



# Section-by-Section

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR

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The Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott • Chairman

## *Relaunching America's Workforce Act*

**Section 1. Bill Title:** Relaunching America's Workforce Act.

**Section 2. Definitions:** Defines coronavirus, COVID-19 national emergency, "Secretary" as the Secretary of Labor for sections 101 – 145 and sections 161 and 171, and "Secretary" as the Secretary of Education for section 151 and sections 201 – 204.

**Section 3. Limitation on Use of Funds.** Prohibits the use of funds under this Act for "industry-recognized apprenticeship programs" or "standards recognition entities" that were established under regulations issued by the Department of Labor.

### **Title I – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

**Section 101. Definitions and WIOA requirements:** Clarifies that all terms under this Title carry the meaning given in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and that activities funded under this Act shall follow WIOA requirements unless otherwise specified.

**Section 111. Workforce Response Activities:** Provides additional flexibilities to state and local workforce systems in responding to the COVID-19 national emergency, including:

- **Eligibility:** Expands eligibility for adult and dislocated workers and youth (ages 16-24) to include individuals eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance under Section 2102 of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136), such as those who are self-employed or working as independent contractors.
- **Individualized Career Services:** Allows for all eligible individuals to receive individualized career services, such as individualized employment plans, career planning, counseling, financial literacy training, and comprehensive skills assessments.
- **Incumbent Worker Training:** Allows local workforce boards to use up to 40 percent of funds for incumbent worker training, and to take into account the COVID-19 national emergency when determining employer and participant eligibility.
- **Transitional Jobs:** Allows local workforce boards to use up to 40 percent of funds for transitional jobs, including for public sector employment.
- **On-the-Job Training:** Allows the Governor and local workforce boards to take the COVID-19 national emergency into account when determining whether to allow for up to 75 percent of wages to be reimbursed while an employee is participating in on-the-job training.
- **Governor's Reserve:** Allows the Governor to reserve an additional 10 percent of funds beyond their existing reservation of funds under this Act to support areas within their state most impacted by COVID-19.

- State Workforce Recovery Plan: Requires states to supplement their workforce development plan to include a strategy for use of additional funds received under this Act to recover from the COVID-19 national emergency.

**Section 112. National Dislocated Worker Grants:** Authorizes \$500 million to support training and temporary employment responding to the COVID-19 national emergency including for health care, direct care and frontline workers, layoff response activities for employers and workers, and requires the Secretary to release no less than 50 percent of the funds to States within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

**Section 113. State Dislocated Worker Grants:** Authorizes \$2.5 billion for state rapid response activities including layoff aversion strategies, dislocated worker activities including reemployment and navigation supports, short-term retraining (including to fill immediate health care frontline worker needs), and supportive services (such as childcare, housing, and needs-based payments).

**Section 114. Youth Workforce Investment Activities:** Authorizes \$2.5 billion to provide for subsidized youth employment up to age of 24, including for partnerships with employers and community-based organizations, counseling and navigation supports, and supportive services.

**Section 115. Adult Employment and Training Activities:** Authorizes \$2.5 billion to support employers providing incumbent worker training (including using funds to reimburse up to 75% of wages), employment supports such as work-based learning (e.g., Registered Apprenticeship, paid internships, etc.), transitional jobs, and supportive services, and moving training and WIOA services online.

**Section 121. Wagner-Peyser/Employment Service:** Authorizes \$1 billion to support job matching, reemployment activities, individualized career services, and support for employers who are facing layoffs or who are working to bring employees back. Funding will also help with modernizing the job matching data infrastructure across the country.

**Section 131. Job Corps:** Authorizes \$500 million for Job Corps to provide for the operation and reopening of Job Corps Centers during the COVID-19 national emergency, to provide for extended graduate services for recently graduated Job Corps students, to support the cleaning and improvements needed for Job Corps Centers to safely operate, to support virtual or remote learning opportunities while Job Corps students are not on campus, and for stipends for students whose participation has been interrupted due to COVID-19. Provides additional programmatic flexibilities, including:

- Eligibility: Allows students who turned 25 during the COVID-19 national emergency to maintain eligibility.
- Enrollment Length: Allows student enrollment to extend beyond 2 years for individuals enrolled during the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Advanced Career Training Programs: Allows students to continue to participate in advanced career training programs for an additional year if the program was interrupted due to the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Counseling and Job Placement: Allows students who graduated on or after January 1, 2020 or whose enrollment was interrupted due to the COVID-19 national emergency to remain eligible for counseling and job placement supports.

