

1 HB326  
2 198270-1  
3 By Representatives Daniels, Easterbrook, Collins, Dismukes  
4 and Gray  
5 RFD: State Government  
6 First Read: 02-APR-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama  
9 Construction Trade Academy Funding Act.

10 This bill would create the Alabama  
11 Construction Trade Academy Fund in the State  
12 Treasury. The fund would be comprised of federal,  
13 state, and private funds through direct budgetary  
14 funding and grants, and would be used for the  
15 expansion of construction trade education.

16 This bill would require the Alabama Energy  
17 and Residential Codes Board to develop a statewide  
18 program to increase the availability of  
19 construction trade education by providing  
20 educational grants for public and private  
21 construction trade schools.

22 This bill would require the Energy Division  
23 of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community  
24 Affairs to administer the program.

25 This bill would require the Alabama Energy  
26 and Residential Codes Board to adopt guidelines for  
27 the program and to establish an application process

1 for the review of applications for grants and the  
2 distribution of monies in the Alabama Construction  
3 Trade Academy Fund.

4  
5 A BILL  
6 TO BE ENTITLED  
7 AN ACT  
8

9 Relating to education; to create the Alabama  
10 Construction Trade Academy Funding Act; to require the Alabama  
11 Energy and Residential Codes Board to develop a statewide  
12 program to increase the availability of construction trade  
13 education; to require the Energy Division of the Alabama  
14 Department of Economic and Community Affairs to administer the  
15 program; to require the board to adopt guidelines for the  
16 program; and to require the board to establish an application  
17 process for the review of applications for grants and the  
18 distribution of monies through the program.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited  
21 as the Alabama Construction Trade Academy Funding Act.

22 Section 2. The purpose of this act is to establish a  
23 statewide program to increase the availability of construction  
24 trade education by providing educational grants for public and  
25 private construction trade schools for high school,  
26 postsecondary, and adult learners.

1           Section 3. As used in this act, the following words  
2 have the following meanings:

3           (1) BOARD. The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes  
4 Board.

5           (2) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Economic  
6 and Community Affairs.

7           (3) DIVISION. The Energy Division of the Alabama  
8 Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

9           Section 4. The Alabama Construction Trade Academy  
10 Fund is established in the State Treasury. The fund shall be  
11 comprised of federal, state, and private funding through  
12 direct budgetary funding and grants for the expansion of  
13 construction trade education. To the extent practicable,  
14 monies in the fund shall be used to leverage other forms of  
15 funding from private sources. A percentage of matching funds,  
16 as established by the board under Section 5, must come from  
17 private, non-governmental sources.

18           Section 5. (a) The board, in cooperation with public  
19 and private sector partners, shall establish a program to  
20 provide funding mechanisms for tool grants, program  
21 incentives, supplies, mobile facilities, and other programs to  
22 support the development and continuation of construction trade  
23 education programs in the state.

24           (b) The division shall administer the program under  
25 the supervision of the board. The board shall establish  
26 guidelines for the program, promote the program, evaluate  
27 applications for funds, distribute funds, and monitor and

1 report the effect of the funding on the availability of  
2 construction trade education. The board may adopt rules to  
3 carry out the program and to meet the intent of this act. No  
4 more than 15 percent of the monies in the fund may be reserved  
5 for administrative and operational costs of the program.

6 (c) The board shall establish monitoring and  
7 accountability mechanisms for projects receiving funding. Not  
8 later than the fifth legislative day of each regular  
9 legislative session, the board shall file a report to the  
10 Legislature on the projects funded, the geographic  
11 distribution of projects funded, the private sector  
12 participation rates in funded projects, the administrative  
13 costs of the program, and the outcomes of the program,  
14 including the number of students and adult learners trained by  
15 each project funded through the program.

16 (d) The board shall create eligibility guidelines  
17 and provide project funding through an application process.  
18 Projects eligible for funding include the following:

19 (1) Mobile demonstration units that show the various  
20 systems of a structure and how they interconnect.

21 (2) Tool and supply grants for public and private  
22 educational providers that provide construction trade  
23 education.

24 (3) Incentives for newly established construction  
25 trade education courses, with priority given to carpentry  
26 courses.

1           (4) Adult education initiatives that provide  
2 continued learning opportunities through mobile training  
3 facilities or distance learning opportunities with priority  
4 focus on those serving underserved areas and widely offered  
5 trainings.

6           (5) Any other proposal that in the opinion of the  
7 board would address the need for construction trade education  
8 in the state.

9           (e) An applicant may be a for-profit or nonprofit  
10 entity, including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship,  
11 partnership, limited liability company, corporation,  
12 cooperative, nonprofit organization, not-for-profit entity,  
13 university, or government entity. An applicant for funding  
14 shall do all of the following:

15           (1) Demonstrate its capacity to successfully  
16 implement the proposal.

17           (2) Demonstrate how the proposal shall positively  
18 impact construction trade education in the state.

19           (3) Demonstrate private sector support through  
20 matching funding.

21           (4) Establish an advisory council consisting of at  
22 least three active trade representatives from the construction  
23 trade being funded.

24           (5) Agree, for a period of not less than five years,  
25 to comply with the following conditions:

26           a. Offer the courses funded through this act for a  
27 period of not less than five years.

1                   b. Comply with all data collection and reporting  
2 requirements established by the board.

3                   (f) In determining which qualified projects to fund,  
4 the board shall consider all of the following factors:

5                   (1) The level of private sector support for the  
6 project.

7                   (2) The level of need in the area in which the  
8 funding is directed.

9                   (3) The projected number of students that will be  
10 served.

11                   (4) The degree to which the project will have a  
12 positive impact on the availability of construction trade  
13 education in the area to be served.

14                   (5) The degree to which the project will leverage  
15 public and private sector funds.

16                   (g) The board shall establish program guidelines  
17 that require matching funds on all funded projects. A minimum  
18 of 10 percent of matching funds shall be provided by private,  
19 non-governmental sources. Total matching funds required may  
20 not be required to exceed 25 percent of awarded state funds,  
21 although additional consideration may be provided to projects  
22 that exceed this amount.

23                   (h) In the event that a recipient of funding  
24 provided by this act fails to provide the proposed project in  
25 accordance with the guidelines set forth by the board, any  
26 equipment, supplies, or materials acquired with the funding  
27 shall be transferred to the Alabama Home Builders Foundation

1 for redistribution to public or private programs that provide  
2 construction trade education to high school, postsecondary, or  
3 adult learners.

4 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the  
5 first day of the third month following its passage and  
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.