

***Jobs to Compete Act***

**Sec. 1. Short Title**

This Act is called the "Jobs to Compete Act."

**Sec. 2. Workforce Pell Grants**

This section amends Title IV of the *Higher Education Act* to authorize Pell Grants for short-term workforce programs beginning in the 2024-2025 award year. Students are eligible for Workforce Pell Grants if they are enrolled in an eligible workforce program, have not received a graduate degree, and otherwise meet the general criteria for a Pell Grant. Students may not receive a Workforce Pell Grant and another Pell Grant at the same time. Any period for which a student receive a Workforce Pell Grant is included in calculating the student's period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants.

**Sec. 3. Program Eligibility for Workforce Pell Grants**

This section amends Title IV of the *Higher Education Act* to outline eligibility requirements for workforce programs seeking to offer Workforce Pell Grants to their students. A workforce program would be eligible to receive Workforce Pell grants if it:

- Is between 150 and 600 clock hours;
- Provides an education aligned with the requirements of a high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry in the area the program is provided;
- Provides a stackable, portable, and transferrable credential, when applicable in a given industry;
- Has demonstrated that students who complete the program receive a median increase of 20 percent of the median earnings of students prior to enrolling in a program;
- Has demonstrated that students who complete the program have median earnings greater than the median earnings of students with a high school diploma or GED in the state;
- Provides direct disclosure to prospective students on information about price and student outcomes;
- Does not exceed by more than 50 percent the State-established minimum clock hours for training;
- Is not offered exclusively through distance education, with temporary emergency exceptions;
- Provides academic and career counseling for students;
- Prepares students for gainful employment;
- Has a verified completion rate of at least 70%;
- Has a verified job placement rate of at least 70%; and
- Has demonstrated that at least 50% of revenue from tuition and fees is expended on instructional spending.

The Secretary of Education shall have the final determination of whether institutions demonstrate the above requirements and shall periodically review programs, revoking approval if a program no longer meets the requirements. The Secretary must also receive certification from the State boards containing assurance that a program meets the definition of an eligible workforce program. This section also sunsets loan eligibility for certain short-term programs. Only students in programs eligible for Workforce Pell Grants shall receive short-term Direct Loans.

**Sec. 4. Data Collection and Dissemination Related to Workforce Pell Grants**

This section amends Title I of the *Higher Education Act* to establish interagency data coordination between the Department of Education and Department of Labor to effectively collect, analyze, and disseminate data related to workforce programs. It outlines the necessary data institutions shall collect with respect to their workforce programs and student outcomes. The Department of Education shall publish this data on the College Scorecard in accordance with federal privacy laws and regulations.

**Sec. 5. Accrediting Agency Determination of Eligibility Requirements for the Workforce Pell Grants Program**

This section establishes requirements for accrediting agencies and associations that want to include evaluation of workforce program quality within their scope of recognition. Agencies must develop a process for determining if an institution has the capacity to effectively offer a workforce program that receives Pell Grants.

During the first five years of this bill’s enactment, accrediting agencies seeking to expand their scope of recognition to evaluate workforce programs must notify the Department of their intent in order to receive interim accreditation authority. The agency must also submit an explanation of their process for determining whether an institution of higher education meets the requirements to be an eligible workforce program.

This section also requires the National Advisory Committee of Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) to hold additional meetings to evaluate the scope of recognition changes with respect to Workforce Pell Grants.

**Sec. 6. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Amendment**

This section amends the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* to reflect the interagency data coordination.

**Sec. 7. Orderly Implementation of Workforce Pell Grant Program**

This section directs the Secretary of Education to take necessary steps to implement the Workforce Pell Grant Program by July 1, 2024.