

AWFS Monthly Report July 2022

Last Updated: August 04, 2022

On The Hill

July was an action-packed month on the Hill as Congress worked hard to wrap up several high priority agenda items ahead of the August recess. With negotiations stalling on the Bipartisan Innovation Act, Congress was urged by the national security community to act with urgency to pass the CHIPS Act portion of the bill (which funds domestic semiconductor manufacturing) as a standalone. Congress worked quickly to pass a package which included the CHIPS Act as well as several other research and development and education provisions from the broader USICA/COMPETES Act negotiations that had bipartisan support.

Congress continues to move through the 2023 budget cycle, with the House passing their suite of appropriations bills in July. The House-passed bills had particularly significant increases to the budget for the Department of Education. The Senate released their draft bill text last week, giving us a fuller picture of the differences and similarities between the two chambers. The Senate is expected to move forward with these bills after the August recess. Given the fiscal year is set to end on September 30, our team has been told that they will first pass a continuing resolution which will push a final vote on the 2023 budget to after the November election.

Another big announcement that came in this month confirmed what we had already been told: Senator Manchin and Senator Schumer had been negotiating for several months on an updated budget reconciliation package similar to last year's unpassed Build Back Better Act. The two came to an agreement on a slimmer package that includes support for certain Medicaid reforms, tax changes, and climate provisions. If the package can win support from all 50 Democrats (including Senator Sinema of Arizona, a key swing vote), we expect this to move quickly, with the House potentially returning during August to vote on the updated bill.

Bipartisan Innovation Act

With the Bipartisan Innovation Act Conference Committee making little progress on a final agreement, Congressional leadership moved to pass a smaller, but still nearly 1000-page, bill which included provisions with broad support. The new “CHIPS-Plus” package includes many similar provisions to the original House-passed America COMPETES Act and Senate-passed US Innovation and Competition Act, minus trade and climate initiatives.

Division A of the bill appropriates over \$52 billion over five years in incentives to develop semiconductor manufacturing capacity in the United States.

The largest section, Division B, is rooted in the science titles of the America COMPETES Act and USICA. However, those bills had two different approaches to boosting and re-prioritizing federal support for scientific research and development. The final package pulls from both approaches and authorizes over \$100 billion in additional science funding at NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Commerce.

In particular, the Act establishes a new NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, whose mission is “to advance research and development, technology deployment, and related solutions to address United States societal, national, and geostrategic challenges, for the benefit all Americans.” The bill authorizes \$20 billion over five years for the new Directorate. The directorate will focus on key technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum, and synthetic biology, among others. Support for fellowships and scholarships and enhancing research capacity for HBCUs and MSIs is also addressed.

\$10 billion is authorized for the development of at least 20 regional technology and innovation hub programs to support domestic leadership in sectors critical to national and economic security. The goal is to promote regional economic development and resilience (especially within rural and underserved communities), expand advanced domestic manufacturing, and address the intersection of emerging technologies and regional or national challenges. Of the 20 hubs established, one-third must significantly benefit small and rural communities, and one third must benefit states or territories benefiting from the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ESPCoR) of the NSF.

The bill authorizes new and existing research initiatives through the Department of Energy relating to basic energy science, biological and environmental research, advance scientific computing research, fusion energy research, high energy physics and nuclear physics. Within the education space, the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act is amended to now authorize programs that foster collaboration between teachers at elementary schools and secondary schools, students and faculty at institutions of higher education, early-career researchers, and the National Laboratories.

Within NSF, NTIA, and NASA, the bill authorizes \$13 billion for scholarships, fellowships, and traineeships to foster STEM education and create workers in critical fields, including to establishing an artificial intelligence scholarship-for-service program, a national network for microelectronics education, and cybersecurity workforce development programs.

Expansion of rural STEM education is also included in the package. The bill provides for research and development to increase access to STEM education opportunities in rural K-12 schools and to provide teachers with the resources they need to teach more effectively.

Some House Republicans withdrew their support on the eve of the final vote after Senate Democrats unveiled plans to quickly pass an unrelated partisan reconciliation bill, but regardless of this, the CHIPS-Plus package passed with bipartisan support in July. The President is set to sign the bill into law in the coming days.

COTA Act

This month, the COTA Act gained one additional cosponsor, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV). While there is not yet a clear path forward for the bill this Congress, we continue to build support and anticipate that this momentum will be helpful in getting the provision included in broader WIOA reauthorization early next year.

