

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3796

To establish the AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Corps to carry out national service projects that address the needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, and other major disasters and emergencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Mr. FORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish the AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Corps to carry out national service projects that address the needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, and other major disasters and emergencies.

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 Disaster
5 Relief Corps Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY.**

7 The Corporation for National and Community Serv-
8 ice (referred to in this Act as the “Corporation”), pursu-

1 ant to section 126(b) of the National and Community
2 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12576(b)), shall carry out
3 the activities authorized under this Act.

4 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL AMERICORPS DIS-**
5 **ASTER RELIEF CORPS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an
7 AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Corps, to be administered by
8 the Corporation, to carry out full- or part-time service
9 projects that provide food, clothing, shelter, and other hu-
10 manitarian assistance for victims of major disasters and
11 emergencies, projects involving cleaning, repair, and re-
12 construction of structures, facilities, and lands located
13 within the disaster area, and other projects arising from
14 the consequences of major disasters and emergencies.

15 (b) RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGI-
16 BILITY.—

17 (1) RECRUITMENT.—The Corporation shall en-
18 deavor to recruit up to 10,000 additional eligible
19 participants for the national service program estab-
20 lished under subsection (a).

21 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Eligibility to participate in
22 the national service program established under sub-
23 section (a) shall be on the same basis as for partici-
24 pation in an approved national service position au-
25 thorized by subtitle C or E of title I of the National

1 and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12571 et
2 seq.) or by title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service
3 Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.). Individuals
4 selected as participants in the program shall be eligi-
5 ble for living allowances, educational awards, and
6 other support authorized for participants in ap-
7 proved national service positions under such Acts.

8 (3) PRIORITY.—In conducting recruiting under
9 paragraph (1), the Corporation and recipients of as-
10 sistance to operate projects shall give priority to
11 those individuals dislocated as a result of major dis-
12 asters and emergencies and may permit alternative
13 documentation requirements relating to dem-
14 onstrating eligibility of such individuals.

15 (c) PROJECTS.—Participants for the national service
16 program established under subsection (a) may serve on
17 projects that—

18 (1) help those affected by major disasters and
19 emergencies assess their needs;

20 (2) assist in the construction of temporary
21 housing for the displaced victims of a major disaster
22 or emergency;

23 (3) provide relocation services for victims of the
24 hurricane, including food, water and clothing dis-
25 tribution and housing location services;

1 (4) conduct outreach to local businesses, build-
2 ing owners, and others with applications for disaster
3 relief and for other assistance to be provided by
4 Federal or State government;

5 (5) provide employment services for victims,
6 such as identifying job training, job placement, and
7 other opportunities;

8 (6) conduct environmental surveys, monitoring
9 water quality and determining the environmental im-
10 pact on the affected region;

11 (7) provide teaching and administrative support
12 functions for school systems where displaced chil-
13 dren have enrolled;

14 (8) work with schools to identify and mentor
15 students coping with the impact of a major disaster
16 or emergency;

17 (9) work with public officials to prepare them
18 for future disasters or emergencies; and

19 (10) otherwise assist with the rebuilding of the
20 affected regions.

21 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATES, CITIES, ORGANIZATIONS; CO-**
22 **OPERATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

23 The Corporation may use funds authorized under this
24 Act in support of projects or activities consistent with
25 those specified in section 3(c) to—

1 (1) make grants to, or enter into agreements
2 with States, subdivisions of States, or other organi-
3 zations to support AmeriCorps projects under sec-
4 tion 121 of the National and Community Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 12571);

6 (2) support the National Civilian Community
7 Corps authorized under subtitle E of title I of the
8 National and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C.
9 12611);

10 (3) support the VISTA program under title I of
11 the Domestic Volunteer Service Act (42 U.S.C. 4451
12 et seq.); and

13 (4) enter into a contract or cooperative or other
14 agreement with another Federal agency.

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 As used in this Act, the terms “emergency” and
17 “major disaster” have the meaning given such terms in
18 paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102 of the Robert T.
19 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
20 (42 U.S.C 5122(1) and (2)).

21 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE**
22 **TRUST.**

23 The Corporation shall transfer funds to the National
24 Service Trust established in section 145 of the National
25 and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12601) an amount

1 required under the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act
2 of 2003 (Public Law 108–45) (42 U.S.C. 12605 et seq.)
3 to provide educational awards and related assistance au-
4 thorized under subtitle D of title I of the National and
5 Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12601 et. seq.)

6 **SEC. 7. AUTHORITY FOR THIRD-TERM BENEFITS AND EDU-**
7 **CATIONAL AWARD.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an indi-
9 vidual serving in a program authorized by this Act may
10 serve a third term of service in an approved national serv-
11 ice position and may receive in-service benefits and a post-
12 service educational award authorized under the national
13 service laws on the same basis as an individual serving
14 in a first or second term of service.

15 **SEC. 8. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

16 The Corporation may use up to two percent of funds
17 authorized under section 12 for the administration of this
18 Act.

19 **SEC. 9. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED SERVICES.**

20 Section 196(a)(2) (42 U.S.C. 12651g(a)(2)) of the
21 National and Community Service Act is amended by strik-
22 ing “money or property” and inserting “money, services,
23 or property”.

1 **SEC. 10. GRANTS NOT SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIA-**
2 **TIONS LIMITATIONS.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds
4 provided under this Act to administer, reimburse, or sup-
5 port any national service program authorized under the
6 national service laws, shall not be considered in applying
7 any limitation on funding for such programs in annual ap-
8 propriations Acts.

9 **SEC. 11. AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS OPERATED**
10 **BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Cor-
12 poration may use funds authorized under this Act to enter
13 into a contract or cooperative agreement with another
14 Federal agency to support a national service program car-
15 ried out by that agency consistent with section 121(b) of
16 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
17 U.S.C. 12571(b)).

18 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Cor-
20 poration \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 and
21 2007 to carry out this Act.

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