

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BARRASSO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Technology Grants to  
5 Strengthen Domestic Mining Education Act of 2025” or  
6 the “Mining Schools Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC**  
8 **MINING EDUCATION.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the  
2 Mining Professional Development Advisory Board  
3 established by subsection (d)(1).

4           (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
5 term “institution of higher education” has the  
6 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher  
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

8           (3) MINING INDUSTRY.—The term “mining in-  
9 dustry” means the mining industry of the United  
10 States, consisting of the search for, and extraction,  
11 beneficiation, refining, smelting, processing, reproc-  
12 essing, and recycling of, naturally occurring metal  
13 and nonmetal minerals from the earth.

14           (4) MINING PROFESSION.—The term “mining  
15 profession” means the body of jobs directly relevant  
16 to—

17                   (A) the exploration, planning, execution,  
18 and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining  
19 sites; and

20                   (B) the extraction, including the separa-  
21 tion, refining, alloying, smelting, concentration,  
22 processing, reprocessing, and recycling, of min-  
23 eral ores.

24           (5) MINING SCHOOL.—The term “mining  
25 school” means—

1 (A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or  
2 mineral engineering program accredited by the  
3 Accreditation Board for Engineering and Tech-  
4 nology, Inc., that is located at an institution of  
5 higher education, including a Tribal College or  
6 University (as defined in section 316(b) of the  
7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
8 1059c(b))); or

9 (B) a geology or engineering program or  
10 department that is located at a 4-year public in-  
11 stitution of higher education located in a State  
12 the gross domestic product of which in 2021  
13 was not less than \$2,000,000,000 in the com-  
14 bined categories of “Mining (except oil and  
15 gas)” and “Support activities for mining”, ac-  
16 cording to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

17 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
18 the Secretary of Energy.

19 (b) DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING  
20 PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-  
21 retary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the  
22 United States Geological Survey), shall—

23 (1) establish a grant program to strengthen do-  
24 mestic mining education; and

1           (2) under the program established in paragraph  
2           (1), award competitive grants to mining schools for  
3           the purpose of recruiting and educating the next  
4           generation of mining engineers and other qualified  
5           professionals to meet the future energy and mineral  
6           needs of the United States.

7           (c) GRANTS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant  
9           program established under subsection (b)(1), the  
10          Secretary shall award not more than 10 grants each  
11          year to mining schools.

12          (2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

13               (A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-  
14               tent practicable, the Secretary shall select re-  
15               cipients for grants under paragraph (1) to en-  
16               sure geographic diversity among grant recipi-  
17               ents to ensure that region-specific specialties  
18               are developed for region-specific geology.

19               (B) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall  
20               award the grants under paragraph (1) by not  
21               later than the later of—

22                       (i) the date that is 180 days after the  
23                       start of the applicable fiscal year; and

24                       (ii) the date that is 180 days after the  
25                       date on which the Act making full-year ap-

1                   appropriations for the Department of Energy  
2                   for the applicable fiscal year is enacted.

3                   (3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—

4                   (A) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients  
5                   for grants under paragraph (1) and deter-  
6                   mining the amount of each grant, the Sec-  
7                   retary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall  
8                   take into consideration the recommendations of  
9                   the Board under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of  
10                  subsection (d)(3).

11                  (B) SELECTION STATEMENT.—In selecting  
12                  recipients for grants under paragraph (1), the  
13                  Secretary shall—

14                   (i) in response to a recommendation  
15                   from the Board, submit to the Board a  
16                   statement that describes—

17                   (I) whether the Secretary accepts  
18                   or rejects, in whole or in part, the rec-  
19                   ommendation of the Board; and

20                   (II) the justification and ration-  
21                   ale for any rejection, in whole or in  
22                   part, of the recommendation of the  
23                   Board; and

24                   (ii) not later than 15 days after  
25                   awarding a grant for which the Board sub-

1                   mitted a recommendation, publish the  
2                   statement submitted under clause (i) on  
3                   the Department of Energy website.

