

## S. 2334, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Workforce Act of 2019

**Summary:** Establishes a 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, a nationwide advisory board at DOE for the development of a skilled energy workforce in both traditional and clean energy sectors. Establishes a competitive workforce grant program to build partnerships with state and local government, industry, and community colleges to provide job training through a community college or registered apprenticeship program to provide students with industry-recognized credentials.

**Energy Workforce Advisory Board:** The Secretary shall establish the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board to develop a strategy for the support and development of a skilled energy workforce that:

- meets the current and future industry needs of the energy sector
- provides opportunities for students to become qualified for placement in traditional and clean energy jobs
- aligns apprenticeship programs to provide industry-recognized certifications
- encourages leaders in education to equip students with skills necessary to work in emerging energy and manufacturing sectors
- strengthens and fully engages Minorities in Energy Initiative of the DOE
- makes a DOE priority to provide education and job training to underrepresented groups in the Department at large, and
- supports retraining efforts.

**Membership:** Workforce Advisory Board shall be comprised of 9 members chosen by DOE and 18 members chosen by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology who shall be preeminently qualified, have representation from energy industry, labor orgs, workforce development, education, minority participation, cybersecurity, and economics disciplines.

The board shall determine how to more effectively and efficiently utilize DOE and other federal agencies in development of a skilled energy workforce; identify ways the Department and National Laboratories can increase opportunities for minorities and women; and, identify ways the Department and National Laboratories can increase outreach to displaced energy sector workers

**Energy Workforce Pilot Program** The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretaries of Labor and Education, shall establish a pilot program to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for job training programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential.

Each grant shall not exceed \$2 million per organization per fiscal year; the federal share shall not exceed 65 percent, non-federal share should consist not less than 50 percent

*Authorization of Appropriations:* \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024 to carry out this program.

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**Cosponsors:** Senator Hirono

**Legislative History:** This legislation was introduced as a part of the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017 (S. 1460) during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress and received a full committee hearing by the Senate ENR on 9/19/2017.

This legislation was also introduced as a part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2012) during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. As a part of this package, this legislation was reported favorably by Senate ENR on 9/09/2015 and was passed by the Senate as amended by a vote of 85-12.