We also continue to follow up on our meetings with stakeholders from the June Hill Day event to request cosponsorship of the bill.

Rep. Bonamici Meeting

This month, our team was able to schedule a Member-level meeting with Rep. Bonamici (D-OR), a leading voice for CTE and workforce development in Congress. This was a very productive conversation around the COTA Act, broader WIOA reauthorization, and her support of Perkins funding. We look forward to continuing to build the relationship with this office.

Other Updates

Looking ahead, our team is prepared to support AWFS's work on an updated strategic plan in whatever capacity is most helpful. We are also prepared to work with AWFS to develop a state-level strategy around manufacturing jobs in California, if and when the association is prepared to take on this initiative.

Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers (42)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 8195	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2022 06 23	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2022-06-23
COTA Act

Primary Sponsors
G.T. Thompson

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 7309	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2022 05 18	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2022-03-31
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022

Description

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022 This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 and expands programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The bill also revises workforce investment, vocational rehabilitation, employment, training, and literacy programs for eligible individuals. For example, the bill * increases workforce representation on state and local workforce investment boards from 20% to 30%; * reworks one-stop center infrastructure funding by requiring costs to be covered by state allocations of WIOA funds; * establishes subsidized youth employment programs that include work-readiness training and mentoring; * eliminates a requirement that the Department of Labor ensure that individuals participating in WIOA activities comply with Selective Service laws; * modifies the allotment of youth workforce investment funds to states; * expands the Job Corps program, including by serving individuals in outlying areas and relaxing age requirements; * establishes grants to expand training programs through industry or sector partnerships; * expands grants for integrated English literacy and civics education to outlying areas; and * expands Wagner-Peyser employment services to the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. The bill also provides statutory authority for Labor to award * competitive grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to improve employment and training outcomes and reduce recidivism of justice-involved youth; and * competitive grants for states to create workforce longitudinal administrative databases.

Primary Sponsors
Bobby Scott

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 7385	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2022 04 04	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2022-04-04
TRAIN Act

Primary Sponsors
Lucy McBath

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1422	Committee On Banking Housing And Urban Affairs Hearings Held 2022 03 22	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-28
Investing in American Workers Act

Description

Investing in American Workers Act This bill allows a business-related tax credit for employers who increase worker training expenditures. The credit is equal to 20% of the excess of (1) the qualified training expenditures for the year, over (2) the average of the adjusted qualified training expenditures for the three previous years. If the employer had no qualified training expenditures in any one of the three previous years, the credit is equal to 10% of the adjusted qualified training expenditures for the year. The credit applies to expenditures for the training of non-highly compensated employees (annual compensation does not exceed \$82,000). The training must result in the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential and be provided through * an apprenticeship program; * a program of training services that is included on a list of eligible training providers that states are required to maintain under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; * a program that is conducted by an area career and technical education school, a community college, or a labor organization; or * a program that is sponsored and administered by an employer, industry trade association, industry or sector partnership, or labor organization. Certain small businesses and tax-exempt organizations may apply the credit against payroll taxes, subject to specified limits and requirements. Eligible small businesses may also apply the credit against the alternative minimum tax.

Primary Sponsors
Mark Warner

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 6255	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 12 13	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-12-13
Employer-Directed Skills Act

Description

Employer-Directed Skills Act This bill allows for an employer to sponsor skills development programs with partial federal reimbursement under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These new skills development programs are exempt from the program application and participant assessment requirements that typically apply to WIOA employment and training activities. However, these skills development programs must be conducted according to an employer-sponsored skills development agreement that includes, among other required provisions, a commitment by the employer to employ an individual upon successful completion of the program. The bill also requires the federal share of these skills development programs and the federal share of existing on-the-job training programs to be paid by reimbursement from employer-directed skills accounts that must be established by local one-stop operators.

Primary Sponsors

Elise Stefanik

Title
Build Back Better Act

Introduction Date: 2021-09-27

Description

This bill provides funding, establishes programs, and otherwise modifies provisions relating to a broad array of areas, including education, labor, child care, health care, taxes, immigration, and the environment. (The bill is commonly referred to as the Build Back Better Act.) For example, the bill provides funding for * management of the National Forest System; * job placement and career services; * safe drinking water and energy-efficiency projects; * electric vehicles and zero-emission, heavy-duty vehicles; * public health infrastructure and supply chain resiliency; * housing, rental, and homeowner assistance programs; * cybersecurity programs; * tribal infrastructure, environmental, and health programs; * wildfire prevention, drought relief, conservation efforts, and climate change research; * small business assistance and development; * transit services and clean energy projects in low-income communities; and * infrastructure and administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill also includes provisions that * provide free child care for children under the age of six; * provide free universal preschool services; * establish a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities; * expand Medicare to cover hearing care; * allow certain aliens who entered the United States prior to January 1, 2011, to temporarily remain and work in the country; * provide up to four weeks of paid family and medical leave per year; * restructure and increase taxes for certain corporations and high-income individuals (e.g., individuals with income over \$400,000); and * require the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate maximum prices for certain brand-name drugs under Medicare.

