

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10265

To codify and authorize the White House Fellows Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Mr. FULLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To codify and authorize the White House Fellows Program,
and for other purposes.

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 “White House Fellows
5 Program Authorization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The White House Fellows Program was es-
9 tablished by Executive Order 11183, issued October
10 3, 1964, to provide gifted and highly motivated

1 Americans with first-hand experience in the process
2 of governing the Nation.

3 (2) Since its founding, the Program has pro-
4 duced nearly 900 alumni who have gone on to lead-
5 ership positions in the military, business, education,
6 media, philanthropy, and government.

7 (3) Despite its longstanding contribution to
8 public service and leadership development, the Pro-
9 gram has never been authorized by statute.

10 (4) Codifying the Program in law will ensure its
11 continuity, provide a stable statutory basis for its
12 administration and funding, and formally recognize
13 its value to the United States Government.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
17 means the President’s Commission on White House
18 Fellowships established under section 4.

19 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
20 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

21 (3) FELLOW.—The term “Fellow” means an in-
22 dividual selected to participate in the Program under
23 section 5.

1 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
2 the White House Fellows Program established under
3 section 4.

4 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM AND COMMISSION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Execu-
6 tive Office of the President a program to be known as
7 the “White House Fellows Program,” the purpose of
8 which is to provide outstanding citizens of the United
9 States with first-hand experience working at senior levels
10 of the Federal Government and a sense of personal in-
11 volvement in the leadership of the Nation.

12 (b) COMMISSION.—There is established the “Presi-
13 dent’s Commission on White House Fellowships” (in this
14 Act referred to as the “Commission”), which shall con-
15 tinue the functions performed under Executive Order
16 11183 (as amended) as of the date of enactment of this
17 Act.

18 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be
20 composed of not more than 30 members, appointed
21 by the President, who shall serve without compensa-
22 tion for their service on the Commission.

23 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall be pri-
24 vate citizens of the United States broadly represent-
25 ative of the regions, professions, and backgrounds of

1 the Nation, and shall be selected on a nonpartisan
2 basis.

3 (3) CHAIR.—The President shall designate a
4 Chair of the Commission from among its members.

5 (4) TERMS.—Members shall serve at the pleas-
6 ure of the President.

7 (d) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission
8 shall—

9 (1) establish criteria and procedures for the re-
10 cruitment, screening, and selection of Fellows, con-
11 sistent with section 5;

12 (2) recommend to the President the individuals
13 to be selected as Fellows in each program year;

14 (3) design and oversee an educational program
15 for Fellows, including seminars, roundtable discus-
16 sions, and study travel; and

17 (4) submit the report required under section 8.

18 **SEC. 5. SELECTION OF FELLOWS.**

19 (a) NUMBER.—The Commission shall recommend not
20 fewer than 11 and not more than 19 individuals for selec-
21 tion as Fellows in each program year, subject to the avail-
22 ability of appropriations.

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for selection as a
24 Fellow, an individual shall—

25 (1) be a citizen of the United States;

- 1 (2) have completed an undergraduate degree;
- 2 (3) be early in his or her chosen career;
- 3 (4) demonstrate unusual ability, high moral
- 4 character, outstanding motivation, and a broad ca-
- 5 pacity for leadership; and
- 6 (5) show exceptional promise of future develop-
- 7 ment.

8 (c) NONDISCRIMINATION.—Selection of Fellows shall
9 be made without discrimination on the basis of race, color,
10 religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, or political af-
11 filiation.

12 (d) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—An individual who is an
13 officer or employee of the Federal Government at the time
14 of application shall not be eligible for selection as a Fellow,
15 except that active-duty members of the Armed Forces
16 shall remain eligible.

17 (e) FINAL SELECTION.—The President shall make
18 the final selection of Fellows from among the individuals
19 recommended by the Commission.

20 **SEC. 6. TERMS OF SERVICE; COMPENSATION.**

21 (a) DURATION.—Except as provided in subsection
22 (b), a fellowship under the Program shall be for a term
23 of 12 months, beginning on the date specified by the Com-
24 mission.

1 (b) EXTENSION.—The Commission may, in its discre-
2 tion, extend the term of a fellowship for not more than
3 an additional 3 months.

4 (c) STATUS AND COMPENSATION.—A Fellow shall
5 serve as a full-time employee of the agency or office to
6 which the Fellow is assigned and shall receive pay and
7 benefits consistent with the applicable rates of pay under
8 the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United
9 States Code, as determined by the Director.

10 (d) ASSIGNMENT.—Fellows shall be assigned to serve
11 senior officials of the Executive Office of the President,
12 the heads of executive departments and agencies, or other
13 senior Federal officials, as determined by the Commission
14 in consultation with such officials.

15 (e) MILITARY PERSONNEL.—A member of the Armed
16 Forces selected as a Fellow shall remain subject to the
17 provisions of title 10, United States Code, and to applica-
18 ble service regulations governing fellowship participation,
19 including any post-fellowship service obligation established
20 by the Secretary concerned.

21 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**

22 (a) OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—The Di-
23 rector shall provide administrative, budgetary, and per-
24 sonnel support necessary for the operation of the Program
25 and the Commission.

1 (b) STAFF.—The Director may appoint and fix the
2 pay of such staff as may be necessary to carry out this
3 Act, in accordance with applicable provisions of title 5,
4 United States Code.

5 (c) DETAILEES.—Federal agencies may, upon re-
6 quest of the Director and with the consent of the employ-
7 ing agency, detail personnel to assist in the administration
8 of the Program without reimbursement.

9 **SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall
12 submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government
13 Reform of the House of Representatives and the Com-
14 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
15 of the Senate a report that includes—

16 (1) the number of individuals selected as Fel-
17 lows during the preceding program year;

18 (2) a summary of the agencies and offices to
19 which Fellows were assigned;

20 (3) an accounting of amounts expended in car-
21 rying out the Program; and

22 (4) any recommendations of the Commission for
23 legislative or administrative changes to improve the
24 Program.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office
3 of Personnel Management such sums as may be necessary
4 to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2027 through
5 2031.

6 **SEC. 10. RELATIONSHIP TO EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

7 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the
8 authority of the President to issue further executive orders
9 governing the internal administration of the Program that
10 are not inconsistent with this Act. To the extent any provi-
11 sion of Executive Order 11183, as amended, is incon-
12 sistent with this Act, this Act shall control.

13 **SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment
15 of this Act and shall apply beginning with the program
16 year following such date of enactment.

