

S 2779

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Apr 12, 2016

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Apr 12, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2779>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]

Party: Democratic • **State:** DE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Apr 12, 2016
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Apr 12, 2016
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		May 18, 2016
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 24, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 12, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act of 2016

This bill amends the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to direct the Department of Commerce, through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to convert the current program for creation and support of regional centers for the transfer of manufacturing technology into one for creation and support of manufacturing extension centers for the transfer of manufacturing technology and best business practices, to be known as the Hollings Manufacturing Extension (HME) Partnership, and reauthorized for FY2017-FY2020.

Each Hollings Manufacturing Extension Center may be affiliated with an institution of higher education or a state or local government, as well as with a U.S.-based nonprofit institution (or consortium of such institutions) as under current law.

Authorized Center activities that currently include selective, short-term loans of advanced manufacturing equipment to small manufacturing firms shall be replaced by facilitation of collaborations and partnerships between small and medium-sized manufacturing companies and community colleges and area career and technical education schools.

The bill repeals the current six-year limit on federal financial assistance to a Center, allowing open-ended assistance through a cooperative agreement.

Commerce shall appoint a panel to review and evaluate each Center receiving financial assistance during its third and eighth years of operation, but the Department shall review a Center directly during its fifth year of operation.

Each Center shall establish a board to oversee its operations.

The bill establishes a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board.

The NIST shall establish within the HME Partnership:

- a program of competitive awards for a participating Center, or a consortium of Centers, to develop projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems; and
- an innovation services initiative to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers in improving profitability through the reduction of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental waste.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 12, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 12, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.