Primary Sponsors
John Yarmuth

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 147	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Veterans Affairs 2021 11 17	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-01-04
BRAVE Act

Description

Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act or the BRAVE Act This bill requires the Department of Labor, in the implementation of the Transition Assistance Program, to provide information concerning apprenticeship programs to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from active duty. The bill also requires Labor, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to establish a publicly accessible and user-friendly website on which veterans can find specified information about apprenticeship programs that are approved under VA education benefit provisions.

Primary Sponsors

Donald Norcross

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2639	Referred To The Subcommittee On Conservation And Forestry 2021 06 15	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-19
Trillion Trees Act

Description

Trillion Trees Act This bills establishes a variety of requirements and incentives to plant trees and conduct other land management practices for the purposes of capturing and storing carbon in domestic and international trees and forests. Additionally, the bill provides incentives to research or develop other carbon sequestration tools. Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to set targets to increase forest carbon stock through January 1, 2100, for the purposes of sequestering and storing carbon in U.S. forests. It also establishes and provides funding for the Trillion Trees Challenge Fund to provide grants to nonfederal entities for activities related to reforestation efforts on public or private lands. In addition, it raises the cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund to enhance forest health in the National Forest System and requires the USDA to establish a Tree City USA Grant Program. The bill also allows the U.S. Agency for International Development to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to establish an International Forest Foundation to promote reforestation and prevent deforestation. Additionally, it establishes requirements and incentives to address seedling shortages and support nurseries. Finally, the bill provides market incentives to research or develop other carbon sequestration tools relating to biochar, sustainable building practices, biochemical and bioplastic products, and biomass energy.

Primary Sponsors

Bruce Westerman

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1671	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 05 18	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-05-18
Rural Jobs Act

Description

Rural Jobs Act This bill allocates an additional \$500 million in 2022 and 2023 for new markets tax credit investments in the Rural Jobs Zone (an area comprised of low-income communities with populations not greater than 50,000 that are not adjacent to an urbanized area). The bill also requires that at least 25% of such investments be made in areas that are persistent poverty counties, high migration rural counties, or both.

Primary Sponsors

Roger Wicker

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1557	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 05 11	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-05-11
National Signing Bonus Act of 2021

Description

National Signing Bonus Act of 2021 This bill replaces existing Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payments for unemployed individuals with two-time signing bonuses for newly employed individuals. Specifically, the bill allows states to provide up to two direct payments to individuals who are eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation prior to commencing employment with a new employer. The individual must continue employment with the new employer for at least four weeks before July 4, 2021, to be eligible for the first \$1,212 payment under the bill and for at least eight weeks before July 4, 2021, to be eligible for the final \$1,212 payment. The bill otherwise eliminates federal reimbursement for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payments.

Primary Sponsors

Ben Sasse

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1560	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance Text Cr S 2453 2454 2021 05 11	In Senate

Title **Introduction Date:** 2021-05-11
Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for Youth Act of 2021

Description

Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for Youth Act of 2021 This bill modifies the work opportunity tax credit to (1) change the credit for summer youth employees to a credit for youth employees who will be employed for not more than 20 hours per week during any period between September 16 and April 30 in which the youth employee is attending any secondary school, (2) increase the amount of the credit for youth employees, and (3) expand the credit to include disconnected youth. The bill defines disconnected youth to include any individual who (1) is certified as having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date; and (2) has self-certified as not having regularly attended any secondary, technical, or post-secondary school during the 6-month period preceding the hiring date, has not been regularly employed during such period, and is not readily employable due to a lack of basic skills. The term also includes individuals who have been certified (1) as having attained age 16 but not age 21 on the hiring date, and (2) as eligible foster children in foster care during the 12-month period ending on the hiring date.

