Public Law 96-143
96th Congress

An Act

To authorize appropriations for programs under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, to amend such Act to facilitate the improvement of programs carried out thereunder, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979".

ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Sec. 2. (a) Section 103(b) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.) (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the Act") is amended by—

(1) striking out in the second sentence "Prior to" and inserting in lieu thereof "Not later than 30 days after"; and
(2) adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Director shall offer to provide each volunteer enrolled for a period of full-time service of not less than one year under this title, and, upon the request of such volunteer, provide such volunteer with an individual and updated plan as described in the preceding two sentences."

(b) Section 103(d) of the Act is amended by—

(1) inserting "in a program or project" after "work";
(2) inserting "or project" after "program"; and
(3) striking out in the first sentence "has not" and all that follows through the end of such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof "such Governor or other chief executive officer has not, within 45 days of the date of such submission, notified the Director in writing, supported by a statement of reasons, that such Governor or other chief executive officer disapproves such program or project. In the event of a timely request in writing, supported by a statement of reasons, by the Governor or other chief executive officer of the State concerned, the Director shall terminate a program or project or the assignment of a volunteer to a program or project not later than 30 days after the date such request is received by the Director, or at such later date as is agreed upon by the Director and such Governor or other chief executive officer."

SUPPORT SERVICES

Sec. 3. The first sentence of section 105(a)(2) of the Act is amended to read as follows: "Stipends shall be payable only upon completion of a period of service, except that under such circumstances as the Director shall determine, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe, the accrued stipend, or any part of the accrued stipend, may be paid to the volunteer, or, on behalf of the volunteer, to members of the volunteer's family or others during the period of the volunteer's service."

42 USC 4955.
LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN GRANTS

SEC. 4. (a) Section 108 of the Act is amended by—
(1) striking out "20" and inserting in lieu thereof "16"; and
(2) adding at the end the following new sentence: "During the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980—
"(1) in no event may in excess of $5,800,000 be used pursuant to grants and contracts under this part for the direct cost of supporting such volunteers; and
"(2) funds obligated pursuant to such grants and contracts for such cost may be used to support no greater number of years of volunteer service than the number of such years supported during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1979, pursuant to grants and contracts for such cost.",
(b) Section 108 of the Act, as amended in subsection (a), is further amended by inserting "(a)" after "Sec. 108." and by adding at the end the following new subsection:
"(b) No funds shall be obligated under this part pursuant to grants or contracts made after the date of the enactment of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979 for new projects for the direct cost of supporting volunteers unless the recipient of each such grant or contract has been selected through a competitive process which includes—
"(1) public announcements of the availability of funds for such grants or contracts, general criteria for the selection of new recipients, and a description of the application process and the application review process; and
"(2) a requirement that each applicant for any such grant or contract identify, with sufficient particularity to assure that the assignments of volunteers under such grants and contracts will carry out the purpose of this part, the particular poverty or poverty-related human, social, or environmental problems on which the grant or contract will focus, and any such grant or contract shall specifically so identify such problems.".

SERVICE IN UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION PROGRAMS

SEC. 5. Section 113(a) of the Act is amended by striking out "and" and inserting in lieu thereof "except that volunteers serving in the University Year for ACTION program may be enrolled for periods of service of not less than the duration of an academic year, but volunteers enrolled for less than 12 months shall not receive stipends under section 105(a)(1). Volunteers serving under this part".

SPECIAL SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS

SEC. 6. Section 114(a) of the Act is amended by—
(1) striking out in the first sentence "10" and inserting in lieu thereof "22"; and
(2) striking out in the last sentence "$6,700,000" both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "$4,000,000".

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SEC. 7. (a) Section 122(a) of the Act is amended by—
(1) inserting "in urban and rural areas" after "programs" the first place it appears;
(2) striking out "and" the first place it appears, and by inserting after "abusers" a comma and a program of assistance
to victims of domestic violence, a program to provide technical and management assistance to distressed communities, a program designed to provide personal and group financial counseling to low-income and fixed-income individuals (utilizing volunteers with specialized or technical expertise), and a Helping Hand program"; and

(3) adding at the end the following new sentence: "In carrying out programs authorized by this part, the Director is authorized to provide for the recruitment, selection, and training of volunteers."