4                   (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A mining school receiving  
5                   a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant  
6                   funds—

7                   (A) to recruit students to the mining  
8                   school; and

9                   (B) to enhance and support programs re-  
10                  lated to, as applicable—

11                  (i) mining, mineral extraction effi-  
12                  ciency, and related processing technology;

13                  (ii) emphasizing critical mineral and  
14                  rare earth element exploration, extraction,  
15                  and refining;

16                  (iii) reclamation technology and prac-  
17                  tices for active mining operations;

18                  (iv) the development of reprocessing  
19                  systems and technologies that facilitate  
20                  reclamation that fosters the recovery of re-  
21                  sources at abandoned mine sites;

22                  (v) mineral extraction, refining, proc-  
23                  essing, reprocessing, and recycling methods  
24                  that reduce environmental and human im-  
25                  pacts;

1 (vi) technologies to extract, refine,  
2 separate, smelt, produce, or recycle min-  
3 erals, including rare earth elements;

4 (vii) reducing dependence on foreign  
5 energy and mineral supplies through in-  
6 creased domestic critical mineral produc-  
7 tion and recycling;

8 (viii) enhancing the competitiveness of  
9 United States energy and mineral tech-  
10 nology exports;

11 (ix) the extraction or processing of co-  
12 inciding mineralization, including rare  
13 earth elements, within coal or other ores,  
14 coal or mineral processing byproduct, over-  
15 burden, or residue from coal, minerals, or  
16 other ores;

17 (x) enhancing technologies and prac-  
18 tices relating to mitigation of acid mine  
19 drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in  
20 the reclamation of land and water re-  
21 sources adversely affected by mining;

22 (xi) enhancing exploration and charac-  
23 terization of new or novel deposits, includ-  
24 ing rare earth elements and critical min-  
25 erals within phosphate rocks, uranium-

1 bearing deposits, and other nontraditional  
2 sources;

3 (xii) meeting challenges of extreme  
4 mining conditions, such as deeper deposits  
5 or cold region mining;

6 (xiii) mineral economics, including  
7 analysis of supply chains, future mineral  
8 needs, and unconventional mining re-  
9 sources; and

10 (xiv) mining practices that reduce en-  
11 vironmental impact, including mining prac-  
12 tices that reduce water usage, mitigate  
13 surface disturbance, and promote overall  
14 resource efficiency.

15 (d) MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVI-  
16 SORY BOARD.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an advi-  
18 sory board, to be known as the “Mining Professional  
19 Development Advisory Board”.

20 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-  
21 posed of 6 members, to be appointed by the Sec-  
22 retary not later than 180 days after the date of en-  
23 actment of this Act, of whom—



1           (A) 3 shall be individuals who are actively  
2 working in the mining profession and for the  
3 mining industry; and

4           (B) 3 shall have experience in academia  
5 implementing and operating professional skills  
6 training and education programs in the mining  
7 sector.

8 (3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

9           (A) evaluate grant applications received  
10 under subsection (c) and make recommenda-  
11 tions to the Secretary for selection of grant re-  
12 cipients under that subsection;

13           (B) propose the amount of the grant for  
14 each applicant recommended to be selected  
15 under subparagraph (A); and

16           (C) perform oversight to ensure that grant  
17 funds awarded under subsection (c) are used  
18 for the purposes described in paragraph (4) of  
19 that subsection.

20 (4) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve  
21 for a term of 4 years.

22 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

23           (A) shall not affect the powers of the  
24 Board; and

1                   (B) shall be filled in the same manner as  
2                   the original appointment was made by not later  
3                   than 180 days after the date on which the va-  
4                   cancy occurs.

5           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
7 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033.

8 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF THE MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES**  
9 **INSTITUTES ACT.**

10           The Mining and Mineral Resources Institutes Act (30  
11 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) is repealed.