employers, joint labor-management organiza-
21 tions, and veterans, including veterans in rural
22 areas, of their eligibility or potential eligibility for
23 participation in the State program.

1 (d) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, each
2 grant to a State shall be subject to the following condi-
3 tions:

4 (1) The State shall repay to the Secretary, on
5 such date as shall be determined by the Secretary,
6 any amount received under the pilot program that is
7 not used for the purposes described in subsection
8 (c).

9 (2) The State shall submit to the Secretary, at
10 such times and containing such information as the
11 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of grant
12 funds.

13 (e) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive
14 a grant made by a State under the pilot program, a manu-
15 facturing employer shall—

16 (1) submit to the administrator of the State
17 Manufacturing Employment Program an application
18 that includes—

19 (A) the rate of pay for each eligible vet-
20 eran proposed to be trained using grant funds;

21 (B) the average rate of pay for an indi-
22 vidual employed by the manufacturing employer
23 in a similar position who is not an eligible vet-
24 eran; and

1 (C) such other information and assurances
2 as the administrator may require; and

3 (2) agree to submit to the administrator, for
4 each quarter, a report containing such information
5 as the Secretary may specify.

6 (f) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available
7 to a manufacturing employer through a grant under the
8 pilot program may be used to provide training of any kind
9 to a person who is not an eligible veteran.

10 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Together with the re-
11 port required to be submitted annually under section
12 4107(c) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary
13 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program
14 for the year covered by such report. The report on the
15 pilot program shall include—

16 (1) a detailed description of activities carried
17 out under this section;

18 (2) the cost per participant;

19 (3) an evaluation of the program; and

20 (4) recommendations for serving more eligible
21 veterans.

22 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING COSTS.—Of
23 the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
24 of appropriations under subsection (j), 2 percent shall be
25 made available to the Secretary for administrative costs

1 associated with implementing and evaluating the pilot pro-
2 gram under this section and for preparing and submitting
3 the report required under subsection (f). The Secretary
4 shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of each
5 grant awarded under this section that may be used by the
6 recipient for administrative and reporting costs.

7 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The term “covered training, on-the-job
9 training, apprenticeships, and training that leads to
10 a recognized postsecondary credential” means train-
11 ing, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and train-
12 ing that leads to a recognized postsecondary creden-
13 tial that are—

14 (A) designed to provide the veteran with
15 in-demand skills that are particular to manufac-
16 turing and not directly transferable to employ-
17 ment in another industry; and

18 (B) approved as provided in paragraph (1)
19 or (2), as appropriate, of subsection (a) of sec-
20 tion 3687 of title 38, United States Code.

21 (2) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
22 eran, as that term is defined in section 101(3) of
23 title 38, United States Code, who is employed by a
24 manufacturing employer and enrolled or partici-

1 pating in a covered training, on-the-job training, ap-
2 prenticeship, or certification class.

3 (3) Except as otherwise provided, any term that
4 is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation
5 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) shall have
6 the meaning given that term in such section.

7 (4) The term “manufacturing employer” means
8 a business concern—

9 (A) that employs individuals in a trade or
10 business in manufacturing;

11 (B) the production facilities of which are
12 located in the United States; and

13 (C) the primary business of which is classi-
14 fied in sector 31, 32, or 33 of the North Amer-
15 ican Industrial Classification System.

16 (j) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-
17 propriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2027 through 2031, for the purpose of carrying out
19 the pilot program.

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