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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DELBENE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions, 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 referred to as the “Manufacturing  
5 Jobs for Veterans Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—To en-  
4 courage the employment of eligible veterans in manufac-  
5 turing, the Secretary of Labor, as part of the Veteran’s  
6 Workforce Investment Program, shall carry out a pilot  
7 program to be known as the “Veterans Manufacturing  
8 Employment Program”. Under the pilot program, the Sec-  
9 retary shall award competitive grants to three States for  
10 the establishment and administration of a State program  
11 to make grants to manufacturing employers and joint  
12 labor-management organizations that provide to eligible  
13 veterans covered training, on-the-job training, apprentice-  
14 ships, and training that leads to a recognized postsec-  
15 ondary credential. Such a program shall be known as a  
16 “State Manufacturing Employment Program”.

17 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible to re-  
18 ceive a grant under the pilot program, a State shall submit  
19 to the Secretary an application that includes each of the  
20 following:

21 (1) A proposal for the expenditure of grant  
22 funds to establish and administer a public-private  
23 partnership program designed to—

24 (A) provide to eligible veterans covered  
25 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeships,

1 and training that leads to a recognized postsec-  
2 ondary credential; and

3 (B) ensure sustainable employment in  
4 high-wage, high-skill jobs in manufacturing.

5 (2) Evidence that the State has—

6 (A) a population of eligible veterans of an  
7 appropriate size to carry out the State program;

8 (B) a robust and diverse manufacturing in-  
9 dustry, as determined by the Secretary; and

10 (C) the ability to carry out the State pro-  
11 gram described in the proposal under para-  
12 graph (1).

13 (3) Such other information and assurances as  
14 the Secretary may require.

15 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that is the recipient  
16 of a grant under this section shall use the grant for the  
17 following purposes:

18 (1) Making grants to manufacturing employers  
19 and joint labor-management organizations to reim-  
20 burse such employers and organizations for the cost  
21 of providing to eligible veterans covered training, on-  
22 the-job training, apprenticeships, and training that  
23 leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

24 (2) Conducting outreach to inform manufac-  
25 turing employers, joint labor-management organiza-

1 tions, and veterans, including veterans in rural  
2 areas, of their eligibility or potential eligibility for  
3 participation in the State program.

4 (d) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, each  
5 grant to a State shall be subject to the following condi-  
6 tions:

7 (1) The State shall repay to the Secretary, on  
8 such date as shall be determined by the Secretary,  
9 any amount received under the pilot program that is  
10 not used for the purposes described in subsection  
11 (c).

12 (2) The State shall submit to the Secretary, at  
13 such times and containing such information as the  
14 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of grant  
15 funds.

16 (e) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive  
17 a grant made by a State under the pilot program, a manu-  
18 facturing employer shall—

19 (1) submit to the administrator of the State  
20 Manufacturing Employment Program an application  
21 that includes—

22 (A) the rate of pay for each eligible vet-  
23 eran proposed to be trained using grant funds;

24 (B) the average rate of pay for an indi-  
25 vidual employed by the manufacturing employer

1 in a similar position who is not an eligible vet-  
2 eran; and

3 (C) such other information and assurances  
4 as the administrator may require; and

5 (2) agree to submit to the administrator, for  
6 each quarter, a report containing such information  
7 as the Secretary may specify.

8 (f) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available  
9 to a manufacturing employer through a grant under the  
10 pilot program may be used to provide training of any kind  
11 to a person who is not an eligible veteran.

12 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Together with the re-  
13 port required to be submitted annually under section  
14 4107(c) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary  
15 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program  
16 for the year covered by such report. The report on the  
17 pilot program shall include—

18 (1) a detailed description of activities carried  
19 out under this section;

20 (2) the cost per participant;

21 (3) an evaluation of the program; and

22 (4) recommendations for serving more eligible  
23 veterans.

24 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING COSTS.—Of  
25 the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization

1 of appropriations under subsection (j), 2 percent shall be  
2 made available to the Secretary for administrative costs  
3 associated with implementing and evaluating the pilot pro-  
4 gram under this section and for preparing and submitting  
5 the report required under subsection (f). The Secretary  
6 shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of each  
7 grant awarded under this section that may be used by the  
8 recipient for administrative and reporting costs.

9 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “covered training, on-the-job  
11 training, apprenticeships, and training that leads to  
12 a recognized postsecondary credential” means train-  
13 ing, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and train-  
14 ing that leads to a recognized postsecondary creden-  
15 tial that are—

16 (A) designed to provide the veteran with  
17 in-demand skills that are particular to manufac-  
18 turing and not directly transferable to employ-  
19 ment in another industry; and

20 (B) approved as provided in paragraph (1)  
21 or (2), as appropriate, of subsection (a) of sec-  
22 tion 3687 of title 38, United States Code.

23 (2) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-  
24 eran, as that term is defined in section 101(3) of  
25 title 38, United States Code, who is employed by a

1 manufacturing employer and enrolled or partici-  
2 pating in a covered training, on-the-job training, ap-  
3 prenticeship, or certification class.

4 (3) Except as otherwise provided, any term that  
5 is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation  
6 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) shall have  
7 the meaning given that term in such section.

8 (4) The term “manufacturing employer” means  
9 a business concern—

10 (A) that employs individuals in a trade or  
11 business in manufacturing;

12 (B) the production facilities of which are  
13 located in the United States; and

14 (C) the primary business of which is classi-  
15 fied in sector 31, 32, or 33 of the North Amer-  
16 ican Industrial Classification System.

17 (j) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-  
18 propriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal  
19 years 2027 through 2031, for the purpose of carrying out  
20 the pilot program.