Primary Sponsors

Dick Durbin

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1555	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 05 11	In Senate

Title **Introduction Date:** 2021-05-11
Get Americans Back To Work Act

Description

Get Americans Back To Work Act This bill makes an individual ineligible for federal pandemic unemployment compensation (FPUC) after June 30, 2021. It also reduces the amount of FPUC to \$150.00 for weeks of unemployment ending after May 31, 2021, and ending on or before June 30, 2021. Under current law, an individual is eligible for FPUC for weeks of employment ending on or before September 6, 2021 in the amount of \$300.

Primary Sponsors

Roger Marshall

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1534	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 10	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-05-10
REO Act of 2021

Description

REO Act of 2021 This bill establishes the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program to make grants for the purpose of providing job training opportunities to formerly incarcerated adults, youths, and young adults who have dropped out of school. Grants are awarded to entities such as nonprofit organizations, organizations serving women or a minority population, and state and local governments to carry out projects related to apprenticeship programs, occupational skills education, on-the-job training, work experience, job referrals, basic skills remediation, educational services, and work readiness activities for such individuals.

Primary Sponsors

Gary Peters

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1389	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 04 27	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-27
Back to Work Bonus Act

Description

Back to Work Bonus Act This bill permits states to provide a one-time lump sum payment, through July 1, 2021, to individuals who (1) were eligible for COVID-19 pandemic unemployment compensation during any week after enactment of this bill, and (2) are no longer eligible as a result of becoming thereafter reemployed. Payments of \$1,200 shall be paid to individuals who work at least 30 hours and \$600 to individuals who work at least 20 hours but less than 30. The payments are available for claimants (1) who are not employed by a government entity, (2) who return to work for at least four consecutive weeks, and (3) whose annual salary does not exceed \$75,000. Before receipt of a payment, the individuals' employers must verify their hours and earnings. Additionally, the bill (1) accelerates a scheduled increase in funding for reemployment services and eligibility assessments (RESEA), (2) allows states to use RESEA funds to serve all workers receiving unemployment benefits, and not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits; and (3) allows states to provide reemployment services to individuals receiving pandemic unemployment assistance and pandemic emergency unemployment compensation. Finally, the bill reinstates the requirement that unemployment claimants certify they are able, available, and actively seeking work.

Primary Sponsors

Mike Crapo

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1297	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 04 21	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-21
STEM RESTART Act

Description

STEM Restoring Employment Skills through Targeted Assistance, Re-entry, and Training Act or the STEM RESTART Act This bill establishes a new national program to support mid-career workers in reentering the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) workforce, including workers from underrepresented or rural populations, by awarding grants to certain small- and medium-sized businesses to assist such workers in reentering the workforce at positions above entry level.

Primary Sponsors

Jacky Rosen

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2691	Referred To The House Committee On Ways And Means 2021 04 20	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-20
American Workforce Empowerment Act

Description

American Workforce Empowerment Act This bill allows tax-preferred college savings plans (529 plans) to fund certain postsecondary certificate programs and apprenticeship programs.

Primary Sponsors

Jim Hagedorn

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 1490	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Small Business And Entrepreneurship 2021 04 19	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-03-02
504 Modernization and Small Manufacturer Enhancement Act of 2021

Description

504 Modernization and Small Manufacturer Enhancement Act of 2021 This bill modifies the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan Program, which provides a small business with SBA financing—through a certified development company (CDC) intermediary—for expansion or modernization. Specifically, the bill adds policy goals, at least one of which a CDC must demonstrate to be eligible for assistance. These include (1) enhancing the ability of a small business to reduce costs by using energy efficient products and generating renewable energy, and (2) aiding the revitalization of any area for which a disaster has been declared or determined. The bill also authorizes a CDC to take specified actions to facilitate the closing of a 504 loan, such as correcting borrower or lender information on loan documents or reallocating up to 10% of the cost of a project. For small manufacturers, the bill (1) increases the maximum loan amount from \$5.5 million to \$6.5 million, (2) reduces the amount that they must contribute to project costs, (3) increases job retention requirements, and (4) revises collateral requirements and debt refinancing considerations. Further, each SBA district office must partner with a resource partner to provide certain training for small manufacturers.

Primary Sponsors

Angie Craig

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2627	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 04 16	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-16
Pell to Grad Act

Description

Pell to Grad Act This bill raises from 12 to 16 the total number of semesters during which a student may receive a Pell Grant. It also allows income-eligible graduate students who received Pell Grants during their undergraduate education to utilize their remaining Pell Grant eligibility toward their first graduate degree, subject to this 16-semester duration limit. Currently, Pell Grants are available only to undergraduate students, subject to the 12-semester duration limit.

