

(Pub. L. 91-173, title V, §514, as added Pub. L. 109-236, §11, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 501.)

§ 964. Scholarships

(a) Establishment

The Secretary of Education (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide scholarships to eligible individuals to increase the skilled workforce for both private sector coal mine operators and mine safety inspectors and other regulatory personnel for the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(b) Fundamental skills scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in 2-year associate’s degree programs at community colleges or other colleges and universities that focus on providing the fundamental skills and training that is of immediate use to a beginning coal miner.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) shall include basic math, basic health and safety, business principles, management and supervisory skills, skills related to electric circuitry, skills related to heavy equipment operations, and skills related to communications.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

- (A) have a high school diploma or a GED;
- (B) have at least 2 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;
- (C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and
- (D) demonstrate an interest in working in the field of mining and performing an internship with the Mine Safety and Health Administration or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Office of Mine Safety.

(c) Mine safety inspector scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor’s degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to become mine safety inspectors.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

- (A) have a high school diploma or a GED;
- (B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;
- (C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and
- (D) agree to be employed for a period of at least 5 years at the Mine Safety and Health Administration or, to repay, on a pro-rated basis, the funds received under this program, plus interest, at a rate established by the Secretary upon the issuance of the scholarship.

(d) Advanced research scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarships to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor’s degree, masters degree, and Ph.D. degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to augment and advance research in mine safety and to broaden, improve, and expand the universe of candidates for mine safety inspector and other regulatory positions in the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

- (A) have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited 4-year institution;
- (B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in underground mining or mining-related activities; and
- (C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 91-173, title V, §515, as added Pub. L. 109-236, §12, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 502.)

§ 965. Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants

(a) In general

The Secretary of Labor shall establish a program to award competitive grants for education and training, to be known as Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants, to carry out the purposes of this section.

(b) Purposes

It is the purpose of this section,¹ to provide for the funding of education and training programs to better identify, avoid, and prevent unsafe working conditions in and around mines.

(c) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

- (1) be a public or private nonprofit entity; and
- (2) submit to the Secretary of Labor an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) Use of funds

Amounts received under a grant under this section shall be used to establish and implement education and training programs, or to develop training materials for employers and miners, concerning safety and health topics in mines, as determined appropriate by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(e) Awarding of grants

(1) Annual basis

Grants under this section shall be awarded on an annual basis.

(2) Special emphasis

In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give special emphasis to programs and materials that target workers in smaller mines, including training miners and employers about new Mine Safety and Health Administration standards, high risk activities, or hazards identified by such Administration.

(3) Priority

In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give priority to the funding of pilot and demonstration projects that the Secretary determines will provide opportunities for broad applicability for mine safety.

(f) Evaluation

The Secretary of Labor shall use not less than 1 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section in a fiscal year to conduct evaluations of the projects funded under grants under this section.

(g) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 109-236, §14, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 504.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, also known as the MINER Act, and not as part of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 which comprises this chapter.

§ 966. Retention of fees

The Mine Safety and Health Administration may retain up to \$2,499,000 in this fiscal year and

¹ So in original. The comma probably should not appear.

each fiscal year thereafter from fees collected for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and may utilize such sums for such activities.

(Pub. L. 113-76, div. H, title I, Jan. 17, 2014, 128 Stat. 357.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This fiscal year, referred to in text, is fiscal year 2014.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014, and also as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, and not as part of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 which comprises this chapter.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS

Similar provisions were contained in the following appropriation acts:

- Pub. L. 115-245, div. B, title I, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3058.
- Pub. L. 115-141, div. H, title I, Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 706.
- Pub. L. 115-31, div. H, title I, May 5, 2017, 131 Stat. 512.
- Pub. L. 114-113, div. H, title I, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2593.
- Pub. L. 113-235, div. G, title I, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2460.

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§ 1001. Definitions

- As used in this chapter, the term—
- (a) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior;
 - (b) “geothermal lease” means a lease issued under authority of this chapter;
 - (c) “geothermal resources” means (i) all products of geothermal processes, embracing