

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4232

To reauthorize the national service laws, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize the national service laws, 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 “AmeriCorps Service
5 Modernization and Accountability Reform for Trust Act”
6 or the “A SMART Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

8 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—PROGRAM MODERNIZATION

Subtitle A—Program Flexibilities

- Sec. 101. Expansion of national service positions with shorter periods of service.
- Sec. 102. National Civilian Community Corps term extension authority.
- Sec. 103. Increased age eligibility range for the National Civilian Community Corps.
- Sec. 104. Timekeeping.
- Sec. 105. Spending flexibility.
- Sec. 106. Volunteer generation fund.
- Sec. 107. State Commissions.

Subtitle B—Organizational Modernization

- Sec. 111. Requirements for Board of Directors appointees.
- Sec. 112. Comprehensive service site resource.
- Sec. 113. Evaluation transparency.

TITLE II—MEMBER EXPERIENCE

- Sec. 201. Educational awards.
- Sec. 202. Workforce development.
- Sec. 203. Increasing educational award limit.
- Sec. 204. Alignment of benefits.
- Sec. 205. Non-competitive hiring eligibility.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 301. Clerical amendments.
- Sec. 302. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 303. Effective date.

TITLE I—PROGRAM

MODERNIZATION

Subtitle A—Program Flexibilities

**SEC. 101. EXPANSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS
WITH SHORTER PERIODS OF SERVICE.**

(a) REDUCTION IN HOURS OF FULL-TIME SERVICE.—Section 139(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12593(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “An individual” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (3), an individual”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the heading, by inserting “FULL-
2 OR” after “HOURS OF”;

3 (B) by inserting “full- or” after “com-
4 plete”; and

5 (C) by inserting “or stipend” after
6 “award”.

7 (b) SEASON OF SERVICE.—The National and Com-
8 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in section 153(d) (42 U.S.C. 12613(d))—

11 (A) by striking “nine months” and insert-
12 ing “eight weeks”; and

13 (B) by striking “such period” and insert-
14 ing “year. A period of service performed by an
15 individual in an originally-agreed to term of
16 service and service performed in the term of
17 any renewed agreement shall constitute a single
18 term of service for purposes of section
19 146(b)(1), and the individual shall not be con-
20 sidered to have received more than the value of
21 1 national service educational award for service
22 during those 2 terms for purposes of section
23 146(c).”; and

24 (2) in section 156(a) (42 U.S.C. 12616(a)), by
25 striking “with between three and six weeks of”.

1 **SEC. 102. NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS TERM**
2 **EXTENSION AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 139(b)(4)(A) of the National and Community
4 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12593(b)(4)(A)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) by striking “An individual” and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(i) DISASTER RELIEF.—An indi-
9 vidual”;

10 (2) by striking “or section 153(d)”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(ii) OTHER PROGRAMS.—An indi-
13 vidual in an approved national service posi-
14 tion in a program under section 152(a)
15 may, upon the approval of the Director of
16 the National Civilian Community Corps,
17 continue in a term of service for up to 180
18 days beyond the period otherwise specified
19 in section 153(d) or 90 days beyond the
20 period otherwise specified in section
21 154(c).”.

22 **SEC. 103. INCREASED AGE ELIGIBILITY RANGE FOR THE**
23 **NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS.**

24 Section 153(b)(1) of the National and Community
25 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12613(b)(1)) is amended
26 by striking “24” and inserting “26”.

1 **SEC. 104. TIMEKEEPING.**

2 (a) APPLICATION.—Section 131(e) of the National
3 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12583(e))
4 is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
6 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and align-
7 ing the margins of those subparagraphs with the
8 margins of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
9 131(d)(1) of that Act;

10 (2) by striking “Except as” and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as”;

13 (3) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), as so designated—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
18 the period and inserting “; and”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(C) ensure that records supporting the
22 provision of any living allowance or other ben-
23 efit provided to any participant in a national
24 service program described in subparagraph (A)
25 or (B) accurately reflect the national service

1 performed and meet the requirements of para-
2 graph (2).”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) RECORDS.—Such an applicant that re-
5 ceives assistance under section 121 shall, in main-
6 taining the records described in paragraph (1)(C)
7 with respect to a participant described in that para-
8 graph—

9 “(A) ensure that each charge for such an
10 allowance or benefit is accurate, allowable,
11 properly allocated, and incorporated into the of-
12 ficial records of the applicant;

