

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3180

To establish the National Advisory Committee on Rural Education in the
Department of Education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish the National Advisory Committee on Rural
Education in the Department of Education.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “SCORE (Strength-
5 ening Community Opportunities through Rural Edu-
6 cation) Act of 2009”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 There is established in the Department of Education
9 an advisory committee to be known as the “National Advi-

1 sory Committee on Rural Education” (hereinafter in this
2 Act referred to as the “Advisory Committee”).

3 **SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS.**

4 The Advisory Committee shall study the unique chal-
5 lenges faced by rural public school systems in providing
6 elementary and secondary education, including whether
7 and how any of the following factors affect those unique
8 challenges:

9 (1) Difficulty in attracting and retaining new
10 teachers.

11 (2) Deficient or inadequate school facilities and
12 infrastructure.

13 (3) Deficient or inadequate transportation in-
14 frastructure.

15 (4) Difficulty in effectively incorporating infor-
16 mation technology.

17 (5) Decreasing number of recent postsecondary
18 graduates returning to rural communities.

19 (6) Limited and varied levels of funding.

20 **SEC. 4. COMPOSITION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall be
22 composed of 21 members who shall serve for the life of
23 the Advisory Committee.

24 (b) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Education (hereinafter
25 in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) or the designee

1 of the Secretary shall be a member of the Advisory Com-
2 mittee and shall serve as the chair of the Advisory Com-
3 mittee.

4 (c) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of
5 Agriculture or the designee of the Secretary of Agriculture
6 shall be a member of the Advisory Committee.

7 (d) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

8 (1) The chair shall appoint the other 19 mem-
9 bers in a manner that ensures that the membership
10 of the Advisory Committee is fairly balanced in
11 terms of the points of view represented and the
12 functions to be performed by the Advisory Com-
13 mittee.

14 (2) Such members shall be selected from among
15 experts on rural public school systems. For the pur-
16 poses of this paragraph, the term “experts on rural
17 public school systems” means any of the following:

18 (A) Teachers from such school systems.

19 (B) Administrators from such school sys-
20 tems.

21 (C) Members of school boards for such
22 school systems.

23 (D) Other individuals with experience or
24 qualifications that the Secretary determines rel-
25 evant.

1 (3) Not less than 1 member shall be an indi-
2 vidual with expertise on incorporating and expanding
3 the role of information technology in providing edu-
4 cation in rural public school systems.

5 (4) Not less than 1 member shall be an indi-
6 vidual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time
7 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

8 (5) The chair shall fill a vacancy on the Advi-
9 sory Committee in the same manner in which the
10 original appointment was made.

11 **SEC. 5. BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES.**

12 (a) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet
13 at the call of a majority of the members of the Advisory
14 Committee.

15 (b) QUORUM.—Eleven members of the Advisory Com-
16 mittee shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may
17 hold hearings.

18 (c) MEMBERS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED FEDERAL
19 OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES.—By reason of their service on
20 the Advisory Committee, members of the Committee shall
21 not be considered to be officers or employees of the Fed-
22 eral Government for purposes of any Federal law.

23 (d) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member may receive
24 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,

1 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee may, for
5 the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit
6 and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive
7 evidence as the Advisory Committee determines appro-
8 priate.

9 (b) MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any member or agent
10 of the Advisory Committee may, if authorized by the Advi-
11 sory Committee, take any action that the Advisory Com-
12 mittee is authorized to take by this section.

13 (c) MAILS.—The Advisory Committee may use the
14 United States mails in the same manner and under the
15 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
16 United States.

17 (d) CONTRACTS.—To the extent or in the amounts
18 provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Advisory
19 Committee may contract with and compensate government
20 and private agencies or persons for supplies or services,
21 without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes.
22 The Advisory Committee may not enter into a contract
23 if the terms of the contract extend beyond the date the
24 Advisory Committee terminates.

1 **SEC. 7. STAFF.**

2 On request of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary
3 of Education shall detail, on a reimbursable basis, not
4 more than 4 personnel of the Department of Education
5 to the Advisory Committee to assist the Advisory Com-
6 mittee in carrying out this Act.

7 **SEC. 8. REPORT.**

8 Two times each year, the Advisory Committee shall
9 submit to the Congress and the President and publish a
10 report that—

11 (1) identifies the unique challenges faced by
12 rural public school systems in providing elementary
13 and secondary education; and

14 (2) makes policy recommendations on a na-
15 tional effort to reform rural education by addressing
16 or overcoming those challenges.

17 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

18 The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date
19 that is 2 years after the effective date of this Act.

20 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary, to remain available for the life of the Advisory
23 Committee, such sums as may be necessary to carry out
24 this Act.

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