



Pending/Current Congressional Action February 2018

(compiled from reports from the Texas Workforce Commission and other sources)

Budget/Appropriations

HR 1892- Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

The bill includes government funding (short-term continuing resolution) through March 23, 2018. The measure also includes about \$90 million in disaster supplemental funds to states affected by hurricanes and wildfires. TWC requested waivers are not included in the disaster supplemental provisions. The bill includes a suspension of the debt ceiling through March of 2019 and an increase in budget caps for both defense and non-defense spending to provide a total of almost \$300 billion in additional government funding. The bill also includes a provision to help more unemployed workers get back into the workforce quickly through UI Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments.

Status: Signed by the President into law on February 9, 2018

Career and Technical Education

HR 2353, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

The bill reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) is the principal source of dedicated federal investment in CTE. It supports the efforts of states, school districts and postsecondary institutions to improve their programs and ensure all students have access to high-quality CTE.

Status: Passed by the House on June 22, 2017 by a voice vote. HR 2353 will now go to the U.S. Senate.

HR 4387 by Rep. Duffy (R-WI), **PREPARE Act** -To amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to increase the allocation for rural areas, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

S 1658 by Sen. Durbin (D-IL), **Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2017** -A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HR 3137 by Rep. Kildee (D-MI), **Promoting Women in STEM Act** - To amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics occupations.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Child Care

[HR 3773](#), by Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" (D-VA), ***Child Care for Working Families Act***

In part, the bill amends the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. One of the aims of the 1990 law is to improve the quality of childcare, and the this amendment would add workforce development provisions to the list of permissible uses of funds in the existing law. Broadly, the amendments allow states to use funding for “supporting the training and professional development of the child care workforce...”

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Higher Education

[HR 4508](#), by Rep. Foxx, Virginia (R-NC), the ***Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act***

The bill would reauthorize the higher education act and aim to support students in completing an affordable postsecondary education that will prepare them to enter the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success. The Committee focused on four main accomplishments of the bill:

- Promote innovation, access, and completion
- Simplify and improving student aid
- Empower students and families to make informed decisions
- Ensure strong accountability and a limited federal role

The following amendments were adopted:

- Apprenticeship Programs by Rep. Estes (R-KS) -Allow institutions to partner with industries to create apprenticeship programs. Allow institutions to use money for work-study programs towards apprenticeship programs.
- Financial Aid Information by Rep. Ferguson (R-GA) -Require the Education secretary to provide an annual report on early notification on secondary education financial aid provided to high school students and identify best practices. Clarify that the purpose of early awareness notification is to improve financial literacy.
- Competency-Based Education by Rep. Grothman (R-WI) -Strike "characteristic" from the definition of student competency and replace with "ability." Permit the Federal ONE Loan Program to be distributed based on the academic progress of a student in addition to student eligibility. Permit agencies or associations assessing competency-based programs for accreditation to use standards and policies that are not based on a separate evaluation than other programs.

Status: Passed by House Education and the Workforce Committee; referred to full House for consideration

[S.206](#) by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tim Kaine (D-VA), ***Jumpstart Our Businesses By Supporting Students (JOBS) Act***

Legislation that would amend the Higher Education Act by expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term job training programs. The bill would help students access training for the 5.5 million vacant jobs that are unfilled in part due to a shortage of qualified workers.

Status: Senate - 01/24/2017 read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

[HR 4048](#) by Rep. Carson (D-IN), **Higher Education and Employment Transparency Act**- To require institutions of higher education to provide students with statistical employment information, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

TANF

[HR 2842](#) by Rep. Curbelo, Carlos (R-FL), **Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act**

The bill would provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for TANF recipients. The following amendments were adopted on the House floor during the debate.