- **Transition Support:** Allows students who have graduated in 2020 to continue to receive transition allowances during and for the three-month period following the COVID-19 national emergency, and to continue to receive employment services during this time.

**Section 141. Native American Programs:** Authorizes \$150 million to support the program and allows for a 1-year extension on the 4-year grant cycle due to the COVID-19 national emergency.

**Section 142. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers:** Authorizes \$150 million to support the program, allows for a 1-year extension on the 4-year grant cycle due to the COVID-19 national emergency, and expands eligibility to individuals not exceeding 150 percent of the poverty line.

**Section 143. YouthBuild:** Authorizes \$250 million to support existing YouthBuild grantees and expand capacity during the COVID-19 national emergency. Provides flexibility on uses of funds for administrative costs, expands eligibility for individuals who turned 25 during the COVID-19 national emergency, and expands enrollment length beyond 2 years for individuals participating in the program during the COVID-19 national emergency.

**Section 144. Reentry Employment Opportunities:** Authorizes \$350 million to support justice-involved youth, young adults, formerly incarcerated adults, and former offenders during and following the COVID-19 national emergency for employment-related opportunities including subsidized employment, transitional jobs, and bolstering alignment with the workforce system and participant supports.

**Section 145. Registered Apprenticeships:** Authorizes \$500 million to support states and intermediaries who are serving employers that are participating in existing registered apprenticeships, to expand registered apprenticeship opportunities, and to pay for activities such as related instruction and supportive services.

**Section 151 and 152. Adult Education and Literacy:** Authorizes \$1 billion to increase access to adult education and literacy programs for low-income, low-literacy adults (who faced a 41% unemployment rate during the last recession), to move education and services online, and to increase digital literacy training. Requires the Secretary of Education to provide additional strategies and tools to support virtual and online learning.

**Section 161. Community College and Industry Partnership Grants:** Authorizes \$2 billion to restart the TAACCCT grants, which were initially awarded during the Great Recession by the Department of Labor to support community college and industry partnerships in creating education and training programs. The program is designed to ensure participants receive stackable, portable credentials in in-demand industries and sectors, and provide additional student services to support program completion. Allows community colleges to use funds for equipment to support training.

**Section 171. General Provisions:** Authorizes \$90 million for program administration, performance evaluations and audits by the Inspector General. Requires funds to supplement, not supplant state and local government funds. Requires the Secretary of Labor to establish an interagency agreement with the Secretary of Education for carrying out grants and coordinating funding priorities, and to make information available on recognized postsecondary credentials awarded under this Act. Requires the Secretary of Labor to provide guidance on using funds under this act in accordance with WIOA within 30 days.

## **Title II – Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006**

**Section 201. Definitions and Perkins CTE Requirements:** Clarifies that the terms in this title have the meaning of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins CTE), and that any activities or funds carry the same requirements as Perkins CTE.

**Section 202. Career and Technical Education Response Flexibility:** Provides additional flexibility at the State and local level during the COVID-19 national emergency, including:

- **Retention of Funds:** Allows local Perkins CTE funding recipients to retain any funds not used during the 2019-2020 academic year as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency rather than return them to the State for redistribution
- **Pooling of Funds:** Allows local Perkins CTE funding recipients to pool funds to support the transitions from secondary to postsecondary education or employment for CTE students whose academic year was interrupted by the COVID-19 national emergency
- **Professional Development:** Waives certain requirement for professional development during the COVID-19 national emergency

**Section 203. Career and Technical Education:** Authorizes \$1 billion to support Perkins CTE programs and activities, including to expand and modernize digital and physical infrastructure to deliver in-person, and virtual educational and work-based learning activities, provide support for restocking supplies that have been donated to COVID-19 response activities (through nursing programs, for example), and work-based learning supports and subsidies for students and employers.

**Section 204. General Provisions:** Authorizes \$10 million for carrying out this Act, requires funds under this Act be used to supplement, not supplant non-federal funds, requires the Secretary of Education to conduct performance accountability and evaluations of programs funded under this Act, to establish an interagency agreement with the Secretary of Labor for carrying out grants and funding priorities, requires guidance on using funds under this act in accordance with Perkins CTE within 30 days.