13 “(B) reflect the total, actual national serv-
14 ice program service activity by the participant
15 and account separately for service activity
16 under the grant for the recipient and other
17 work activity for the recipient that is not for a
18 national service program, in such a manner as
19 to ensure that the participant is credited for
20 national service time under the grant, only for
21 service activity under the grant;

22 “(C) accurately support the distribution of
23 such an allowance or benefit of the participant
24 among specific activities or cost objectives if the
25 participant provides service activity under the

1 grant for the recipient and other work activity
 2 for the recipient that is not for a national serv-
 3 ice program; and

4 “(D) include the same information, accord-
 5 ing to the same standards, for—

6 “(i) funds provided through cost-shar-
 7 ing requirements and used to provide the
 8 allowance or benefit; and

9 “(ii) funds provided through a Fed-
 10 eral award and so used.”.

11 (b) CERTIFICATION.—Section 146A of the National
 12 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12602a)
 13 is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
 15 section (c); and

16 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(b) TIMEKEEPING.—The entity shall submit records
 19 to the Corporation, upon the individual’s completion of the
 20 requirements for a term of service, that support such com-
 21 pletion, that accurately reflect the national service per-
 22 formed, and that meet the requirements of section
 23 131(e)(2). Such records shall be held by the Corporation
 24 to facilitate administration of the National Service Trust

1 for a period of not less than 5 years beginning on the date
 2 of that submission.”.

3 **SEC. 105. SPENDING FLEXIBILITY.**

4 (a) REINVESTMENT OF UNOBLIGATED AND EXPIR-
 5 ING FUNDS.—Section 196 of the National and Community
 6 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651g) is amended by
 7 adding at the end the following:

8 “(d) REINVESTMENT OF UNOBLIGATED AND EXPIR-
 9 ING FUNDS.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is es-
 11 tablished in the Treasury of the United States a
 12 fund to be known as the ‘Unobligated and Expiring
 13 Amounts Fund’, referred to in this subsection as the
 14 ‘Fund’.

15 “(2) AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 17 graph (B), any amounts appropriated for ex-
 18 penses of the Corporation to carry out the na-
 19 tional service laws that are unobligated and
 20 would otherwise expire on September 30 of a
 21 fiscal year shall, on such September 30 of that
 22 fiscal year, be transferred to the Fund and re-
 23 main available until expended.

24 “(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL OPINION.—The
 25 Corporation may only make a transfer under

subparagraph (A) of amounts described in such
subparagraph that are unobligated and would
otherwise expire on—

“(i) September 30 of the first fiscal
year in which the Inspector General of the
Corporation has issued an opinion, without
qualification, certifying the accuracy of the
Corporation’s financial statements issued
through the integrated accounting and fi-
nancial management system maintained
under section 194(c)(2) with respect to the
fiscal year preceding such fiscal year; or

“(ii) September 30 of each fiscal year
thereafter.

“(3) USE OF FUND.—The Corporation may use
amounts available in the Fund to—

“(A) provide for additional awards and de-
posits of funds for positions under section 121
of this Act and sections 102, 201, 211, and 213
of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973
(42 U.S.C. 4952, 5001, 5011, 5013); or

“(B) modernize technology used in the ad-
ministration of the national service laws.”.

(b) EXPENDITURE OF INVESTMENT INCOME IN THE
NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 145(c) of the Na-
 2 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
 3 U.S.C. 12601(c)) is amended—

4 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
 5 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
 6 and indenting appropriately;

7 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 8 (A) (as so redesignated)—

9 (i) by striking “to the extent provided
 10 for in advance by appropriation” and in-
 11 serting “as described in paragraph (2)”;
 12 and

13 (ii) by striking “Amounts” and insert-
 14 ing the following:

15 “(1) USE OF AMOUNTS IN TRUST.—Amounts”;

16 and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS IN TRUST.—

19 “(A) APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts in the
 20 National Service Trust that are described in
 21 paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall be avail-
 22 able under paragraph (1) of this subsection to
 23 the extent provided for in advance by appro-
 24 priation.

1 “(B) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the
 2 National Service Trust that are described in
 3 paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a)
 4 shall be available under paragraph (1) of this
 5 subsection without further appropriation and
 6 without fiscal year limitation.”.

7 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 149
 8 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990
 9 (42 U.S.C. 12606) is amended by striking sub-
 10 section (d).

