

[H.R. 4583, To promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, February 29, 2016, the House will consider [H.R. 4583](#), to promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 4583 was introduced on February 23, 2016 by Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL), and was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce as well as the Committee on Energy and Commerce which ordered the bill reported by voice vote on February 24, 2016.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4583 would require the Secretary of Energy to prioritize education and training for manufacturing and energy-related jobs (both renewable and nonrenewable) in order to increase the number of skilled workers by:

- Encouraging schools to equip students with the necessary skills and technical expertise;
- Increasing outreach to minority serving institutions and displaced and unemployed energy and manufacturing workers;
- Establishing a clearinghouse to maintain and update information and resources on training and workforce development programs for energy and manufacturing-related jobs; and
- Encouraging collaboration between schools, workforce-training organizations and federal agencies.

Additionally, the Secretary shall report to Congress five years after the enactment date on the outlook of energy and manufacturing sectors and provide a summary of job creation as a result of this legislation.

BACKGROUND

U.S. domestic energy production has grown rapidly in recent years, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in energy-related jobs. This growth resulted partly from new drilling methods that have made

it easier to extract oil and gas that previously were not accessible. There are over 10 million jobs supported by the energy sector in the U.S.

According to the Chairman of the House Energy and Power Subcommittee, “Energy and energy-related employment has been one of the few economic bright spots in recent years – everything from those employed discovering and producing energy, to those constructing and operating the infrastructure to transport it, to the new factories that are powered by it. But America’s energy transformation has taken the job market by surprise. Many in need of work do not have the skills required to fill these high-paying opportunities, and the Department of Energy’s job programs do not fully reflect current realities.”¹ H.R. 4583 seeks to address these concerns by helping connect our workforce with energy and manufacturing opportunities.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office estimate is not available. However, H.R. 4583 does not authorize any additional funds to carry out the requirements of the legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Molly Newell](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 2-1374.

¹ See Rep. Whitfield Press Release, “[Whitfield Works to Bridge the Gap for Jobs](#)”, April 23, 2015.