

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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To direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, 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 “Championing Appren-  
5 ticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology  
6 Act” or the “CHANCE in TECH Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) During any given 90-day period there can  
2           be more than 500,000 information technology job  
3           openings in the United States.

4           (2) Employment in the technology sector is  
5           growing twice as fast as employment in the United  
6           States.

7           (3) Jobs in the technology sector tend to pro-  
8           vide higher pay and better benefits than other jobs  
9           and have been more resilient to economic downturn  
10          than jobs available in other private sector industries.

11          (4) Information technology skills are  
12          transferrable across nearly all industries.

13          (5) Exceptional education and on-the-job train-  
14          ing programs exist and should be scaled to meet the  
15          demands of the modern technology workforce.

16          (6) Adoption of existing employer-driven inter-  
17          mediary models, such as ApprenticeshipUSA under  
18          the Department of Labor, will help grow the infor-  
19          mation technology workforce.

20          (7) Career pathway education should start in  
21          high school through pathways and programs of  
22          study that align with local and regional employer  
23          needs.

24          (8) Preparing a student for a job in the tech-  
25          nology sector is essential to the growth and competi-

1           tiveness of the economy in the United States in the  
2           21st Century.

3           (9) Nearly 800,000 information technology  
4           workers will retire between 2017 and 2024.

5           (10) In 2016, the average salary in the infor-  
6           mation technology sector was \$108,000, while the  
7           average salary among all other sectors was \$53,040.

8   **SEC. 3. TECHNOLOGY APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS.**

9           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Labor (referred  
10          to in this section as “the Secretary”) shall enter into con-  
11          tracts with industry intermediaries for the purpose of pro-  
12          moting the development of and access to apprenticeships  
13          in the technology sector, from amounts appropriated  
14          under subsection (e).

15          (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to be awarded a con-  
16          tract under this section, an industry intermediary shall  
17          submit an application to the Secretary, at such time and  
18          in such a manner as may be required by the Secretary,  
19          that identifies proposed activities designed to further the  
20          purpose described in subsection (a).

21          (c) **SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall award con-  
22          tracts under this section based on competitive criteria to  
23          be prescribed by the Secretary.

24          (d) **CONTRACTOR ACTIVITIES.**—An industry inter-  
25          mediary that is awarded a contract under this section may

1 only use the funds made available through such contract  
2 to carry out activities designed to further the purpose de-  
3 scribed in subsection (a), including—

4 (1) facilitating the provision and development of  
5 apprenticeships in the technology sector through col-  
6 laborations with public and private entities that pro-  
7 vide job-related instruction, such as on-the-job train-  
8 ing, pre-apprenticeship training, and technical train-  
9 ing;

10 (2) encouraging entities to establish such ap-  
11 prenticeships;

12 (3) identifying, assessing, and training appli-  
13 cants for such apprenticeships who are—

14 (A) enrolled in high school;

15 (B) enrolled in an early college high school  
16 that focuses on education in STEM subjects;

17 (C) individuals aged 18 years or older who  
18 meet appropriate qualification standards; or

19 (D) enrolled in pre-apprenticeship or ap-  
20 prenticeship training initiatives that allow  
21 adults to concurrently increase academic and  
22 workforce skills through proven, evidence-based  
23 models that connect all learning to the specific  
24 apprenticeship involved and significantly accel-

1           erate completion of preparation for the appren-  
2           ticeship; and

3           (4) tracking the progress of such applicants  
4           who participate in such apprenticeships.

5           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
6           are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such  
7           sums as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying  
8           out this section.

9           **SEC. 4. CHANCE IN TECH AWARDS FOR 21ST CENTURY**  
10           **SCHOOLS.**

11           (a) AWARDS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Edu-  
12           cation may issue awards, to be known as “CHANCE in  
13           TECH Awards for 21st Century Schools”, to schools (re-  
14           ferred to in this section as “covered schools”) that—

15           (1) are secondary schools or junior or commu-  
16           nity colleges; and

17           (2) demonstrate high achievement in providing  
18           students necessary skills to compete in the 21st cen-  
19           tury workforce.

20           (b) CRITERIA.—In selecting a covered school for an  
21           award under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into  
22           account—

23           (1) the availability of STEM, career and tech-  
24           nical education, and computer technology courses at  
25           the covered school;

1           (2) State academic assessments, as described in  
2           section 111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary  
3           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)), of  
4           students at the covered school in STEM subjects;

5           (3) any coordination between the covered school  
6           and local and regional employers in the technology  
7           sector for the purpose of providing work-based learn-  
8           ing programs such as apprenticeships and intern-  
9           ships; and

10          (4) the availability of individualized plans pro-  
11          vided by the covered school to students relating to  
12          postsecondary education or training, career paths,  
13          and financial aid.

14 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

15          (a) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—Amounts made available to  
16          the Secretary of Labor under the Department of Labor  
17          Appropriations Act, 2017 to carry out the Act referred  
18          to in section 6(1) may be used to carry out this Act.

19          (b) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—There are authorized to  
20          be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may  
21          be necessary for fiscal year 2018 and each subsequent fis-  
22          cal year.

23 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

24          In this Act:

1           (1) APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “apprentice-  
2           ship” means an apprenticeship registered under the  
3           Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the  
4           “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chap-  
5           ter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

6           (2) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The  
7           term “career and technical education” has the  
8           meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D.  
9           Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of  
10          2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

11          (3) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The term  
12          “early college high school” has the meaning given  
13          such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
14          Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15          (4) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “high school”  
16          has the meaning given such term in section 8101 of  
17          the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
18          1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19          (5) INDUSTRY INTERMEDIARY.—The term “in-  
20          dustry intermediary” means an entity that—

21                 (A) in order to accelerate apprenticeship  
22                 program development and helps establish new  
23                 apprenticeship partnerships at the national,  
24                 State, or regional level, serves as a conduit be-  
25                 tween an employer and an entity, such as—

- 1 (i) an industry partner;  
2 (ii) the Department of Labor; and  
3 (iii) a State agency responsible for  
4 workforce development programs;

5 (B) demonstrates a capacity to work with  
6 employers and other key partners to identify  
7 workforce trends and foster public-private fund-  
8 ing to establish new apprenticeship programs;  
9 and

10 (C) is an entity such as—

- 11 (i) a business;  
12 (ii) a consortium of businesses;  
13 (iii) a business-related nonprofit orga-  
14 nization, including industry associations  
15 and business federations;  
16 (iv) a private organization functioning  
17 as a workforce intermediary for the ex-  
18 press purpose of serving the needs of busi-  
19 nesses, including community-based non-  
20 profit service providers and industry-  
21 aligned training providers; or  
22 (v) a consortium of any of the entities  
23 described in clauses (i) through (iv).

24 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the



1 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-  
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

3 (7) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The  
4 term “junior or community college” has the meaning  
5 given the term in section 312(f) of the Higher Edu-  
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

7 (8) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
8 “local educational agency” has the meaning given  
9 such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
10 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (9) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
12 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in  
13 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (10) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
16 “State educational agency” has the meaning given  
17 such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
18 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (11) STEM.—The term “STEM” means  
20 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

21 (12) TECHNOLOGY SECTOR.—The term “tech-  
22 nology sector” means the industry sector involved in  
23 the design or development of hardware, software, or  
24 security of digital data.