



**Legislative Bulletin.....March 15, 2013**

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**Amendments to H.R. 803** —The Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act

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**Amendments to H.R. 803 — SKILLS ACT  
(Foxx, R-NC)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on March 14, 2013, under a rule, H.Res. 113. The rule allows the Speaker to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House for the consideration of H.R. 803. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and provides for one hour of general debate. After general debate, the legislation shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule only makes in order those amendments that are summarized below. After amendment debate, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House. At that time, any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment that was adopted while in the Committee of the Whole. The rule allows for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The text of the rule can be [found here](#).

**Amendments Made In Order:**

**Foxx (R-NC):** Managers Amendment: The amendment makes several technical edits to the legislation. Additionally, the amendment adds a new section to the legislation that directs the Comptroller General to evaluate the effectiveness of funds under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provided to training services for adults. This study will include a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor, as well as a review of state and local policies. The study will be sent to Congress within 12 months of enactment and will make appropriate recommendations to Congress.

The amendment also directs to the Comptroller General to determine the amount of administrative costs at the federal and state levels, for the most recent fiscal year, for each program authorized under WIA, or repealed by this legislation. The Comptroller General shall also determine the amount of administrative cost savings, at the federal and state levels, as a result of repealing and consolidating programs in the legislation. The Comptroller General shall also estimate the administrative cost savings, at the federal and state levels, as a result of states consolidating funds under WIA to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded state and local employment and training programs. The study will be sent to Congress within 12 months of enactment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

**Gallego (D-TX):** The amendment adds “training in advanced manufacturing” to the list of areas in which a state must describe how they will provide certain support and placement services to veterans. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

**Young (R-AK), Cole (R-OK), and Noem (R-SD):** The underlying text allows the Secretary to reserve not more than 1% of the total amount for a fiscal year to make grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska-Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities. This amendment strikes the words “not more than”, thereby eliminating the cap of 1% and replacing it with a fixed amount of 1%. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

**Black (R-TN):** The amendment adds a sense of Congress that when funds are appropriated to cover administrative costs under the Workforce Investment Act those funds should be offset by funds from the USDA’s Office for Advocacy and Outreach, which is a marketing and outreach program.

According to the sponsor: USDA created an aggressive outreach program in 1994, which has grown even further under the current administration through the president’s stimulus package. The USDA has collaborated with [Mexican government officials](#) to promote participation in Latin communities, teaching recruitment workers how to “[overcome the word ‘No.’](#)” which compels working class families into public assistance and dependence. USDA has also funded a “Hunger Champions” award to increase SNAP participation. This award has been given to certain workers for “counteracting” a community’s “[mountain pride](#)” and translated to a 10 percent increase in food stamp recipients in just one year. This amendment expresses a sense of Congress that misused dollars go towards job training and employment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

**Garrett (R-NJ):** The amendment reduces authorization amounts by 10% for the fiscal year in cases where a required report is not transmitted to Congress by the time such report is required. Authorization amounts would be reduced by an additional 10% for each fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

**Tierney (D-MA), Hinojosa (D-TX), and Miller (D-CA):** Substitute Amendment: The amendment also authorizes a new Community College to Career Fund and authorizes for appropriation \$8,000,000,000 for this fund. The amendment also imposes a new federal mandate on who can serve on state and local workforce boards, including a requirement that at least 20% of board membership be held by organized labor. The substitute amendment also creates new programs, including two Workforce Innovation Funds that essentially put the administration’s priorities and decision-making power above state and local leaders. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

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