11 **SEC. 106. VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.**

12 Section 198P(f) of the National and Community
 13 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12653p(f)) is amended
 14 by striking “exceed—” and all that follows through the
 15 period at the end and inserting “exceed 75 percent of such
 16 cost.”.

17 **SEC. 107. STATE COMMISSIONS.**

18 (a) EXCEPTION FOR SENIORS PROGRAMS.—Section
 19 178(h) of the National and Community Service Act of
 20 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12638(h)) is amended by striking the
 21 period and inserting the following: “, unless—

22 “(1) such State Commission applies to be a
 23 sponsor for a project authorized under title II of the
 24 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
 25 5000 et seq.); or”.

1 (b) NATURAL DISASTER PLACEMENT FLEXI-
 2 BILITY.—That section 178(h) is further amended by add-
 3 ing at the end the following:

4 “(2) a natural disaster has been declared in
 5 such State, as determined by the Governor, in which
 6 case such State Commission may direct up to 25
 7 percent of its allotted funds under section 129(e)
 8 that remain unobligated on the date of the declara-
 9 tion, for recruitment of participants for disaster re-
 10 sponse from the period beginning on the date of the
 11 declaration and ending on the last day of the full fis-
 12 cal year following the date of that declaration.”.

13 (c) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATIVE SUBGRANT RE-
 14 CIPIENT REVIEW.—Section 185 of the National and Com-
 15 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12644b) is amend-
 16 ed—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
 18 section (c); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
 22 section (a), including the authority to make a modification
 23 under subsection (a), shall be construed to enable the Cor-
 24 poration to duplicate due diligence processes already ap-
 25 plied by primary grant recipients to their subgrant recipi-

1 ents, to enable the Corporation to apply those processes
 2 to the subgrant recipients. Primary grant recipients shall
 3 maintain sole responsibility over compliance of subgrant
 4 recipients with Federal regulations under this Act relating
 5 to due diligence processes.”.

6 **Subtitle B—Organizational** 7 **Modernization**

8 **SEC. 111. REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AP-** 9 **POINTEES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 192 of the National and
 11 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651a) is
 12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by inserting “a fi-
 14 nancial expert with a background relating to finan-
 15 cial controls, auditing, or private or public account-
 16 ing, and including” after “including”;

17 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “from the
 18 date on which the member takes office” before the
 19 period; and

20 (3) in subsection (d)—

21 (A) by striking “Board, a” and inserting
 22 “Board (whether due to the expiration of the
 23 term of a member of the Board or prior to such
 24 expiration), a”; and

1 (B) by striking “serve for” and all that fol-
 2 lows through the period at the end of the first
 3 sentence and inserting “serve for a 5-year term
 4 described in subsection (c).”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
 7 paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) shall apply
 8 to members of the Board of Directors of the Cor-
 9 poration for National and Community Service ap-
 10 pointed under section 192 of the National and Com-
 11 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651a) on
 12 or after the date of enactment of this Act.

13 (2) FINANCIAL EXPERT.—The amendment
 14 made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply on the earlier
 15 of—

16 (A) the first day, after the date of enact-
 17 ment of this Act, on which there is a vacancy
 18 in the Board of Directors of the Corporation for
 19 National and Community Service; and

20 (B) the day that is 5 years after the date
 21 of enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 112. COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE SITE RESOURCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall require
 24 that a recipient of an award of financial assistance under
 25 the national service laws, that enters into an agreement

1 (which may include making a subaward) with an organiza-
 2 tion to host participants under the national service laws,
 3 submit the information described in subsection (b) not
 4 later than 60 days after the award recipient enters into
 5 the agreement.

6 (b) INFORMATION.—The information described in
 7 this subsection is—

8 (1) the name of the organization with which the
 9 recipient enters into the agreement;

10 (2) all physical addresses for any site at which
 11 the recipient or the organization has agreed to host
 12 participants under the national service laws; and

13 (3) the location of a website for the recipient
 14 and, if applicable, the organization.

15 (c) RESOURCE.—The Corporation shall use the infor-
 16 mation for the creation of a comprehensive virtually acces-
 17 sible service site resource, to be updated on an annual
 18 basis.

19 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the terms “Cor-
 20 poration” and “national service laws” have the meanings
 21 given the terms in section 101 of the National and Com-
 22 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).

