To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTWRIGHT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grace Hopper Code for Us Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:
(1) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(2) Information System.—The term “information system” has the meaning given the term in section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code.

(3) Institution of Higher Education.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(4) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(5) State.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 311 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REPORT CONCERNING CRITICAL LEGACY COMPUTER LANGUAGES USED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) Report.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congr-es-
sional committees a report identifying not fewer than 3
computer languages, in addition to COBOL, Assembly,
and PL/I, and to be known as “critical legacy computer
languages”, that are—

(1) used by, and necessary to support the needs
and national security of, the Federal Government;
and

(2) computer languages not commonly taught
in a course at an institution of higher education.

(b) PUBLICATION.—The Comptroller General shall
make the report publicly available, including by publishing
the report on the internet website of the Government Ac-
countability Office.

SEC. 4. GRACE HOPPER SUSTAINMENT AND MODERNI-
ZATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a pro-
gram to award grants to institutions of higher education,
to be known as the “Grace Hopper Sustainment and Mod-
ernization Grant Program (in this section referred to as
the ‘Program’)”, to support the development and imple-
mentation of courses of instruction regarding maintaining,
developing, and modernizing information systems utilizing
critical legacy computer languages identified in the report
required under section 3.

(b) GRANTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2022 and each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years, the Secretary annually shall award grants to 5 institutions of higher education to carry out the activities described in subsection (a).

(2) 2-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—For each fiscal year, at least 2 of the grants awarded under paragraph (1) shall be awarded to 2-year institutions of higher education that—

(A) award an associate’s degree; or

(B) offer university-based continuing education programs for information technology professionals.

(e) PRIORITIES.—When awarding grants under the Program, the Secretary will give priority to applications that—

(1) demonstrate a plan to continue their efforts to carry out the activities described in subsection (a) after the end of the grant period;

(2) demonstrate plans to recruit and include the participation of women and other under-represented minority groups;

(3) demonstrate plans to engage with local students in grades 6 through 12 regarding career opportunities relating to critical legacy languages;
(4) offer scholarship or other support to students enrolled in projects supported by the Program;

(5) incorporate perspectives into the challenges of modernizing legacy information technology systems from disciplines such as history, public policy, public administration, political science, business administration, management, economics, sociology, or other humanistic or social science disciplines;

(6) address the extent to which the grant recipient intends to utilize and support open source technology and best practices in connection with the Program; and

(7) demonstrate the ability to make agreements to place students in the projects funded by the grant in internships or similar arrangements with Federal, State, local, or private sector organizations where they can ensure that each such student works with computer programmers in maintaining, developing, or modernizing information systems utilizing critical legacy computer languages, with a preference for such placements lasting longer than 60 days.

(d) Special Rule Related to Geography.—Recipients of a grant under the Program may not be located in the same State.
(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, an institution of higher education shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, and containing such information, as the Secretary may require.

(f) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this section may not exceed $5,000,000.

(g) PERIOD OF A GRANT.—The period of a grant under this section may not exceed 3 years.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Each institution of higher education that receives a grant under the Program shall annually submit to the Secretary a report on the activities pursued under the Program, including to the extent practical, the employment status of scholarship recipients up to 5 years after such recipient graduates.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report relating to the use of grants awarded under the Program. The Secretary shall make each such report publicly available, including by publishing each such report on the internet website of the Department of Education.
(i) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated $100,000,000 to carry out this section.