

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 431

To establish regional skills alliances, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2001

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish regional skills alliances, 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 “Regional Skills Alli-
5 ances Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (1) Many small businesses lack the financial ca-
8 capacity to support the training of high-skilled work-
9 ers.

1 (2) Many high-tech companies concerned about
 2 worker training consider recruiting employees from
 3 overseas because a shortage of information tech-
 4 nology workers remains a significant problem.

5 (3) Too many highly educated workers in un-
 6 derserved communities do not have the specialized
 7 skills needed to meet the needs of local businesses.

8 (4) Regional skills alliances bring businesses
 9 and 4-year colleges and universities and community
 10 colleges together to help develop and implement ef-
 11 fective programs to make sure workers have the
 12 training needed to compete in the modern workplace.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

14 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
 15 retary of Labor.

16 **TITLE I—SKILL GRANTS**

17 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
 19 with the Secretary of Commerce, shall award grants to
 20 eligible entities described in subsection (b) to assist such
 21 entities to improve the job skills necessary for employment
 22 in specific industries.

23 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity described
 25 in this subsection is a consortium that—

1 (A) shall consist of representatives from
2 not less than 5 businesses, or a lesser number
3 of businesses if such lesser number of busi-
4 nesses employs at least 30 percent of the em-
5 ployees in the industry involved in the region
6 (or a non-profit organization that represents
7 such businesses);

8 (B) may consist of representatives from—

9 (i) labor organizations;

10 (ii) State and local government; and

11 (iii) educational institutions;

12 (C) is established to serve one or more par-
13 ticular industries; and

14 (D) is established to serve a particular geo-
15 graphic region.

16 (2) MAJORITY OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A ma-
17 jority of the representatives comprising the consor-
18 tium shall be representatives described in paragraph
19 (1)(A).

20 (c) PRIORITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—In pro-
21 viding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
22 give priority to an eligible entity if a majority of represent-
23 atives forming the entity represent small-business con-
24 cerns (as defined in section 3(a) of the Small Business
25 Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

1 (d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of
2 a grant awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a)
3 may not exceed \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year.

4 **SEC. 102. USE OF AMOUNTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not award a
6 grant under section 101 to an eligible entity unless such
7 entity agrees to use amounts received from such grant to
8 improve the job skills necessary for employment by busi-
9 nesses in the industry with respect to which such entity
10 was established.

11 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
13 described in subsection (a), the eligible entity may
14 provide for—

15 (A) an assessment of training and job skill
16 needs for the industry;

17 (B) the development of a sequence of skill
18 standards that are benchmarked to advanced
19 industry practices;

20 (C) the development of curriculum and
21 training methods, including, where appropriate,
22 e-learning or technology-based training;

23 (D) the purchase, lease, or receipt of dona-
24 tions of training equipment;

1 (E) the identification of training providers
2 and the development of partnerships between
3 the industry and educational institutions, in-
4 cluding community colleges;

5 (F) the development of apprenticeship pro-
6 grams;

7 (G) the development of training programs
8 for workers, including dislocated workers;

9 (H) the development of training plans for
10 businesses; and

11 (I) the development of the membership of
12 the entity.

13 (2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—In carrying
14 out the program described in subsection (a), the eli-
15 gible entity shall provide for the development and
16 tracking of performance outcome measures for the
17 program and the training providers involved in the
18 program.

19 (c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The eligible entity
20 may use not more than 10 percent of the amount of a
21 grant to pay for administrative costs associated with the
22 program described in subsection (a).

23 **SEC. 103. REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may not award a
25 grant under section 101 to an eligible entity unless such

1 entity agrees that the entity will make available non-Fed-
2 eral contributions toward the costs of carrying out activi-
3 ties under the grant in an amount that is not less than
4 \$2 for each \$1 of Federal funds provided under the grant,
5 of which—

6 (1) \$1 shall be provided by the businesses par-
7 ticipating in the entity; and

8 (2) \$1 shall be provided by the State or local
9 government involved.

10 (b) OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.—

11 (1) EQUIPMENT.—Equipment donations to fa-
12 cilities that are not owned or operated by the mem-
13 bers of the eligible entity involved and that are
14 shared by such members may be included in deter-
15 mining compliance with subsection (a).

16 (2) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity may not in-
17 clude in-kind contributions in complying with the re-
18 quirement of subsection (a). The Secretary may con-
19 sider such donations in ranking applications.

20 **SEC. 104. LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

21 The Secretary may use not more than 5 percent of
22 the amounts made available to carry out this title to pay
23 the Federal administrative costs associated with awarding
24 grants under this title.

1 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this title \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002,
4 2003, and 2004, and such sums as are necessary for each
5 fiscal year thereafter.

6 **TITLE II—PLANNING GRANTS**

7 **SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation
9 with the Secretary of Commerce, shall award grants to
10 States to enable such States to assist businesses, organiza-
11 tions, and agencies described in section 101(b) in con-
12 ducting planning to form consortia described in such sec-
13 tion.

14 (b) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—The amount of
15 a grant awarded to a State under subsection (a) may not
16 exceed \$500,000 for any fiscal year.

17 **SEC. 202. APPLICATION.**

18 The Secretary may not award a grant under section
19 201 to a State unless such State submits to the Secretary
20 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
21 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably
22 require.

23 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

24 The Secretary may not award a grant under section
25 201 to a State unless such State agrees that it will make
26 available non-Federal contributions toward the costs of

1 carrying out activities under this title in an amount that
2 is not less than \$1 for each \$1 of Federal funds provided
3 under the grant.

4 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this title \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

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