23 **SEC. 113. EVALUATION TRANSPARENCY.**

24 Section 179 of the National and Community Service
 25 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12639) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (n) as sub-
 2 section (o); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-
 4 lowing:

5 “(n) EVALUATION TRANSPARENCY.—On the issuance
 6 of any Notice of Funding Opportunity for financial assist-
 7 ance under the national service laws, the Corporation shall
 8 make available to the public a rubric generalizing the cri-
 9 teria used for evaluation of the recipients.”.

10 **TITLE II—MEMBER EXPERIENCE**

11 **SEC. 201. EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

12 (a) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN TRANSFER RESTRIC-
 13 TIONS.—Section 148(f) of the National and Community
 14 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604(f)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

16 (A) by striking “(A)(i) the” and inserting
 17 “(A) the”;

18 (B) by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

19 and

20 (C) by striking clause (ii); and

21 (2) in paragraph (8)(B)—

22 (A) by striking “paragraphs” and inserting
 23 “paragraph”; and

24 (B) by striking “and (4)”.

1 (b) UNIFORM SEGAL AMERICORPS EDUCATIONAL
 2 AWARD TRANSFERABILITY.—Section 148(f)(2)(A) of the
 3 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 4 12604(f)(2)(A)), as amended by subsection (a), is further
 5 amended by striking “a national service program that re-
 6 ceives a grant under subtitle C” and inserting “an ap-
 7 proved national service position”.

8 (c) DESIGNATIONS FOR LIMITATION ON RECEIPT OF
 9 NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Section
 10 146(c) of the National and Community Service Act of
 11 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12602(c)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “(c) LIMITATION ON RECEIPT
 13 OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—
 14 An individual” and inserting the following:

15 “(c) LIMITATION ON RECEIPT OF NATIONAL SERV-
 16 ICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual”;

18 (2) by striking “service. The value” and insert-
 19 ing the following: “service.

20 “(2) SUMMER OF SERVICE AWARDS.—The
 21 value”.

22 (d) HOLDER VERIFICATION OF AWARD ELIGIBILITY
 23 FOR STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT.—Section 148(b) of the
 24 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 25 12604(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
5 subparagraph (E); and

6 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
7 the following:

8 “(D) includes the most recent date that
9 the eligible individual involved became eligible
10 for an award described in this paragraph; and”;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) as
12 paragraphs (8) and (9); and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(7) RECORDKEEPING BY LOAN HOLDER.—On
16 receipt of the application described in paragraph (1),
17 the Corporation shall provide a record of such appli-
18 cation to the holder. The holder shall maintain such
19 record for a period of not less than 5 years, begin-
20 ning on the date identified under paragraph
21 (1)(D).”.

22 (e) INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION OF COURSE
23 COMPLETION.—Section 148(c) of the National and Com-
24 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12406(c)) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by inserting after “contains” the fol-
 3 lowing: “the most recent date that the eligible
 4 individual became eligible for an award de-
 5 scribed in this paragraph and”;

6 (B) by striking “may” after “as the Cor-
 7 poration” and inserting “shall”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:
 9 “The Corporation, and the institution of higher
 10 education, shall each maintain a record of the
 11 application described in this paragraph for not
 12 less than 5 years, beginning on the most recent
 13 date described in this paragraph.”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (5), in the first sentence—

15 (A) by inserting “from” after “withdraw”;

16 and

17 (B) by inserting “any course during” after
 18 “complete”.

19 (f) REQUIREMENT FOR CORPORATION VERIFICATION
 20 OF DOCUMENTATION.—Section 148 of the National and
 21 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604) is
 22 amended—

23 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
 24 section (i); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(h) VERIFICATION.—Amounts in the Trust shall be
 4 available for uses described in this section (including uses
 5 described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a))
 6 only after the Corporation has reviewed and certified all
 7 required documentation described in this section for—

8 “(1) the eligibility of the eligible individual (in-
 9 cluding the recipient of an award transferred in ac-
 10 cordance with subsection (g)), the holder (for use
 11 under subsection (b)), and the institution of higher
 12 education (for use under subsection (c)); and

13 “(2) any expenses incurred for purposes of car-
 14 rying out the activities described paragraphs (1)
 15 through (6) of subsection (a).”.

16 **SEC. 202. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

17 (a) TIME PERIOD FOR USE OF AWARD.—Section
 18 146(d) of the National and Community Service Act of
 19 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12602(d)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by striking “7-year period” and insert-
 22 ing “5-year period”; and

23 (B) by striking “10-year period” and in-
 24 serting “5-year period”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “7-year period, or 10-year period, as appropriate” and inserting “5-year period”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “seven-year period” and inserting “5-year period”.