(b) Section 122(a) of the Act, as amended in subsection (a), is further amended by inserting "(1)" after "Sec. 122. (a)" and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Helping Hand' program means a program utilizing person-to-person services to reduce the necessity for institutionalization (in hospitals, mental institutions, nursing homes, other extended-care settings, and other facilities) and to ameliorate residential isolation (through senior centers, half-way house facilities, and other residential settings) of older persons, handicapped persons, and other affected persons, stressing interactions between persons from various age groups, particularly young and old, and carried out in coordination with the appropriate State system for the protection and advocacy of the rights of persons with developmental disabilities established pursuant to section 113 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6012)."

(c) Section 122(c) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

"(c)(1) The Director, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe, may provide to volunteers enrolled for periods of part-time service of not less than 20 hours per week for not less than 26 consecutive weeks under this part such allowances, support, and services as are described in section 105(b) and as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part, and shall apply the provisions of sections 104(c) and 105(b) to the service of volunteers enrolled for full-time service under this part.

"(2) The Director, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe with respect to volunteers enrolled for periods of full-time service of not less than one year under this part—

"(A) may provide to such volunteers such stipends, in total amounts not in excess of stipends provided under section 105(a) to volunteers serving under part A of this title, as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part; and

"(B) to the extent that the terms and conditions of the service of such volunteers are of similar character to the terms and conditions of the service of volunteers enrolled under part A of this title, shall apply to the service of such volunteers enrolled under this part the provisions of sections 103(b) relating to low-income community volunteers, 103(d), 104(d), and 105(a) to the extent such provisions are applied to the service of volunteers enrolled under such part A.".

(d) Not later than 18 months after funds are first made available to carry out activities under the amendments to part C of title I of the Act made by this section, the Director of the ACTION Agency shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report on programs, activities, grants, and contracts so carried out, including a description of all programs established and contracts and grants made under such amended provisions, the amounts of funds obligated
for such programs, activities, grants, and contracts under such amended provisions, and the specific arrangements for the conduct of evaluations of such programs, activities, grants, and contracts pursuant to section 417 of the Act.

PROHIBITION OF USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN POLITICAL OR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

SEC. 8. (a) Section 403(a) of the Act is amended by—
(1) inserting in the first sentence “or the outcome of any election to any State or local public office,” after “Federal office,”; and
(2) inserting in the last sentence “(when referring to an election for Federal office)” before “has the same meaning” the first place it appears.

(b) Section 403(b) of the Act is amended by—
(1) inserting “(1)” after “(b)”;
(2) redesignating clause (1), clause (2), and clause (3) as clause (A), clause (B), and clause (C), respectively;
(3) designating the last sentence of such subsection as subsection (c); and
(4) inserting after paragraph (1) (as so redesignated in clause (1) of this subsection), and before subsection (c) (as so designated in clause (3) of this subsection), the following new paragraph:
“(2) No funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall be used by any program assisted under this Act in any activity for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition, except—
“(A) in any case in which a legislative body, a committee of a legislative body, or a member of a legislative body requests any volunteer in, or employee of, such a program to draft, review, or testify regarding measures or to make representations to such legislative body, committee, or member; or
“(B) in connection with an authorization or appropriations measure directly affecting the operation of the program.”.

SPECIAL LIMITATIONS

SEC. 9. Section 404(g) of the Act is amended by—
(1) inserting “(1)” after “(g)”;
(2) inserting before the period at the end of such paragraph (as so redesignated in clause (1) of this section) a comma and “except that this paragraph shall not apply in the case of such payments when the Director determines that the value of all such payments, adjusted to reflect the number of hours such volunteers are serving, is equivalent to or greater than the minimum wage then in effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) or the minimum wage, under the laws of the State where such volunteers are serving, whichever is the greater”; and
(3) adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person enrolled for full-time service as a volunteer under title I of this Act who was otherwise entitled to receive assistance or services under any governmental program prior to such volunteer’s enrollment shall not be denied such assistance or services because of such volunteer’s failure or refusal to register for, seek, or accept employment or training during the period of such service.”.

