

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2125

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to create the  
Rite of Passage Community Service Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2003

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FORD, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FROST, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. OLVER, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. LEE, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. FARR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990  
to create the Rite of Passage Community Service Program.

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 “Rite of Passage Com-  
5 munity Service Act”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The teenage years are a pivotal time of life,  
2           when young people are making choices that will af-  
3           fect them for the rest of their lives.

4           (2) The ways in which young people spend their  
5           time during their teenage years may set them on a  
6           course of active citizenship and engaged learning, or  
7           down a path of risky behavior with the likelihood of  
8           failure.

9           (3) Research suggests that when young people  
10          see that they are able to improve the lives of others  
11          they feel that they are able to control and improve  
12          their own lives.

13          (4) If properly trained, organized, and super-  
14          vised, teenagers are a resource that can make a sig-  
15          nificant contribution to their communities.

16          (5) Opportunities for volunteer service during  
17          the teenage years could become a rite of passage for  
18          future generations.

19          (6) The National Academy of Sciences Report  
20          on Youth Development concluded that “the future  
21          well-being of the country depends on raising genera-  
22          tions of skilled, competent, and responsible adults”.

23          (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

1           (1) create a national network of service pro-  
2           grams for middle school students to serve in their  
3           communities after school and during the summer;

4           (2) provide students with opportunities to serve  
5           in their communities and participate in other pro-  
6           grams such as workshops in leadership development,  
7           public speaking, conflict resolution, team-building,  
8           and other character-building programs;

9           (3) provide young people an experience that re-  
10          inforces their connection to the community, enriches  
11          their education, and strengthens their personal and  
12          civic values; and

13          (4) instill an ethic of service in young people  
14          which will stay with them throughout their lifetimes.

15 **SEC. 3. RITE OF PASSAGE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM.**

16          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 122(a) of the Na-  
17          tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
18          12572(a)) is amended—

19               (1) by redesignating paragraph (15) as para-  
20               graph (16); and

21               (2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the fol-  
22               lowing:

23               “(15) A community-based Rite of Passage after  
24               school and summer service corps program that  
25               would offer young people—

1           “(A) the opportunity to perform service in  
2           their communities;

3           “(B) the opportunity to participate in ac-  
4           tivities that would provide training in leadership  
5           development, public speaking, conflict resolu-  
6           tion, team building, and other critical skills;

7           “(C) service-learning curricula linked to  
8           academic goals; and

9           “(D) the opportunity to work with older  
10          AmeriCorps members who can organize service  
11          projects and act as mentors.”.

12          (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 137 of such Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 12591) is amended—

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

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

18          “(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR RITE OF PASSAGE PRO-  
19          GRAM.—An individual shall be considered to be a partici-  
20          pant in a Rite of Passage community-based after school  
21          or summer service corps program described in section  
22          122(a)(15) (42 U.S.C. 12591) that is carried out with as-  
23          sistance provided under section 121(a) (42 U.S.C. 12571)  
24          if the individual—

1 “(1) satisfies the requirements of paragraphs  
2 (1), (2), and (6) of subsection (a); and

3 “(2) is between the ages of 12 and 16, inclu-  
4 sive, at the time the individual begins the term of  
5 service.”.

6 (c) TERMS OF SERVICE.—Section 139(b) of such Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 12593(b)) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR RITE OF PASSAGE  
10 PROGRAM.—An individual participating in a Rite of  
11 Passage community-based after school or summer  
12 service corps program described in section  
13 122(a)(15) shall agree to participate in the program  
14 for not less than 150 hours during a period of not  
15 less than 2 months and not more than 1 year.”.

16 (D) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—

17 (1) SPECIAL RULE FOR RITE OF PASSAGE PRO-  
18 GRAM.—Section 141 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12595)  
19 is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR RITE OF PASSAGE PRO-  
21 GRAM.—An individual participating in a Rite of Passage  
22 community-based after school or summer service corps  
23 program described in section 122(a)(15), upon completion  
24 of the required 150 hours of service shall receive an edu-  
25 cation award of \$500.”.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 146 is  
2       amended—

3           (A) in subsection (a)(2) by striking “or a  
4       program described in section 122(a)(9);” and  
5       inserting “, a program described in section  
6       122(a)(9), or a program described in section  
7       122(a)(15);”; and

8           (B) in subsection (d)(2)—

9           (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
10       “or”;

11          (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
12       “period.” and inserting “period; or”; and

13          (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
14       lowing:

15           “(C) participated in a program described  
16       in section 12572(a).”.

17 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

18       Not later than March 1 of each of the first 3 years  
19       following the date of enactment of this Act, the Corpora-  
20       tion for National and Community Service shall transmit  
21       to the Congress a report and evaluation of the program  
22       authorized by this Act.

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