(b) USE OF EDUCATIONAL AWARD FOR NONTRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 148 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) to pay expenses related to enrolling in an eligible career pathway program in accordance with subsection (f); and”;

(B) by redesignating subsections (f) (as amended by section 201), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) respectively; and

1 (C) by inserting after subsection (e) the
 2 following:

3 “(f) USE OF EDUCATIONAL AWARD FOR EXPENSES
 4 RELATED TO A NONTRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPOR-
 5 TUNITY.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall by
 7 regulation provide for the payment of national serv-
 8 ice educational awards, summer of service edu-
 9 cational awards, and silver scholar educational
 10 awards to permit eligible individuals (including re-
 11 cipients of awards transferred in accordance with
 12 section 148(g)) to participate in an eligible career
 13 pathway program.

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAM.—
 15 The term ‘eligible career pathway program’ means a
 16 program that—

17 “(A) meets the requirements of section
 18 484(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 19 (20 U.S.C. 1091(d)(2));

20 “(B) is listed, with the provider of the pro-
 21 gram, on the list under section 122(d) of the
 22 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
 23 U.S.C. 3152(d));

1 “(C) is part of a career pathway, as de-
 2 fined in section 3 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3102);
 3 and

4 “(D) is aligned with a program of study as
 5 defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
 6 reer and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
 7 U.S.C. 2302).”.

8 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National
 9 and Community Service Act of 1990 is amended—

10 (A) in section 146(d)(3) (42 U.S.C.
 11 12602(d)(3)), as amended by subsection (a)(3),
 12 by striking “148(f)(8)” and inserting
 13 “148(g)(8)”;

14 (B) in section 146A(a) (42 U.S.C.
 15 12602a), by striking “148(f)(8)” and inserting
 16 “148(g)(8)”; and

17 (C) in section 148(e) (42 U.S.C.
 18 12604(e)), by striking “subsection (b)(7)” and
 19 inserting “subsection (b)(8)”.

20 **SEC. 203. INCREASING EDUCATIONAL AWARD LIMIT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 138 of the National and
 22 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12592) is
 23 amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the fol-
 24 lowing:

25 “(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
 2 acceptance into a national service program to serve
 3 another term of service under section 139 shall only
 4 be available to individuals who perform satisfactorily
 5 in each prior term of such service.

6 “(2) MAXIMUM TERMS.—Subject to paragraph
 7 (3), an individual may not be selected to serve more
 8 than 4 terms of full-time service described under
 9 section 139(b)(1).

10 “(3) WAIVER.—The Corporation may waive the
 11 limit under paragraph (2) at the request of a State
 12 Commission.”.

13 (b) EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—Section 146(c)(1) of the
 14 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 15 12602(c)(1)), as designated by section 201(c), is further
 16 amended by striking “2 such awards” and inserting “4
 17 national service educational awards”.

18 **SEC. 204. ALIGNMENT OF BENEFITS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National and Com-
 20 munity Service Act of 1990 is amended—

21 (1) in section 141 (42 U.S.C. 12595)—

22 (A) in the heading, by inserting “**AND**
 23 **STIPENDS**” after “**AWARDS**”;

1 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “A par-
 2 ticipant” and inserting “Except as provided in
 3 subsection (c), a participant”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c) PAYMENT OPTION.—A participant in a national
 6 service program carried out using assistance provided to
 7 an applicant under section 121 may elect to receive a sti-
 8 pend described in section 149A in lieu of the national serv-
 9 ice educational award.”; and

10 (2) in subtitle D (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.)—

11 (A) in the subtitle heading, by inserting
 12 **“or Stipends”** after **“Awards”**;

13 (B) in section 145 (42 U.S.C. 12601)—

14 (i) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking
 15 “and silver scholar educational awards”
 16 and inserting “silver scholar educational
 17 awards, and stipends under section 149A”;

18 (ii) in subsection (c)(1), as amended
 19 by section 105(b)—

20 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
 21 ing “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

22 (II) by redesignating subpara-
 23 graph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

24 (III) by inserting after subpara-
 25 graph (A) the following:

1 “(B) stipends under section 149A; and”;

2 and

3 (iii) in subsection (d), by striking “or
4 silver scholar awards” each place it ap-
5 pears and inserting “silver scholar edu-
6 cational awards, or stipends under section
7 149A”;

8 (C) in section 146 (42 U.S.C. 12602)—

9 (i) in the heading, by inserting “**OR**
10 **STIPEND**” after “**AWARD**”;