42 USC 5043.

42 USC 5044.
Coordination with Other Programs

SEC. 10. Section 410 of the Act is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce, and the Treasury and officials of other appropriate departments and agencies, shall take all appropriate steps to encourage State and local governments, charitable and service organizations, and private employers (1) to take into account experience in volunteer work in the consideration of applicants for employment; and (2) to make provisions for the listing and description of volunteer work on all employment application forms."

Application of Federal Law

SEC. 11. (a) Section 415(b) of the Act is amended by—

(1) striking out in the first sentence "in programs under title I of this Act for periods of service of at least one year" and inserting in lieu thereof "as volunteers for periods of full-time service, or, as the Director deems appropriate in accordance with regulations, for periods of part-time service of not less than 20 hours per week for not less than 26 consecutive weeks, under title I of this Act";

(2) striking out in clause (3) "and";

(3) striking out in clause (4)(A) "the monthly pay of a volunteer shall be deemed that received under the entrance salary for a grade GS-7 employee," and inserting in lieu thereof "the annual rate of pay of a volunteer enrolled for a period of full-time service under such title I shall be deemed to be that received under the entrance salary for a grade GS-7 employee, and the annual rate of pay of a volunteer enrolled for a period of part-time service under such title I shall be deemed to be such entry salary or an appropriate portion thereof as determined by the Director;"; and

(4) inserting before the period at the end a comma and the following: "and (5) be deemed employees of the United States for the purposes of section 5584 of title 5, United States Code (and stipends and allowances paid under this Act shall be considered as pay for such purposes)."

(b) Section 415 of the Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f)(1) The remedy—

"(A) against the United States provided by sections 1346(b) and 2672 of title 28, United States Code, or

"(B) through proceedings for compensation or other benefits from the United States as provided by any other law, where the availability of such benefits precludes a remedy under section 1346(b) or 2672 of such title 28,

for damages for personal injury, including death, allegedly arising from malpractice or negligence of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, nurse, physician assistant, expanded-function dental auxiliary, pharmacist, or paramedical (for example, medical and dental technicians, nursing assistants, and therapists) or other supporting personnel in furnishing medical care or treatment while in the exercise of such person's duties as a volunteer enrolled under title I of this Act shall be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding by reason of the same subject matter against such person (or such person's estate) whose action or omission gave rise to such claim."
"(2) The Attorney General of the United States shall defend any civil action or proceeding brought in any court against any person referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection (or such person’s estate) for any such damage or injury. Any such person against whom such civil action or proceeding is brought shall deliver, within such time after date of service or knowledge of service as determined by the Attorney General, all process served upon such person or an attested true copy thereof to such person’s immediate supervisor or to whomever is designated by the Director to receive such papers, and such person shall promptly furnish copies of the pleading and process therein to the United States attorney for the district embracing the place wherein the proceeding is brought and to the Attorney General.

"(3) Upon a certification by the Attorney General that the defendant was acting in the scope of such person’s volunteer assignment at the time of the incident out of which the suit arose, any such civil action or proceeding commenced in a State court shall be removed without bond at any time before trial by the Attorney General to the district court of the United States of the district and division embracing the place wherein it is pending and the proceeding deemed a tort action brought against the United States under the provisions of title 28, United States Code, and all references thereto. After removal the United States shall have available all defenses to which it would have been entitled if the action had originally been commenced against the United States. Should a district court of the United States determine on a hearing on a motion to remand held before a trial on the merits that the volunteer whose act or omission gave rise to the suit was not acting within the scope of such person’s volunteer assignment, the case shall be remanded to the State court.

"(4) The Attorney General may compromise or settle any claim asserted in such civil action or proceeding in the manner provided in section 2677 of title 28, United States Code, and with the same effect.”.