Primary Sponsors

Brenda Lawrence

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1072	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Agriculture Nutrition And Forestry 2021 04 12	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-12
Climate Stewardship Act of 2021

Description

Climate Stewardship Act of 2021 This bill provides funding and incentives for states, Indian tribes, local governments, and other entities to carry out climate stewardship practices, including farm and ranch conservation practices, reforestation projects, and wetland restoration projects. For example, the bill extends through FY2030 the Conservation Reserve Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Conservation Stewardship Program. It also modifies and increases funding levels for some of these programs. The Forest Service must award cost-share grants to states, Indian tribes, local governments, and nonprofit entities to conduct projects to reforest certain land. The bill also establishes a civilian conservation corps to provide youth from low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color with the academic, vocational, and social skills necessary to pursue long-term, productive careers in the forest sector and the wetland restoration sector. Further, the bill sets forth a grant program for states, Indian tribes, local governments, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit entities to conduct coastal wetland restoration projects, including projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Primary Sponsors

Cory Booker

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2303	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 04 01	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-04-01
Supporting Apprenticeship Colleges Act of 2021

Description

Supporting Apprenticeship Colleges Act of 2021 This bill directs the Department of Education to award grants to institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs for (1) expanding or supporting outreach to high schools, local businesses, and local workforce development boards; and (2) providing advising and support services to students who are enrolled in these apprenticeship programs.

Primary Sponsors

Angie Craig

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1035	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 03 25	In Senate

Title	Introduction Date: 2021-03-25
Workforce DATA Act	

Description

Workforce Data for Analyzing and Tracking Automation Act of 2021 or the Workforce DATA Act This bill provides for a study by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine on measuring the impact of automation on the workforce. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Labor to request the academies to enter into an arrangement to conduct a consensus study on how to measure the impact of automation on the workforce, including job creation, job displacement, job retention, and the shifting of skills in demand due to automation. In addition, Labor must establish an advisory board, or form a subcommittee of an existing advisory board, to provide recommendations on addressing the impact of automation on the workforce.

Primary Sponsors

Gary Peters

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1026	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 03 25	In Senate

Title	Introduction Date: 2021-03-25
American Apprenticeship Act	

Description

American Apprenticeship Act This bill directs the Department of Labor to make grants to assist states in carrying out projects that defray the cost of instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs. Labor shall (1) establish performance measures and an evaluation system for such grant program; and (2) identify in-demand occupations that lack the use of qualified apprenticeship programs, analyze the use of such program model in those occupations, and report on such analysis to states and Congress.

Primary Sponsors

Amy Klobuchar

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2174	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 03 23	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-03-23
Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

Description

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021 This bill establishes a grant program through which the Department of Education may award funds to eligible partnerships to support rural postsecondary education and economic growth and development in rural communities. A grant recipient must be a partnership whose members represent at least three designated types of organizations, specifically (1) a local educational agency or educational service agency serving a rural area, (2) an institution of higher education (IHE), (3) a regional economic development entity, or (4) a rural community-serving organization with demonstrated success supporting rural students in accessing higher education and attaining degrees. A grant recipient must use awarded funds to carry out no fewer than two specified activities, namely (1) improving postsecondary enrollment rates for rural secondary school students, (2) increasing enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students in degree programs at IHEs, (3) creating or strengthening academic programs at rural-serving IHEs to prepare graduates to enter into high-need occupations in the regional and local economies, or (4) generating local and regional economic development that creates employment opportunities for rural students with postsecondary degrees.

Primary Sponsors

Elise Stefanik

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 636	Referred To The Subcommittee On Immigration And Citizenship 2021 03 22	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-01
PARTNERS Act

Description

Promoting Apprenticeships through Regional Training Networks for Employers Required Skills Act of 2021 or the PARTNERS Act This bill establishes a grant program to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships.

Primary Sponsors

Suzanne Bonamici

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2037	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 03 18	In House

Title

Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-03-18

Description

Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2021 or the JOBS Act of 2021 This bill expands student eligibility for Pell Grants by establishing the Job Training Federal Pell Grant program. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Education to award a job training Pell Grant to a student who does not have a degree; attends an institution of higher education (IHE); is enrolled in a career and technical education program at an IHE that provides 150 to 600 clock hours of instructional time over a period of 8 to 15 weeks and provides training aligned with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors (i.e., job training programs); and meets all other eligibility requirements for a Pell Grant. It also specifies that any period during which a student receives a job training Pell Grant counts toward that student's Pell Grant eligibility period.