11 (ii) in subsection (a)—

12 (I) in the matter preceding para-
13 graph (1) by striking “or silver schol-
14 ar educational award” and inserting
15 “silver scholar educational award, or
16 stipend under section 149A”; and

17 (II) in paragraph (2)—

18 (aa) in subparagraph (A),
19 by striking “award,” and insert-
20 ing “award or a stipend under
21 section 149A(a)(1),”; and

22 (bb) in subparagraph (B), in
23 the matter preceding clause (i),
24 by striking “award” and insert-
25 ing “award or stipend under sec-

1 tion 149A(a)(1) as described in
2 section 149A(a)(2)”; and

3 (iii) in subsection (c)(1), as des-
4 ignated by section 201(c), by striking “and
5 silver scholar educational awards” and in-
6 serting “, silver scholar educational
7 awards, and stipends under section 149A”;
8 (D) in section 147 (42 U.S.C. 12603)—

9 (i) in subsection (a), by striking “sub-
10 section (c),” and inserting “subsection (c)
11 or section 149A(a)(1),”; and

12 (ii) in subsection (c), by striking “If”
13 and inserting “Except as provided in sec-
14 tion 149A(a)(2) if”;

15 (E) in section 148 (42 U.S.C. 12604)—

16 (i) in subsection (a), as amended by
17 section 202(b), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(7) to provide stipends under section 149A in
20 lieu of a national service educational award.”; and

21 (ii) in subsection (h), as redesignated
22 by section 202(b), by striking “or silver
23 scholar educational award” and inserting
24 “silver scholar educational award, or sti-
25 pend under section 149A”;

1 (F) in section 149(b)(2) (42 U.S.C.
2 12606(b)(2))—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
4 “(or stipends under section 149A)” after
5 “national service educational awards”; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
7 “(or stipends under section 149A)” after
8 “national service educational awards”; and

9 (G) by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 149A. STIPEND.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(1) FULL-TIME.—An individual described in
13 section 146(a) who, except as provided in paragraph
14 (2), successfully completes a required full-time term
15 of national service under section 139(b)(1) may elect
16 to receive a stipend of an amount described in sub-
17 section (b) in lieu of a national service educational
18 award. The Corporation may not provide a stipend
19 under this subsection to an individual who receives
20 a national service educational award under this sub-
21 title for the completion of such term of national
22 service.

23 “(2) PARTIAL COMPLETION OF SERVICE.—If an
24 individual serving in an approved national service
25 position is released in accordance with section

1 139(c)(1)(A) from completing the full-time term of
 2 service agreed to by the individual, the Corporation
 3 may provide the individual with a stipend under
 4 paragraph (1) in the amount described under sub-
 5 section (b) that is applicable for the individual and
 6 that corresponds to the quantity of the term of serv-
 7 ice actually completed by the individual.

8 “(b) AMOUNT.—A stipend under subsection (a)(1)
 9 shall be set at a rate that is equivalent to the rate set
 10 for stipends provided to volunteers under section
 11 105(a)(1)(B) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of
 12 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(a)(1)(B)).

13 “(c) TERMS.—A stipend under subsection (a)(1) shall
 14 be provided in the same manner and in accordance with
 15 any regulations prescribed with respect to stipends pro-
 16 vided to volunteers under section 105(a) of the Domestic
 17 Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(a)).”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National and
 19 Community Service Act of 1990 is amended—

20 (1) in section 112(a)(3)(B) (42 U.S.C.
 21 12523(a)(3)(B)), by inserting “or stipend” after
 22 “educational award”;

23 (2) in section 118(i) (42 U.S.C. 12561(i))—

24 (A) in the heading, by inserting “OR STI-
 25 PEND” after “AWARD”; and

1 (B) by inserting “or stipend” after “edu-
2 cational award”;

3 (3) in section 121(c)(1) (42 U.S.C.
4 12571(c)(1)), by inserting “or stipends” after “edu-
5 cational awards”;

6 (4) in section 122(c)(1)(D)(iii) (42 U.S.C.
7 12572(c)(1)(D)(iii)), by inserting “or stipend” after
8 “educational award”;

9 (5) in section 123 (42 U.S.C. 12573)—

10 (A) in the heading, by inserting “**OR STI-**
11 **PENDS**” after “**AWARDS**”; and

12 (B) by inserting “or stipend” after “edu-
13 cational award”;

