

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1883

To increase funding for aviation workforce development grant programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To increase funding for aviation workforce development grant programs, 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 “Aviation Workforce
5 Development and Recruitment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING FUNDING FOR AVIATION WORKFORCE**
2 **DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 625 of the FAA Reau-
4 thorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(3) a program to provide grants for eligible
14 projects to support the education and recruitment of
15 aviation manufacturing technical workers and the
16 development of the aviation manufacturing work-
17 force.”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
20 each place it appears and inserting “2029”;

21 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
22 paragraph (3);

23 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
24 following new paragraph:

1 “(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to
2 amounts available for grants pursuant to paragraph
3 (1), there is authorized to be appropriated—

4 “(A) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
5 2024 through 2029 to provide grants under the
6 program established under subsection (a)(1);

7 “(B) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2024 through 2029 to provide grants under the
9 program established under subsection (a)(2);
10 and

11 “(C) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
12 2024 through 2029 to provide grants under the
13 program established under subsection (a)(3).”;
14 and

15 (D) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
16 subparagraph (B), by inserting “(or, in the case
17 of fiscal years 2024 through 2029,
18 \$1,000,000)” after “\$500,000”;

19 (3) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, a
21 postsecondary vocational institution (as defined
22 in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
23 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002),” after “(20 U.S.C.
24 1001))”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “, a
2 postsecondary vocational institution (as defined
3 in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002),” after “(20 U.S.C.
5 1001))”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(3) An application for a grant under the pro-
9 gram established under subsection (a)(3) shall be
10 submitted, in such form as the Secretary may speci-
11 fy, by—

12 “(A) a holder of a type or production cer-
13 tificate or similar authorization issued under
14 section 44704 of title 49, United States Code,
15 or a credible applicant for such a certificate as
16 determined by the Secretary;

17 “(B) an accredited institution of higher
18 education (as defined in section 101 of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
20 1001)), a postsecondary vocational institution
21 (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Edu-
22 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), or a high
23 school or secondary school (as defined in section
24 7801 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801); and

1 “(C) a State or local governmental enti-
2 ty.”;

3 (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—For purposes of a pro-
6 gram established under subsection (a), an eligible project
7 is a project—

8 “(1) to create and deliver a program designed
9 to provide students with meaningful aviation edu-
10 cation that is designed to prepare the students to be-
11 come aircraft pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned
12 aircraft systems operators, aviation maintenance
13 technical workers, or aviation manufacturing tech-
14 nical workers (as applicable to the relevant program
15 described in subsection (a));

16 “(2) to support the professional development of
17 teachers and other educators implementing a pro-
18 gram described in paragraph (1);

19 “(3) to establish new educational programs that
20 teach technical skills used by aircraft pilots, aero-
21 space engineers, unmanned aircraft systems opera-
22 tors, aviation maintenance technical workers, or
23 aviation manufacturing technical workers (as appli-
24 cable to the relevant program described in sub-

1 section (a)), including purchasing equipment, or to
2 improve existing such programs;

3 “(4) to establish scholarships or registered ap-
4 prenticeships for individuals pursuing employment
5 as aircraft pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned
6 aircraft systems operators, aviation maintenance
7 technical workers, or aviation manufacturing tech-
8 nical workers (as applicable to the relevant program
9 described in subsection (a));

10 “(5) to support outreach about careers as air-
11 craft pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft
12 systems operators, aviation maintenance technical
13 workers, or aviation manufacturing technical work-
14 ers (as applicable to the relevant program described
15 in subsection (a)) to—

16 “(A) primary, secondary, and post-sec-
17 ondary school students; or

18 “(B) communities underrepresented in the
19 applicable industry;

20 “(6) to support educational opportunities in
21 both urban and rural areas;

22 “(7) to support transition to careers as aircraft
23 pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft sys-
24 tems operators, aviation maintenance technical
25 workers, or aviation manufacturing technical work-

1 ers (as applicable to the relevant program described
2 in subsection (a)), including for veterans and mem-
3 bers of the Armed Forces; or

4 “(8) to otherwise enhance or expand the air-
5 craft pilot, aerospace engineer, unmanned aircraft
6 system operator workforces, aviation maintenance
7 technical worker, or aviation manufacturing tech-
8 nical worker workforces.”;

9 (5) in subsection (e)

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by inserting “aviation manufactur-
12 ers,” after “repair stations,” and

13 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(3) give priority to applicants who partner
19 with, or establish links between, secondary schools
20 and post-secondary schools and who work collabo-
21 ratively or participate in industry or sector partner-
22 ships.”; and

23 (6) by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

1 “(f) CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF EDU-
2 CATION.—The Secretary may consult with the Secretary
3 of Education in—

4 “(1) developing the design of the grant applica-
5 tion under this section;

6 “(2) reviewing and selecting applications for
7 grants for eligible projects under this section; and

8 “(3) establishing considerations regarding pro-
9 gram quality and measurement of student out-
10 comes.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (4) of
12 section 48105 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
13 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

14 (c) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AVIATION
15 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of enactment of this section, the Adminis-
18 trator shall, to the extent practicable and in con-
19 sultation with other Federal agencies and private in-
20 dividuals, establish a national strategic plan for ad-
21 dressing projected shortages of aviation workers in
22 the aviation industry, including—

23 (A) any short-term, medium-term, and
24 long-term needs critical to the economy, na-
25 tional security, workforce readiness, environ-

1 mental concerns, and priorities of the United
2 States aviation sector, such as emergency readi-
3 ness and resilience; and

4 (B) any situation or condition that war-
5 rants special attention by the Federal Govern-
6 ment.

7 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The national strategic
8 plan established under paragraph (1) shall—

9 (A) take into account the activities and ac-
10 complishments of all agencies in the executive
11 branch of the Federal Government that are re-
12 lated to carrying out such national strategic
13 plan; and

14 (B) include recommendations for legisla-
15 tion, regulations, and budget proposals to carry
16 out such national strategic plan.

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