Primary Sponsors

Andy Levin

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 866	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Agriculture Nutrition And Forestry 2021 03 18	In Senate

Title

Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees Act

Introduction Date: 2021-03-18

Description

Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees Act or the REPLANT Act This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) annually for each of the 10 years after enactment of this bill to transmit to Congress an estimate of the sums necessary to be appropriated, in addition to the funds available from other sources, to replant and otherwise treat an acreage equal to the acreage to be cut over that year, plus a sufficient portion of the backlog of lands found to be in need of treatment to eliminate the backlog within the 10-year period. After such 10-year period, USDA shall transmit annually to Congress an estimate of the sums necessary to replant and otherwise treat all lands being cut over and maintain planned timber production on all other forested lands in the National Forest System to prevent the development of a backlog of needed work larger than the needed work at the beginning of the fiscal year. Each reforestation activity included in a renewable resource assessment shall be carried out in accordance with applicable Forest Service management practices and definitions, including definitions relating to silvicultural practices and forest management. The Forest Service shall, based on recommendations from regional foresters, create a priority list of reforestation projects that primarily take place on priority land, promote effective reforestation following unplanned events, and may include activities to ensure adequate and appropriate seed availability. USDA shall give priority to projects on the priority list.

Primary Sponsors

Debbie Stabenow

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 864	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr S 1648 1649 2021 03 18	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-03-18
JOBS Act of 2021

Description

Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2021 or the JOBS Act of 2021 This bill expands student eligibility for Pell Grants by establishing the Job Training Federal Pell Grant program. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Education to award a job training Pell Grant to a student who does not have a degree; attends an institution of higher education (IHE); is enrolled in a career and technical education program at an IHE that provides 150 to 600 clock hours of instructional time over a period of 8 to 15 weeks and provides training aligned with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors (i.e., job training programs); and meets all other eligibility requirements for a Pell Grant. It also specifies that any period during which a student receives a job training Pell Grant counts toward that student's Pell Grant eligibility period.

Primary Sponsors

Tim Kaine

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 477	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 02 25	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-25
Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021

Description

Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021 This bill extends existing and establishes new tax credits that assist the hospitality and restaurant industry. Specifically, it * allows a convention and trade show restart tax credit; * extends the employee retention tax credit through 2021; * suspends for taxable years 2021 through 2022, the limitation on entertainment expenses related to a trade or business, * allows a restaurant and dining restart credit for businesses closed or forced to reduce services due to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019); * allows a 50% tax credit for travel expenditures; and * allows a tax credit for unmerchantable inventory for the period between December 31, 2019, and before April 1, 2021.

Primary Sponsors

Catherine Cortez Masto

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 447	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 25	In Senate

Title
National Apprenticeship Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-01-25

Description

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 This bill provides statutory authority for the registered apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and for related grant programs. The bill provides statutory authority for the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within Labor. The OA's responsibilities include (1) supporting the development of apprenticeship models; (2) recognizing qualified state apprenticeship agencies, and operating apprenticeship offices in states without a recognized agency; (3) providing technical assistance to state agencies; (4) periodically updating requirements for each occupation in the apprenticeship program and determining whether to approve new occupations for the program; (5) promoting greater diversity in the national apprenticeship system; and (6) awarding grants provided by this bill. The bill also establishes in statute the responsibilities of state apprenticeship agencies and offices, including (1) providing technical assistance to stakeholders, (2) resolving complaints, (3) establishing state performance goals, and (4) including in its written plan a description of how its apprenticeship programs align with the skills needs of the state's employers. The OA shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to promote the integration and alignment of apprenticeship programs with secondary, postsecondary, and adult education. The OA shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to (1) expand national apprenticeship system programs, including by expanding pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs; (2) encourage employer participation; and (3) strengthen alignment between the apprenticeship system and education providers. The bill provides statutory authority for criteria for various programs, including (1) quality standards for apprenticeships, (2) requirements for apprenticeship agreements between a program sponsor and an apprentice, and (3) acceptable uses for grant funds awarded by this bill. The bill also provides statutory authority for the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships. The committee's duties shall include advising the OA on matters relating to this bill and providing recommendations on topics such as increasing the participation of populations not traditionally involved in the national apprenticeship system. Labor shall engage an independent entity to conduct research on ways to improve the management and effectiveness of national apprenticeship system programs.