14 (6) in section 129 (42 U.S.C. 12572)—

15 (A) in subsection (c), by inserting “or sti-
16 pend” after “educational award”;

17 (B) in subsection (h), by inserting “or sti-
18 pends” after “educational awards” each place it
19 appears; and

20 (C) in subsection (i)(1), by inserting “or
21 stipend” after “educational award”;

22 (7) in section 130 (42 U.S.C. 12582)—

23 (A) in subsection (b)(11), by inserting “or
24 stipend” after “educational award”; and

1 (B) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “or
 2 stipends” after “educational awards” each place
 3 it appears;

4 (8) in section 133 (42 U.S.C. 12585)—

5 (A) in subsection(a)(2), by inserting “or
 6 stipend” after “educational award”; and

7 (B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by inserting
 8 “or stipends” after “educational awards”;

9 (9) in section 138(f) (42 U.S.C. 12592(f)), by
 10 inserting “or stipend” after “educational award”;

11 (10) in section 139 (42 U.S.C. 12593)—

12 (A) in subsection (b)(4)(C), by inserting
 13 “or stipend under section 149A” before the pe-
 14 riod; and

15 (B) in subsection (c)—

16 (i) in paragraph (2)—

17 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
 18 ing “award” and all that follows
 19 through “or” and inserting “award,
 20 as provided in section 147(c), or sti-
 21 pend, as provided in section
 22 149A(a)(2), corresponding to the por-
 23 tion of the term of service actually
 24 completed; or”; and

1 (II) in subparagraph (B), by in-
 2 serting “or stipend” after “edu-
 3 cational award”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or
 5 stipend” after “educational award”;

6 (11) in section 158 (42 U.S.C. 12618)—

7 (A) in subsection (f), by inserting “or sti-
 8 pend” after “educational award”; and

9 (B) in subsection (g), by inserting “or sti-
 10 pend” after “educational award”;

11 (12) in section 180 (42 U.S.C. 12640), by in-
 12 serting “and stipends” after “educational awards”;

13 (13) in section 198B(h) (42 U.S.C.
 14 12653b(h))—

15 (A) in the heading, by inserting “OR STI-
 16 PENDS” after “AWARDS”;

17 (B) by inserting “or a stipend under sec-
 18 tion 149A” after “such section”; and

19 (C) in the second sentence, by inserting
 20 “or stipend” after “educational award”; and

21 (14) in section 501(a) (42 U.S.C. 12681(a))—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by inserting “or stipends” after
 24 “educational awards”; and

1 (ii) by striking “number of partici-
 2 pants described in section 121(f)(1)” and
 3 inserting “relevant number of partici-
 4 pants”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (4)(B)—

6 (i) by inserting “or stipends” after
 7 “educational awards”; and

8 (ii) by striking “198B(b)(3)” and in-
 9 serting “198B”.

10 **SEC. 205. NON-COMPETITIVE HIRING ELIGIBILITY.**

11 (a) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF
 12 1990.—Title I of the National and Community Service
 13 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511 et seq.) is amended by in-
 14 serting after section 189D (42 U.S.C. 12645g) the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 **“SEC. 189E. NON-COMPETITIVE HIRING ELIGIBILITY.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means an
 19 agency, office, or other establishment in the execu-
 20 tive branch of the Federal Government.

21 “(2) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘com-
 22 petitive service’ has the meaning given the term in
 23 section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

24 “(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision
 25 of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing

1 appointments in the competitive service, and under such
 2 regulations as the Director of the Office of Personnel
 3 Management shall prescribe, the head of any agency may,
 4 in accordance with subsections (c) and (e), noncompeti-
 5 tively appoint any individual who is certified under sub-
 6 section (d) to a position in the competitive service for
 7 which the individual is otherwise qualified.

8 “(c) APPOINTMENT IN PERMANENT POSITION.—Any
 9 person appointed to a permanent position under sub-
 10 section (b) shall—

11 “(1) become a career-conditional employee, un-
 12 less the employee has otherwise completed the serv-
 13 ice requirements for career tenure; and

14 “(2) acquire competitive status upon completion
 15 of any prescribed probationary period.

16 “(d) CERTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Offi-
 18 cer may certify an individual under this subsection
 19 if the individual successfully completed—

20 “(A) a term of national service as a mem-
 21 ber or team leader, as described in paragraph
 22 (1) or (4) of section 155(b), in the AmeriCorps
 23 National Civilian Community Corps program
 24 component described in section 153;

“(B) a period of service of not less than one year as a volunteer or designated volunteer leader under part A of title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.); or

“(C) not less than 1,700 hours of service as described in section 139(b)(1) as a participant under section 137.

