



H.R. 375 - Make It In America Manufacturing Act

The Objective

The *Make It In America Manufacturing Act* facilitates the creation of unique public-private partnerships – bringing together federal, state, local, and regional stakeholders to develop comprehensive Manufacturing Enhancement Strategies and deliver targeted resources to strengthen this vital sector of our economy. This competitive grant program links government entities, educational institutions, industry, chambers of commerce, non-profits, and other essential partners at the same table to formulate plans designed to improve the competitiveness of manufacturers in the United States and provide resources to help –

- Address the skills gap hindering the growth of the sector;
- Enhance the competitiveness of the industry, including through increased exports and domestic supply chain opportunities;
- Assist manufacturers in retooling, expanding, and transitioning their enterprises to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Incentive Grant & Eligibility (Sections 3 & 4)

The *Make It In America Manufacturing Act* calls for the creation of an incentive grant program jointly administered by the Departments of Commerce and Labor. This legislation encourages an approach to enhancing the manufacturing industry that is driven at the regional, state, and local level. At the same time, the *Make It In America Manufacturing Act* calls for the coordination of Federal agencies to ensure the program is carried out effectively and resources are utilized efficiently. The maximum grant award is \$20 million, with priority given to entities providing at least a 50 percent cash or in-kind matching contribution. Grant funds would be used to establish a revolving loan fund to make low-interest loans to manufacturers to –

- Establish, retool, retrofit, or expand manufacturing facilities
- Improve energy or process efficiency
- Access new markets, grow export capabilities, and facilitate new domestic supply chain connections
- Perform other activities authorized by the Secretaries of Commerce and Labor for the purpose of carrying out a manufacturing enhancement strategy.

Funds could also be used to award grants to not-for-profit third parties, such as community colleges, to provide on-the-job and off-site training, create apprenticeship programs, and support training and education initiatives that align with employer demand and result in industry-recognized credentials. Not-for-profit third parties can also receive grant funding to provide technical assistance to manufacturers to help them access new international markets to boost exports, as well as identify and pursue new opportunities for domestic supply chain connections and additional new markets.

All manufacturers would be eligible recipients for low-interest loans, provided the funds are used to carry out activity in the United States.

Requirements for Make It In America Incentive Grant Recipients (Section 5)

States or regional partnerships seeking a *Make It In America Incentive Grant* are required to create a ***Make It In America Partnership Board*** and submit a ***Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy*** as part of their application, including –

- An explanation of their plans to make low-interest loans or award grants to third parties to improve the competitiveness of manufacturing industries
- An assessment of the expected economic return on investment generated through the enhancement strategy and the incentive grant funding – including number of jobs to be created, potential increase in sales and cost savings, workforce training hours and credentials to be achieved, amount of private investment that federal funding would help leverage, and plans to address economic distress, including unemployment in the manufacturing industry
- A description of how the *Make It In America Partnership Board* will bring together all the necessary stakeholders to one table – including, among others, manufacturing firms, departments of labor, economic development entities, industry organizations, and education and workforce training agencies – and how that group will be empowered to implement the *Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy*.

Coordination and Accountability Measures (Sections 5, 6, 7)

In order to improve and maximize resource allocation, the *Make It In America Manufacturing Act* includes several provisions that encourage buy-in and participation from the private sector, while also promoting coordination within and across levels of government, and between for-profit and non-profit sectors. This legislation also recognizes the vitally important work of ***Hollings Manufacturing Extension Centers***, and requires close coordination with these centers, so as to compliment and build upon the services they provide to manufacturers. The bill establishes an advisory committee comprised of state and local government, regional planning, education, manufacturing and other vital stakeholders to provide input to the Departments of Commerce and Labor on the implementation and evaluation of the program.