Primary Sponsors

Bobby Scott

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 487	Referred To The Subcommittee On Nutrition Oversight And Department Operations 2021 02 24	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-01-25
RESET for America's Future Act

Description

Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act or the RESET for America's Future Act This bill increases federal reimbursement for certain state employment and training programs under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program). The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must issue certain guidelines that permit a state to submit for full and expedited federal reimbursement of any costs incurred through SNAP employment and training programs that meet certain criteria (e.g., programs with proven positive outcomes), with no match requirement. USDA must temporarily reimburse each state 100% of costs incurred in connection with transportation costs and other expenses related to participation in such programs through the end of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency or two years, whichever is later. It must also reimburse each state 100% of costs incurred to build, modernize, or improve state and local data systems related to SNAP employment and training programs. Further, USDA must commission a thorough national assessment of its SNAP employment and training programs to develop a strategy for continuous improvement to the programs.

Primary Sponsors
Abigail Spanberger

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 396	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 23	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-23
Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021

Description

Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to implement a program to award grants to workforce intermediaries (certain national, regional, state, or local entities that facilitate the establishment of registered apprenticeship programs) to enable them to engage a variety of stakeholders to support, develop, and implement registered apprenticeship programs.

Primary Sponsors
Chris Coons

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HRES 101	Motion To Reconsider Laid On The Table Agreed To Without Objection 2021 02 05	Enacted

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-05

Providing for the adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 5) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

Description

This resolution adopts a concurrent resolution (S.Con.Res. 5) that establishes the congressional budget for the federal government for FY2021, sets forth budgetary levels for FY2022-FY2030, and provides reconciliation instructions for legislation that increases the deficit.

Primary Sponsors

Joe Morelle

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 854	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 04	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-04

Youth Corps Act of 2021

Description

Youth Corps Act of 2021 This bill authorizes the Department of Labor to make grants to public or private nonprofit agencies or organizations to carry out Youth Corps programs that utilize the Youth Corps model to provide low-income youth (age 16 and not more than age 24) with education and work readiness training. The term Youth Corps model means a youth education and training program for which an eligible entity provides eligible youth with stipended or paid work experience and basic and technical skills training leading to (1) enrollment in postsecondary education or training, (2) attainment of an industry-recognized certification or credential, (3) meaningful employment in the economy of the 21st century, or (4) military service.

Primary Sponsors

Freddie Wilson

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 200	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 03	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-03
Relaunching America's Workforce Act

Description

Relaunching America's Workforce Act This bill establishes several grant programs to address employment, the workforce, and education access in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The Department of Labor must provide grants in response to the COVID-19 national emergency to * provide training and employment for dislocated, unemployed, and underemployed workers; * support youth employment; * establish workforce information systems improvements; * provide reentry employment opportunities for justice system-involved youth or young adults, formerly incarcerated youths or adults, and former offenders; and * create or expand apprenticeship programs. Programs directed towards assisting Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers may be extended. The Department of Education must provide grants to expand the capacity of adult education providers to prioritize serving adults with low-literacy or numeracy levels negatively impacted by the COVID-19 national emergency, and to improve or expand career and technical education programs and programs of study to respond to state and local needs as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency.

Primary Sponsors

Patty Murray

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 731	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House

Title Introduction Date: 2021-02-02
Pre-Apprenticeship Wrap-around Support Services Fund Act of 2021

Description

Pre-Apprenticeship Wrap-around Support Services Fund Act of 2021 This bill authorizes the Department of Labor to award grants to eligible applicants to provide stipends to individuals enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program. Grant recipients must prioritize the provision of stipends to individuals with a barrier to employment.

Primary Sponsors

Adam Smith

State
US

Bill Number
HR 703

Last Action
Referred To The House Committee On
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status
In House

Title
Apprenticeship Futures for All Act

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Description

Apprenticeship Futures for All Act This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities if the eligible entity is a qualified intermediary to (1) support national industry and equity intermediaries in establishing or expanding sector-based partnerships to support the delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system to significant scale in the United States, or (2) serve programs under the national apprenticeship system in a local or regional setting. The delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system shall be (1) in key sectors, including manufacturing, information technology, cyber security, health care, insurance and finance, energy, hospitality, retail, construction, and other sectors identified by the OA as targeted for expansion under the national apprenticeship system; or (2) for nontraditional apprenticeship populations, women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and individuals impacted by the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Primary Sponsors

Pramila Jayapal

State
US

Bill Number
HR 691

Last Action
Referred To The House Committee On
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status
In House

