

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve the bill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3084

To invest in innovation through research and development,
and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. SCHATZ

Viz:

1 At the end of title III, add the following:

2 **SEC. 312. DEVELOPING STEM APPRENTICESHIPS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The lack of data on the return on invest-
6 ment for United States employers using registered
7 apprenticeships makes it difficult—

8 (A) to communicate the value of these pro-
9 grams to businesses; and

10 (B) to expand registered apprenticeships.

11 (2) The lack of data on the value and impact
12 of employer-provided worker training, which is likely
13 substantial, hinders the ability of the Federal Gov-

1 ernment ability to formulate policy related to work-
2 force training.

3 (3) The Secretary of Commerce has initiated—

4 (A) the first study on the return on invest-
5 ment for United States employers using reg-
6 istered apprenticeships through case studies of
7 firms in various sectors, occupations, and geo-
8 graphic locations to provide the business com-
9 munity with data on employer benefits and
10 costs; and

11 (B) discussions with officials at relevant
12 Federal agencies about the need to collect com-
13 prehensive data on—

14 (i) employer-provided worker training;

15 and

16 (ii) existing tools that could be used

17 to collect such data.

18 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMA-
19 TION.—The Secretary^{of commerce} shall continue to research the value
20 to businesses of utilizing apprenticeship programs, includ-
21 ing—

22 (1) evidence of return on investment of appren-
23 ticeships, including estimates for the average time it
24 takes a business to recover the costs associated with
25 training apprentices; and

1 (2) data from the United States Census Bureau
2 and other statistical surveys on employer-provided
3 training, including apprenticeships and other on-the-
4 job training and industry-recognized certification
5 programs.

6 (c) DISSEMINATION OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMA-
7 TION.—The Secretary^{of Commerce} shall disseminate findings from re-
8 search on apprenticeships to businesses and other relevant
9 stakeholders, including—

- 10 (1) institutions of higher education;
11 (2) State and local chambers of commerce; and
12 (3) workforce training organizations.

13 (d) STUDYING APPROACHES TO COLLECTING EM-
14 PLOYER-PROVIDED WORKER TRAINING DATA.—The Sec-
15 retary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall—

16 (1) collaborate to identify approaches to col-
17 lecting employer-provided worker training data;

18 (2) provide a report to the relevant congres-
19 sional committees on—

20 (A) the existing tools available to collect
21 such data; and

22 (B) the time and cost of collecting such
23 data; and

1 (3) provide recommendations to the relevant
2 congressional committees on additional tools that
3 may be needed to collect such data.

4 (e) NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STUDY.—The
5 Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall
6 collaborate to study approaches for reducing the cost of
7 creating new apprenticeship programs and hosting ap-
8 prentices for businesses, particularly small businesses, in-
9 cluding—

10 (1) training sharing agreements;

11 (2) group training models; and

12 (3) pooling resources and best practices.

13 (f) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
14 GRANTS.—The Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation
15 Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by add-
16 ing at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary^{of Commerce} may carry out a
19 grant program to identify the need for skilled science,
20 technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in
21 this section as ‘STEM’) workers and to expand STEM ap-
22 prenticeship programs.

23 “(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.—In this sec-
24 tion, the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

25 “(1) a State;

1 “(2) an Indian tribe;

2 “(3) a city or other political subdivision of a
3 State;

4 “(4) an entity that—

5 “(A) is a nonprofit organization, an insti-
6 tution of higher education, a public-private
7 partnership, a science or research park, a Fed-
8 eral laboratory, or an economic development or-
9 ganization or similar entity; and

10 “(B) has an application that is supported
11 by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or
12 a native organization; or

13 “(5) a consortium of any of the entities de-
14 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (5).

15 “(c) NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS.—The Secretary *of Commerce*
16 may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct
17 a needs assessment to identify—

18 “(1) the unmet need of a region’s employer
19 base for skilled STEM workers;

20 “(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to
21 address the unmet need described in paragraph (1);
22 and

23 “(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need
24 described in paragraph (1).

1 “(d) APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION GRANTS.—The
2 Secretary^{of Commerce} may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that
3 has conducted a needs assessment as described in sub-
4 section (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM
5 apprenticeship programs.”.

6 Beginning on page 121, strike lines 8 through 10 and
7 insert the following:

8 “(7) the promotion and expansion of certifi-
9 cation systems, including efforts to assist small- and
10 medium-sized manufacturing businesses in creating
11 new apprenticeships or utilizing existing apprentice-
12 ships, such as facilitating training and providing ac-
13 cess to information and experts, to address work-
14 force needs and skills gaps;