**Nondiscrimination Provisions**

Sec. 12. (a) Section 417(a) of the Act is amended by—

(1) inserting “handicap,” after “age,”; and

(2) adding at the end the following new sentence: “For purposes of this subsection, and for purposes of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), any program, project, or activity to which volunteers are assigned under this Act shall be deemed to be receiving Federal financial assistance.”.

(b) Section 417 of the Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) The Director shall apply the nondiscrimination policies and authorities set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), in title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.), and in the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) to applicants for enrollment for service as volunteers, and to volunteers serving, under this Act and the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.). Any remedies available to individuals under such laws, other than the right of appeal to the Civil Service Commission authorized by section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by Reorganization Plan Number I of 1978, shall be available to such applicants or volunteers.
"(2) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979, the Director, after consultation with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with regard to the application of the policies set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-16) and with the Interagency Coordinating Council, established by section 507 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 797), and the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees, established by section 501(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791(a)), with regard to the application of the policies set forth in title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.), and, not later than 90 days after the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare or the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, as the case may be, publishes final general regulations to carry out the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), and after consultation with the Secretary with regard to the application of the policies set forth in such Act, shall prescribe regulations establishing the procedures for the application of such policies and the provision of such remedies so as to promote the enrollment and service of persons as volunteers without regard to the discriminatory factors described in such laws.”.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS

42 USC 5060.

Sec. 13. (a) Section 420 of the Act is amended to read as follows:

"REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS

"SEC. 420. (a) For purposes of this section—

"(1) the term ‘regulation’ means any rule, regulation, guideline, interpretation, order, or requirement of general applicability prescribed by the Director pursuant to this Act; and

"(2) the term ‘Committees’ means the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate.

"(b) Regulations prescribed by the Director or by any other officer of the ACTION Agency, in connection with, or affecting, the administration of any program carried out under this Act shall contain, immediately following each substantive provision of such regulations, citations to the particular section or sections of statutory law or other legal authority upon which such provision is based.

"(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection, no proposed regulation prescribed pursuant to this Act for the administration of any program carried out under this Act may take effect until 30 calendar days after it is published in the Federal Register. (2)(A) During the 30-day period before the date upon which such regulation is to be effective, the Director shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, offer any interested party an opportunity to make comment upon, and take exception to, such regulation and shall reconsider any such regulation upon which comment is made or to which exception is taken.

"(B) If the Director determines that the 30-day requirement in paragraph (1) of this subsection would cause undue delay in the implementation of a regulation, thereby causing substantial hardship for the intended beneficiaries of any program carried out under this Act, the Director may waive the application of such requirement and shall immediately submit a notice of such determination and
waiver, including a statement of the reasons therefor, to the Committees.

“(d) Concurrently with the publication in the Federal Register of any final regulation, a copy of such final regulation shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. Except as is provided in the following sentence, no such final regulation may take effect until 45 calendar days after such transmission. If the Director determines that such 45-day requirement would cause undue delay in the implementation of the regulation, thereby causing substantial hardship for the intended beneficiaries of any program carried out under this Act, the Director may waive the application of such requirement and shall promptly submit a notice of such determination and waiver, including a statement of the reasons therefor, to the Committees.

“(e) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of any Act affecting the administration of any program carried out under this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committees a schedule in accordance with which the Director has planned to prescribe final regulations implementing such Act or part of such Act. Such schedule shall provide that all such final regulations shall be prescribed not later than 180 days after the submission of such schedule. Except as is provided in the following sentence, all such final regulations shall be prescribed in accordance with such schedule. If the Director determines that, due to circumstances unforeseen at the time of the submission of any such schedule, the schedule submitted pursuant to this subsection cannot be met, the Director shall submit a notice of such determination, including a statement of the reasons therefor, to the Committees and shall submit a new schedule which shall then be considered, for the purposes of this subsection, as the schedule originally submitted in connection with the enactment of the Act involved.”.

(b) The table of contents for the Act is amended by striking out the item relating to section 420 and inserting in lieu thereof the following new item:

“Sec. 420. Requirements for prescribing regulations.”.