Title

Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Description

Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to create a plan to expand participation in pre-apprenticeship programs for underrepresented populations and individuals with barriers to employment, and requires Labor to award related grants to certain eligible entities (e.g., community-based organizations, pre-apprenticeship sponsors, and employers for an in-demand industry or occupation). Specifically, the bill * establishes pre-apprenticeship program standards and requirements; * directs Labor to collect data on pre-apprenticeship programs, using workforce innovation and opportunity indicators of performance, on how programs resources are spent, and on the diversity and equal opportunity in apprenticeship programs; * directs the OA in partnership with state apprenticeship agencies to conduct research in state labor markets and create a plan to expand participation in registered pre-apprenticeship programs for nontraditional populations or individuals with barriers to employment such as youth, women, people of color, long-term unemployed, individuals with disabilities, individuals with substance abuse issues, individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, and veterans; and * provides grants to serve participants from nontraditional apprenticeship populations with preference to women, people of color, veterans, those who have been impacted by the youth or adult criminal justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment between the ages of 16 and 24.

Primary Sponsors

Tony Cardenas

State
US

Bill Number
HR 683

Last Action
Referred To The House Committee On
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status
In House

Title

Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Description

Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity to participate in programs for apprentices, youth apprentices, and pre-apprentices by * taking steps to promote diversity in apprenticeable occupations under the national apprenticeship system, especially in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors and occupations in areas with high percentages of low-income individuals; * ensuring programs under the national apprenticeship system adopt and implement policies for equal opportunity in such programs, do not engage in prohibited intimidation or retaliation, and are subject to enforcement action; and * supporting the recruitment, employment, and retention of nontraditional apprenticeship populations in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations, including women, people of color, individuals with disabilities, individuals impacted by the criminal and juvenile justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment.

Primary Sponsors

Alma Adams

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 602	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 01 28	In House

Title	Introduction Date: 2021-01-28
Relaunching America's Workforce Act	

Description

Relaunching America's Workforce Act This bill establishes several grant programs to address employment, the workforce, and education access in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The Department of Labor must provide grants in response to the COVID-19 national emergency to * provide training and employment for dislocated, unemployed, and underemployed workers; * support youth employment; * establish workforce information systems improvements; * provide reentry employment opportunities for justice-involved youth and young adults; and * create or expand apprenticeship programs. Programs directed towards assisting Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers may be extended. The Department of Education must provide grants to expand the capacity of adult education providers to prioritize serving adults with low-literacy or numeracy levels negatively impacted by the COVID-19 national emergency, and to improve or expand career and technical education programs and programs of study to respond to state and local needs as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency.

Primary Sponsors

Bobby Scott

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 580	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 01 28	In House

Title	Introduction Date: 2021-01-28
PATH Act	

Description

Pre-Apprenticeships To Hardhats Act or the PATH Act This bill directs the Department of Labor to provide grants to eligible entities to develop pre-apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades that serve underrepresented populations, including individuals from low income and rural census tracts.

Primary Sponsors

Donald Norcross

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 52	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 01 26	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-01-26
Gateway to Careers Act of 2021

Description

Gateway to Careers Act of 2021 This bill establishes a career pathway grant program through which the Department of Education must award competitive grants to certain public institutions of higher education and postsecondary technical education schools. Grant recipients must use these funds to (1) carry out activities that support the development and implementation of career pathway programs, and (2) provide support services to students engaged in career pathway programs.

Primary Sponsors

Maggie Hassan

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 53	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 01 26	In Senate

Title Introduction Date: 2021-01-26
Raise the Wage Act of 2021

Description

Raise the Wage Act of 2021 This bill increases the federal minimum wage for regular employees over a 5-year period, for tipped employees, and for newly hired employees who are less than 20 years old. The bill sets forth a schedule of annual increases in the federal minimum wage for individuals with disabilities. The Department of Labor shall no longer issue special certificates for the payment of subminimum wages to such individuals after the final wage increase under this bill for such individuals takes effect. Labor shall provide, upon request, technical assistance and information to employers to (1) help them transition their practices to comply with wage increases and other requirements under this bill for individuals with disabilities, and (2) ensure continuing employment opportunities for such individuals. The bill eliminates the separate minimum wage requirements for tipped, newly hired, and disabled employees. After a specified period, these employees shall be paid the same minimum wage as regular employees. Labor must publish any increase in the minimum wage in the Federal Register and on its website 60 days before it takes effect.

Primary Sponsors

Bernie Sanders

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