

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1733

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

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to encourage individuals
3 of exceptional achievement and promise, especially mem-
4 bers of traditionally underrepresented groups, to pursue
5 careers in fields that confront the global energy and envi-
6 ronmental challenges of the 21st century.

7 **SEC. 3. DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

8 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of En-
9 ergy is authorized to award doctoral fellowships, to be
10 known as Paul E. Tsongas Doctoral Fellowships, in ac-
11 cordance with the provisions of this Act for study and re-
12 search in fields of science or engineering that relate to
13 energy or the environment such as physics, mathematics,
14 chemistry, biology, computer science, materials science,
15 environmental science, behavioral science, and social
16 sciences at institutions proposed by applicants for such fel-
17 lowships.

18 (b) PERIOD OF AWARD.—A fellowship under this sec-
19 tion shall be awarded for a period of three succeeding aca-
20 demic years, beginning with the commencement of a pro-
21 gram of doctoral study.

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

1 (d) NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS.—As many fellow-
 2 ships as may be fully funded according to this Act shall
 3 be awarded each year.

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

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

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

11 (b) FELLOWSHIP BOARD.—

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

23 (2) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

1 (A) establish general policies for the pro-
2 gram established by this part and oversee its
3 operation;

4 (B) establish general criteria for awarding
5 fellowships;

6 (C) award fellowships; and

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

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

17 (4) INITIAL MEETING; VACANCY.—The Sec-
18 retary shall call the first meeting of the Board, at
19 which the first order of business shall be the election
20 of a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, who shall
21 serve until 1 year after the date of their appoint-
22 ment. Thereafter each officer shall be elected for a
23 term of 2 years. In case a vacancy occurs in either
24 office, the Board shall elect an individual from

1 among the members of the Board to fill such va-
2 cancy.

3 (5) QUORUM; ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—(A) A
4 majority of the members of the Board shall con-
5 stitute a quorum.

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

9 (6) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board,
10 while serving on the business of the Board, shall be
11 entitled to receive compensation at rates fixed by the
12 Secretary, but not exceeding the rate of basic pay
13 payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule, in-
14 cluding traveltime, and while so serving away from
15 their homes or regular places of business, they may
16 be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu
17 of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title
18 5, United States Code, for persons in Government
19 service employed intermittently.

20 (c) UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.—In designing se-
21 lection criteria and awarding fellowships, the Board
22 shall—

23 (1) consider the need to prepare a larger num-
24 ber of women and individuals from minority groups,
25 especially from among such groups that have been

1 traditionally underrepresented in the professional
2 and academic fields referred to in section 2, but
3 nothing contained in this or any other provision of
4 this Act shall be interpreted to require the Secretary
5 to grant any preference or disparate treatment to
6 the members of any underrepresented group; and

7 (2) take into account the need to expand access
8 by women and minority groups to careers heretofore
9 lacking adequate representation of women and mi-
10 nority groups.

11 **SEC. 5. PAYMENTS, STIPENDS, TUITION, AND EDUCATION**

12 **AWARDS.**

13 (a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

14 (1) STIPENDS.—The Secretary shall pay to
15 each individual awarded a fellowship under this Act
16 a stipend in the amount of \$15,000, \$16,500, and
17 \$18,000 during the first, second, and third years of
18 study, respectively.

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

23 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TRAVEL ALLOW-
24 ANCE.—The Secretary shall pay to each host institu-

1 tion an annual \$5,000 allowance for the purpose of
2 covering—

3 (A) administrative expenses;

4 (B) travel expenses associated with Fellow
5 participation in academic seminars or con-
6 ferences approved by the host institution; and

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

10 **SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT.**

11 Each Fellow shall participate in a 3-month internship
12 related to the dissertation topic of the Fellow at a national
13 laboratory, equivalent industrial laboratory, or any other
14 institution or agency approved by the host institution.

15 **SEC. 7. FELLOWSHIP CONDITIONS.**

16 (a) **ACADEMIC PROGRESS REQUIRED.**—No student
17 shall receive support pursuant to an award under this
18 Act—

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

23 (2) if the student is engaging in gainful employ-
24 ment other than part-time employment involved in
25 teaching, research, or similar activities determined

1 by the institution to be in support of the student's
2 progress toward a degree.

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

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

21 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated for this Act
23 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may
24 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.

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