

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1268

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 to strengthen research in adult education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 to strengthen research in adult education.

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 cited as the “Strengthening Re-
5 search in Adult Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHEN RESEARCH IN ADULT EDUCATION.**

7 (a) EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT OF 2002.—

8 The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.

9 9501 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
3 through (8), (9) through (13), (14) through
4 (22), and (23), as paragraphs (3) through (9),
5 (11) through (15), (17) through (25), and (27),
6 respectively;

7 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
8 following:

9 “(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION
10 AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult edu-
11 cation’ and ‘adult education and literacy activities’
12 have the meanings given the terms in section 203 of
13 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29
14 U.S.C. 3272).”;

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (9), as re-
16 designated by subparagraph (A), the following:

17 “(10) DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.—The term
18 ‘digital literacy skills’ has the meaning given the
19 term in section 202 of the Museum and Library
20 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).”;

21 (D) by inserting after paragraph (15), as
22 redesignated by subparagraph (A) the following:

23 “(16) INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS.—The
24 term ‘information literacy skills’ means the set of
25 skills needed to find, retrieve, understand, evaluate,

1 analyze, discern the reliability and accuracy of, and
2 effectively use information (which encompasses spo-
3 ken and broadcast words and videos, printed mate-
4 rials, and digital content, data, and images).”; and

5 (E) by inserting after paragraph (25), as
6 redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(26) STUDENT.—Unless otherwise provided,
9 the term ‘student’ means any elementary, secondary,
10 postsecondary, or adult education student.”;

11 (2) in section 111(b)(1) (20 U.S.C.
12 9511(b)(1)), in the matter preceding subparagraph
13 (A), by inserting “, and adult education” after
14 “postsecondary study”;

15 (3) in section 115(a) (20 U.S.C. 9515(a))—

16 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
17 by inserting “the Adult Education and Family
18 Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.),” after
19 “the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
20 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.)”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “children” and inserting “individuals”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 “and” after the semicolon;

1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (C) as subparagraph (D); and

3 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
4 (B) the following:

5 “(C) access to, and opportunities for, adult
6 education and literacy activities; and”;

7 (4) in section 116(e)(4)(A)(ii) (20 U.S.C.
8 9516(e)(4)(A)(ii))—

9 (A) by inserting “adult educators,” after
10 “professional educators,”; and

11 (B) by inserting “State directors of adult
12 education,” after “postsecondary education ex-
13 ecutives,”;

14 (5) in section 131(b)(1) (20 U.S.C.
15 9531(b)(1))—

16 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
17 “and” after the semicolon;

18 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
19 “and” after the semicolon; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(E) improve the literacy, numeracy, dig-
22 ital literacy skills, and information literacy
23 skills of individuals who need adult education;”;

24 (6) in section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533)—

25 (A) in subsection (a)—

1 (i) in paragraph (10)(D), by striking
2 “and” after the semicolon;

3 (ii) in paragraph (11), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
5 and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(12) carry out research initiatives regarding
9 the impact of adult education and literacy activities,
10 including—

11 “(A) research into successful State and
12 local adult education and literacy activities
13 that—

14 “(i) result in increased literacy,
15 numeracy, digital literacy skills, informa-
16 tion literacy skills, and educational attain-
17 ment for adult learners; or

18 “(ii) prepare students for postsec-
19 ondary education or employment; and

20 “(B) research to determine which indica-
21 tors of performance and measurable skills gains
22 are most effective, valid, reliable, and accessible
23 for use across a broad range of adult education
24 and literacy programs to assess the progress of

1 adult learners and improve instruction in adult
2 education and literacy programs.”; and

3 (B) in subsection (c)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “At
5 least 1 center shall be assigned the topic of
6 adult education.” after “paragraph (2).”;

7 and

8 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

9 (I) by striking subparagraph (A)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(A) Adult education.”;

12 (II) by redesignating subpara-
13 graphs (C) through (K) as subpara-
14 graphs (E) through (M), respectively;

15 and

16 (III) by inserting after subpara-
17 graph (B) the following:

18 “(C) Digital literacy skills.”;

19 “(D) Information literacy skills.”;

20 (7) in section 153(a)(1) (20 U.S.C.
21 9543(a)(1))—

22 (A) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
23 serting the following:

24 “(D) secondary school graduation and
25 completion rates, including the four-year ad-

1 justed cohort graduation rate and the extended-
2 year adjusted cohort graduation rate (as de-
3 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and
4 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801)),
5 school dropout rates, and adult literacy;”;

6 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
7 through (O) as subparagraphs (G) through (P),
8 respectively;

9 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
10 the following:

11 “(F) access to, and opportunity for, adult
12 education and literacy activities;” and

13 (D) in subparagraph (L), as redesignated
14 by subparagraph (B), by inserting “and in
15 adult education” after “secondary schools”;

16 (8) in section 154(b)(2)(A) (20 U.S.C.
17 9544(b)(2)(A)), by striking “vocational and adult
18 education,” and inserting “career and technical edu-
19 cation, adult education,”; and

20 (9) in section 172(a)(2) (20 U.S.C.
21 9562(a)(2))—

22 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
23 “and” after the semicolon;

24 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
25 subparagraph (F); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
2 the following:

3 “(E) educational practices that improve
4 digital literacy skills and information literacy
5 skills; and”.

6 (b) EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF
7 2002.—Section 206(b)(2) of the Educational Technical
8 Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9605(b)(2)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
11 through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), re-
12 spectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(B) Representatives of local or regional
16 adult education providers.”.

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