

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To improve the administration of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. KIM, and Mr. MORENO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To improve the administration of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

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. IMPROVEMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF**
4 **HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION**
5 **PARTNERSHIP.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR COOPERATIVE AGREE-
7 MENTS.—Subsection (e)(1) of section 25 of the National
8 Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
9 278K) is amended by striking “may” and inserting
10 “shall”.

1 (b) EXPANSION OF EVALUATION OF CENTERS TO IN-
2 CLUDE ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

3 Subsection (g)(3) of such section is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through
5 (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and in-
6 denting such clauses 2-ems to the right;

7 (2) in the matter before clause (i), as redesign-
8 nated by paragraph (1), by striking “performance of
9 the Center against—” and inserting the following:
10 “performance of the Center—

11 “(A) against”;

12 (3) in subparagraph (A)(iii), as designated by
13 paragraph (2); by striking the period at the end and
14 inserting “; and”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(B) with respect to financial manage-
17 ment, including monitoring for potential fraud
18 and misuse of funds.”.

19 (c) IMPROVEMENTS TO ADMINISTRATION OF PROBA-
20 TION.—Subsection (g)(5) of such section is amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (B), by amending clause
22 (iii) to read as follows:

23 “(iii) not later than 180 days after
24 the date of the notice under clause (i), re-
25 evaluate the Center and determine whether

1 the Center has remedied a deficiency or
2 shown significant improvement in perform-
3 ance.”; and

4 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “may”
5 and inserting “shall”.

6 (d) REMEDIES.—Subsection (g)(6) of such section is
7 amended—

8 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary deter-
11 mines that a Center has failed to remedy a defi-
12 ciency or to show significant improvement in
13 performance before the end of the probation pe-
14 riod under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall,
15 not later than 30 days after making that deter-
16 mination, commence conducting a competition
17 to select an operator for the Center under sub-
18 section (h).”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(C) NOT RENEWED OR CANCELED FINAN-
21 CIAL ASSISTANCE.—In any case in which the fi-
22 nancial assistance for a Center is not renewed
23 or canceled, subject to the availability of appro-
24 priations, the Secretary shall, not later than 30

1 days after the date on which such financial as-
2 sistance is not renewed or canceled—

3 “(i) commence conducting a competi-
4 tion to select an operator for the Center
5 under subsection (h); and

6 “(ii) make available to the eligible en-
7 tity selected to operate the Center pursu-
8 ant to clause (i) any remaining financial
9 assistance that had been allocated to the
10 previous operator of the Center under sub-
11 section (e).

12 “(D) PERIOD FOR COMPETITION AND SE-
13 LECTION.—For any competition commenced
14 pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (C) to select
15 an operator for the Center under subsection
16 (h)—

17 “(i) the duration of the period for
18 submittal of an application to operate the
19 Center shall not be exceed 90 days; and

20 “(ii) not later than 30 days after the
21 date on which the period described in
22 clause (i) ends, the Secretary shall select
23 an eligible entity to operate the Center in
24 accordance with subsections (h) and (i).”.

1 (e) EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDIES.—Subsection (g) of
2 such section is amended by adding at the end the following
3 new paragraph:

4 “(7) EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDIES.—The Sec-
5 retary may not take any adverse action against a
6 Center, including suspending, canceling, or not re-
7 newing financial assistance or a cooperative agree-
8 ment, except pursuant to an evaluation under this
9 subsection that is other than positive.”.