

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2749

To establish doctoral fellowships designed to increase the pool of scientists and engineers trained specifically to address the global energy and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. MEEHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To establish doctoral fellowships designed to increase the pool of scientists and engineers trained specifically to address the global energy and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

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 “Paul E. Tsongas Fel-
5 lowship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to encourage individuals
8 of exceptional achievement and promise, especially mem-

bers of traditionally underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in fields that confront the global energy and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

SEC. 3. DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AUTHORIZED.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Energy is authorized to award doctoral fellowships, to be known as Paul E. Tsongas Doctoral Fellowships, in accordance with the provisions of this Act for study and research in fields of science or engineering that relate to energy or the environment such as physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology, computer science, materials science, environmental science, behavioral science, and social sciences at institutions proposed by applicants for such fellowships.

(b) PERIOD OF AWARD.—A fellowship under this section shall be awarded for a period of three succeeding academic years, beginning with the commencement of a program of doctoral study.

(c) FELLOWSHIP PORTABILITY.—Each Fellow shall be entitled to use the fellowship in a graduate program at any accredited institution of higher education in which the recipient may decide to enroll.

(d) NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS.—As many fellowships as may be fully funded according to this Act shall be awarded each year.

1 (e) DESIGNATION OF FELLOWS.—Each individual
2 awarded a fellowship under this Act shall be known as
3 a “Paul E. Tsongas Fellow” (hereinafter in this Act re-
4 ferred to as a “Fellow”).

5 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION OF FELLOWS.**

6 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Only United States citizens are el-
7 igible to receive awards under this Act.

8 (b) FELLOWSHIP BOARD.—

9 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary, in con-
10 sultation with the Director of the National Science
11 Foundation, shall appoint a Paul E. Tsongas Fel-
12 lowship Board (hereinafter in this part referred to
13 as the “Board”) consisting of 5 representatives of
14 the academic science and engineering communities
15 who are especially qualified to serve on the Board.
16 The Secretary shall assure that individuals ap-
17 pointed to the Board are broadly knowledgeable
18 about and have experience in graduate education in
19 relevant fields.

20 (2) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

21 (A) establish general policies for the pro-
22 gram established by this part and oversee its
23 operation;

24 (B) establish general criteria for awarding
25 fellowships;

1 (C) award fellowships; and

2 (D) prepare and submit to the Congress at
3 least once in every 3-year period a report on
4 any modifications in the program that the
5 Board determines are appropriate.

6 (4) TERM.—The term of office of each member
7 of the Board shall be 3 years, except that any mem-
8 ber appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the re-
9 mainder of the term for which the predecessor of the
10 member was appointed. No member may serve for a
11 period in excess of 6 years.

12 (5) INITIAL MEETING; VACANCY.—The Sec-
13 retary shall call the first meeting of the Board, at
14 which the first order of business shall be the election
15 of a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, who shall
16 serve until 1 year after the date of their appoint-
17 ment. Thereafter each officer shall be elected for a
18 term of 2 years. In case a vacancy occurs in either
19 office, the Board shall elect an individual from
20 among the members of the Board to fill such va-
21 cancy.

22 (6) QUORUM; ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—(A) A
23 majority of the members of the Board shall con-
24 stitute a quorum.

1 (B) The Board shall meet at least once a year
2 or more frequently, as may be necessary, to carry
3 out its responsibilities.

4 (7) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board,
5 while serving on the business of the Board, shall be
6 entitled to receive compensation at rates fixed by the
7 Secretary, but not exceeding the rate of basic pay
8 payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule, in-
9 cluding traveltime, and while so serving away from
10 their homes or regular places of business, they may
11 be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu
12 of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title
13 5, United States Code, for persons in Government
14 service employed intermittently.

15 (c) UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.—In designing se-
16 lection criteria and awarding fellowships, the Board
17 shall—

18 (1) consider the need to prepare a larger num-
19 ber of women and individuals from minority groups,
20 especially from among such groups that have been
21 traditionally underrepresented in the professional
22 and academic fields referred to in section 2, but
23 nothing contained in this or any other provision of
24 this Act shall be interpreted to require the Secretary

1 to grant any preference or disparate treatment to
2 the members of any underrepresented group; and

3 (2) take into account the need to expand access
4 by women and minority groups to careers heretofore
5 lacking adequate representation of women and mi-
6 nority groups.

7 **SEC. 5. PAYMENTS, STIPENDS, TUITION, AND EDUCATION**
8 **AWARDS.**

9 (a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

10 (1) STIPENDS.—The Secretary shall pay to
11 each individual awarded a fellowship under this Act
12 a stipend in the amount of \$15,000, \$16,500, and
13 \$18,000 during the first, second, and third years of
14 study, respectively.

15 (2) TUITION.—The Secretary shall pay to the
16 appropriate institution an amount adequate to cover
17 the tuition, fees, and health insurance of each indi-
18 vidual awarded a fellowship under this Act.

19 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TRAVEL ALLOW-
20 ANCE.—The Secretary shall pay to each host institu-
21 tion an annual \$5,000 allowance for the purpose of
22 covering—

23 (A) administrative expenses;

1 (B) travel expenses associated with Fellow
2 participation in academic seminars or con-
3 ferences approved by the host institution; and

4 (C) round-trip travel expenses associated
5 with Fellow participation in the internship re-
6 quired by section 6 of this Act.

7 **SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT.**

8 Each Fellow shall participate in a 3-month internship
9 related to the dissertation topic of the Fellow at a national
10 laboratory or equivalent industrial laboratory as approved
11 by the host institution.

12 **SEC. 7. FELLOWSHIP CONDITIONS.**

13 (a) **ACADEMIC PROGRESS REQUIRED.**—No student
14 shall receive support pursuant to an award under this
15 Act—

16 (1) except during periods in which such student
17 is maintaining satisfactory progress in, and devoting
18 essentially full time to, study or research in the field
19 in which such fellowship was awarded, or

20 (2) if the student is engaging in gainful employ-
21 ment other than part-time employment involved in
22 teaching, research, or similar activities determined
23 by the institution to be in support of the student's
24 progress toward a degree.

1 (b) REPORTS FROM RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary is
2 authorized to require reports containing such information
3 in such form and filed at such times as the Secretary de-
4 termines necessary from any person awarded a fellowship
5 under the provisions of this Act. The reports shall be ac-
6 companied by a certificate from an appropriate official at
7 the institution of higher education, or other research cen-
8 ter, stating that such individual is fulfilling the require-
9 ments of this section.

10 (c) FAILURE TO EARN DEGREE.—A recipient of a
11 fellowship under this Act found by the Secretary to have
12 failed in or abandoned the course of study for which as-
13 sistance was provided under this Act may be required, at
14 the discretion of the Secretary, to repay a pro rata amount
15 of such fellowship assistance received, plus interest and,
16 where applicable, reasonable collection fees, on a schedule
17 and at a rate of interest to be prescribed by the Secretary
18 by regulations issued pursuant to this Act.

19 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated for this Act
21 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and such sums as may
22 be necessary for the succeeding fiscal years.

1 **SEC. 9. APPLICATION OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL PROVI-**
2 **SIONS ACT.**

3 Section 421 of the General Educational Provisions
4 Act, pertaining to the availability of funds, shall apply to
5 this Act.

6 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act—

8 (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
9 of Energy.

10 (2) The term “host institution” means an insti-
11 tution where a Paul E. Tsongas Fellow is enrolled
12 for the purpose of pursuing doctoral studies for
13 which support is provided under this Act.

○