REDUCTION OF PAPERWORK; REVIEW OF PROJECT RENEWALS

SEC. 14. (a) Title IV of the Act is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“REDUCTION OF PAPERWORK

“Sec. 423. In order to reduce unnecessary, duplicative, or disruptive demands for information, the Director, in consultation with other appropriate agencies and organizations, shall continually review and evaluate all requests for information made under this Act and take such action as may be necessary to reduce the paperwork required under this Act. The Director shall request only such information as the Director deems essential to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act.

“REVIEW OF PROJECT RENEWALS

“Sec. 424. If the executive authority of any State or local government submits to the Director, not later than 30 days before the expiration of any contract or grant to carry out any project under this Act, a statement which objects to the renewal of such contract or
grant, then the Director shall (1) review such statement and take it into account in determining whether to renew such contract or grant; and (2) submit to such executive authority a written statement of reasons regarding the Director’s determination with respect to such renewal and specifically with respect to any objection so submitted.”.

(b) The table of contents for the Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 422 the following new items:

“Sec. 423. Reduction of paperwork.
“Sec. 424. Review of project renewals.”.

AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

42 USC 5081. Sec. 15. (a) Section 501(a) of the Act is amended by—


(2) striking out in the second sentence “this title” and inserting in lieu thereof “this section for the purpose of carrying out title I of this Act”.

(b) Section 501 of the Act, as amended in subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) Of the funds appropriated for each of the fiscal years 1980 and 1981 for the purpose of carrying out title I of this Act (A) not less than $28,000,000 shall first be available for carrying out the VISTA program under part A of such title, and (B) of the funds appropriated for each such fiscal year for the purpose of carrying out such title which are in excess of $28,000,000 (i) not less than $2,800,000 for fiscal year 1980 and not less than $1,600,000 for fiscal year 1981 shall be available for carrying out the University Year for ACTION program under part B of such title, and (ii) not less than $500,000 for each such fiscal year shall be available for carrying out service-learning programs under section 114.

“(2) Of the funds appropriated for each of the fiscal years 1980 and 1981 for the purpose of carrying out part C of title I of this Act which are in excess of $2,500,000 but not in excess of $10,000,000, not less than 50 per centum for each such fiscal year shall be available for carrying out the fixed-income counseling and Helping Hand programs under section 122.”.


RURAL PROGRAMS REPORT

42 USC 5054 note. Sec. 16. Not later than February 1, 1980, the Director of the ACTION Agency shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report specifying the special needs and circumstances to be addressed in designing programs under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 for implementation in rural areas. Such report shall include a detailed statement of the manner in which the Director intends to address such needs and circumstances, together with a timetable for designing and implementing such programs.

AMENDMENT TO OTHER LAW

42 USC 4955 note. Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act to amend further the Peace Corps Act, and for other purposes”, approved November 14, 1975 (Public Law 94–130; 89 Stat. 684), is amended by striking out the last sentence of such subsection.
TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sec. 18. (a)(1) The table of contents for the Act is amended by striking out the items relating to title III, section 301, section 302, and section 503.

(2) Section 418 of the Act is amended by striking out "titles II and III" and inserting in lieu thereof "title II".

(b) Section 221 of the Act is amended by striking out "Office of Economic Opportunity" and inserting in lieu thereof "Community Services Administration".

(c)(1) Section 403(c) of the Act, as so designated in section 8(b)(3) of this Act, is amended by striking out "Civil Service Commission" and inserting in lieu thereof "Office of Personnel Management".

(2) Section 415(c)(2) of the Act is amended by striking out "Civil Service Commission" and inserting in lieu thereof "Office of Personnel Management".

Approved December 13, 1979.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 96-164 accompanying H.R. 2859 (Comm. on Education and Labor) and No. 96-606 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 96-99 (Comm. on Labor and Human Resources) and No. 96-412 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 125 (1979):
June 20, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 9, 10, H.R. 2859 considered and passed House; passage vacated and S. 239, amended, passed in lieu.
Nov. 9, Senate agreed to conference report.
Nov. 23, House agreed to conference report.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 15, No. 50:
Dec. 13, Presidential statement.