“(2) RELIANCE ON OTHER CERTIFICATIONS.—

In making any certification under paragraph (1), the Chief Executive Officer may rely on a certification made by the entity that selected the individual for, and supervised the individual in, the service described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of such paragraph.

“(3) ERRONEOUS OR INCORRECT CERTIFI-

CATION.—If the Chief Executive Officer determines that a certification under paragraph (1) is erroneous or incorrect, the Corporation shall, after considering the full facts and circumstances surrounding the erroneous or incorrect certification, take action as permitted under law.

“(e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—The head of any

agency may make an appointment of an individual under subsection (b)—

1 “(1) not later than 1 year after the date of
 2 completion by the individual of the service described
 3 in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection
 4 (d)(1); or

5 “(2) not later than 3 years after such date in
 6 the case of an individual who, following such service,
 7 was engaged—

8 “(A) in military service;

9 “(B) in the pursuit of studies at a recog-
 10 nized institution of higher education, as defined
 11 in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
 12 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); or

13 “(C) in other activities that, as determined
 14 by the head of such agency, warrant an ex-
 15 tended time period before the appointment.”.

16 (b) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF
 17 1973.—Section 415 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act
 18 of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5055) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “(d),”; and

20 (2) by striking subsection (d).

1 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**
 2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 301. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

4 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the National
 5 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501
 6 note) is amended—

7 (1) by striking the item relating to section 141
 8 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 141. National service educational awards and stipends.”;

9 (2) by striking the item relating to subtitle D
 10 of title I and inserting the following:

“Subtitle D—National Service Trust and Provision of Educational Awards or
 Stipends”;

11 (3) by striking the item relating to section 141
 12 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 145. Individuals eligible to receive an educational award or stipend from
 the trust.”;

13 (4) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 14 tion 149 the following:

“Sec. 149A. Stipend.”; and

15 (5) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 16 tion 189D the following:

“Sec. 189E. Non-competitive hiring eligibility.”.

17 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF
 19 1990.—Section 501 of the National and Community Serv-
 20 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12681) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “title
3 I—” and all that follows through the period at
4 the end and inserting “title I such sums as may
5 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2027
6 through 2031.”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (4)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
9 “section 198K” and all that follows and
10 inserting “section 198K such sums as may
11 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2027
12 through 3031.”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
14 “section 198P” and all that follows and in-
15 serting “section 198P such sums as may
16 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2027
17 through 3031.”; and

18 (2) by striking “2010 through 2014” each place
19 it appears and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

20 (b) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF
21 1973.—Title V of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of
22 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5081 et seq.) is amended—

23 (1) in section 501(a) (42 U.S.C. 5081(a))—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “title I”
25 and all that follows through the period at the

1 end and inserting “title I such sums as may be
2 necessary for each of fiscal years 2027 through
3 2031.”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2010
5 through 2014” and inserting “2027 through
6 2031”;

7 (2) in section 502 (42 U.S.C. 5082)—

8 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “title II”
9 and all that follows through the period at the
10 end and inserting “title II such sums as may be
11 necessary for each of fiscal years 2027 through
12 2031.”;

13 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “title II”
14 and all that follows through the period at the
15 end and inserting “title II such sums as may be
16 necessary for each of fiscal years 2027 through
17 2031.”;

18 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “title II”
19 and all that follows through the period at the
20 end and inserting “title II such sums as may be
21 necessary for each of fiscal years 2027 through
22 2031.”; and

23 (D) in subsection (d), by striking “2010
24 through 2014” and inserting “2027 through
25 2031”; and

1 (3) in section 504 (42 U.S.C. 5084), by striking
2 “2010 through 2014” each place it appears and in-
3 serting “2027 through 2031”.

4 **SEC. 303. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act, and the amendments
6 made by this Act, shall—

7 (1) take effect on the day that is 1 year after
8 the date of enactment of this Act; and

9 (2) apply with respect to individuals who enroll
10 on or after such day in a program under the na-
11 tional service laws and with respect to grants award-
12 ed under the national service laws on or after such
13 day.

14 (b) DEFINITION OF NATIONAL SERVICE LAWS.—For
15 purposes of this section, the term “national service laws”
16 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the
17 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
18 12511).

○