- Encourage better coordination with state workforce development efforts and adds to the reporting requirements in Section 5 to describe efforts by the State to ensure nondisplacement and establish grievance procedures.
- Ensure that states include in their applications how they will use the funds to help individuals who have been displaced or relocated from a public housing authority to an alternative public housing facility or placed on rental assistance.
- Require states to coordinate the subsidized employment program authorized in the bill with other federal workforce development programs, including the Federal Work Study Program.
- Direct HHS to measure the effect of training and credentialing in its evaluation to the public and recommendations to Congress.
- Require the Secretary to address employment-related challenges in rural areas and among members of federally recognized Indian tribes in the recommendations provided to Congress.
- Require states to report on the number of individuals who are in a career that matches their training.
- Direct states to include in their end of the fiscal year report the number of recipients who received additional federal or state means-tested benefits during their subsidized employment.

Status: Passed by House; Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

[HR 3438](#) by Rep. Noem (R-SD)-To increase the employment, job retention, and earnings of former TANF recipients.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Veterans

[HR 3949](#) by Rep. Khanna, (D-CA), **Veteran Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act**

The bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the designation of State approving agencies for multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Status: Became Public Law No: 115-89. ([TXT](#) | [PDF](#))

[HR 4633](#) by Rep. Womack (R-AR)-**Credentialing, Educating, and Relevant Training Initiative For Your Heroes Act (CERTIFY Heroes Act)**- To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit individuals who are eligible for assistance under a Department of Defense educational assistance program or authority to use such tuition assistance for licensing and certification programs offered by entities other than an institution of higher education.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel

[HR 4632](#) by Rep. Speier (D-CA)-**Military and Veterans Education Protection Act**-To count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel

[HR 4339](#) by Rep. Bost (R-IL), **Veterans' Agricultural Apprenticeship Act of 2017** -To establish a Department of Agriculture loan program to support mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities for veterans of the Armed Forces to become farmers or ranchers.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit

[HR 4450](#) by Rep. Veasey (D-TX), **Veterans' STEM Education Program** -To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[HR 4286](#) by Rep. Loeb sack (D-IA), **VET Act** -To direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a grant program for employers to develop and carry out job training programs for veterans.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[HR 3018](#) by Rep. McSally (R-AZ), **Veterans' Entry to Apprenticeship Act** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full House Veterans Affairs Committee by Voice Vote

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

[HR 4350](#) by Rep. Lewis (D-GA), **Missed Opportunities in Jobs Act** -To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to require the Secretary of Labor to submit to Congress an annual report relating to the amount of funds requested and awarded through YouthBuild programs, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

[HR 3376](#) by Rep. Wilson (D-FL), **Jobs Now Act of 2017**

-To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to create a pilot program to award grants to units of general local government and community-based organizations to create jobs, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[HR 3012](#) by Rep. Kildee (D-MI), **Empowering Youth Through Summer Employment Act**- To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to increase the authorization of appropriations for youth workforce investment activities.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

[HR 2867](#) by Rep. Torres (D-CA), **JOBS Act** - To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a pilot program to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

[S 2390](#) by Sen. Duckworth (D-IL)- A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[HR 3088](#) by Rep. Swalwell (D-CA), **WIRED Act**, To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to require one-stop delivery systems under such Act to offer services through internet websites and to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop standards and best practices for such websites, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Work-based Learning

[HR 4115](#) by Rep. Bonamici (D-OR), **PARTNERS Act** -To promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of industry or sector partnerships.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security

[S 1841](#) by Sen. Wicker (R-MS), **Apprenticeship Enhancement Act of 2017**- A bill to amend the National Apprenticeship Act to provide that applications relating to apprenticeship programs shall be processed in a fair and timely manner, and for other purposes.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[HR 3306](#) by Rep. Crowley (D-NY), **On-the-Job Training Act of 2017** - To authorize a national grant program for on-the-job training.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

[HR 2927](#) by Rep. Messer (R-IN), **HIRED Act of 2017**- To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include apprentices as members of targeted groups for purposes of the work opportunity credit.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[S 1352](#) by Sen. Cantwell (D-WA), **Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act of 2017** - A bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

[HR 3174](#) by Rep. Moulton (D-MA) and S 1518 by Sen. Gardner (R-CO), **CHANCE in TECH Act**-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.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce