

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1657

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program
to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students
for careers in the National Weather Service and in Na-
tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine
research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs.

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. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**

4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-
7 thorized to establish a Science and Technology
8 Scholarship Program to award scholarships to indi-
9 viduals that is designed to recruit and prepare stu-
10 dents for careers in the National Weather Service
11 and in Administration marine research, atmospheric
12 research, and satellite programs.

13 (2) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—Individuals shall
14 be selected to receive scholarships under this section
15 through a competitive process primarily on the basis
16 of academic merit, with consideration given to finan-
17 cial need and the goal of promoting the participation
18 of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the
19 Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).

21 (3) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the
22 scholarship program, the Administrator shall enter
23 into contractual agreements with individuals selected
24 under paragraph (2) under which the individuals
25 agree to serve as full-time employees of the Adminis-

1 tration, for the period described in subsection (f)(1),
2 in positions needed by the Administration in fields
3 described in paragraph (1) and for which the indi-
4 viduals are qualified, in exchange for receiving a
5 scholarship.

6 (b) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligi-
7 ble to participate in the scholarship program, an individual
8 shall—

14 (2) be a United States citizen or permanent
15 resident; and

19 (c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—An individual seeking
20 a scholarship under this section shall submit an applica-
21 tion to the Administrator at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information, agreements, or assur-
23 ances as the Administrator may require to carry out this
24 section.

1 (d) ELIGIBLE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
2 trator shall make publicly available a list of academic pro-
3 grams and fields of study for which scholarships may be
4 utilized in fields described in subsection (a)(1), and shall
5 update the list as necessary.

6 (e) SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may pro-
8 vide a scholarship under the scholarship program for
9 an academic year if the individual applying for the
10 scholarship has submitted to the Administrator, as
11 part of the application required under subsection (c),
12 a proposed academic program leading to a degree in
13 a program or field of study on the list made avail-
14 able under subsection (d).

15 (2) DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—An individual
16 may not receive a scholarship under this section for
17 more than 4 academic years, unless the Adminis-
18 trator grants a waiver.

19 (3) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The dollar
20 amount of a scholarship under this section for an
21 academic year shall be determined under regulations
22 issued by the Administrator, but shall in no case ex-
23 ceed the cost of attendance.

24 (4) AUTHORIZED USES.—A scholarship pro-
25 vided under this section may be expended for tuition,

1 fees, and other authorized expenses as established by
2 the Administrator by regulation.

3 (5) CONTRACTS REGARDING DIRECT PAYMENTS
4 TO INSTITUTIONS.—The Administrator may enter
5 into a contractual agreement with an institution of
6 higher education under which the amounts provided
7 for a scholarship under this section for tuition, fees,
8 and other authorized expenses are paid directly to
9 the institution with respect to which the scholarship
10 is provided.

11 (f) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

12 (1) DURATION OF SERVICE.—Except as pro-
13 vided in subsection (h)(2), the period of service for
14 which an individual shall be obligated to serve as an
15 employee of the Administration shall be 24 months
16 for each academic year for which a scholarship
17 under this section is provided.

18 (2) SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), obligated service under para-
21 graph (1) shall begin not later than 60 days
22 after the individual obtains the educational de-
23 gree for which the scholarship was provided.

24 (B) DEFERRAL.—The Administrator may
25 defer the obligation of an individual to provide

1 a period of service under paragraph (1) if the
2 Administrator determines that such a deferral
3 is appropriate. The Administrator shall pre-
4 scribe the terms and conditions under which a
5 service obligation may be deferred through reg-
6 ulation.

7 (g) PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF SCHOLARSHIP

8 AGREEMENT.—

9 (1) FAILURE TO COMPLETE ACADEMIC TRAIN-
10 ING.—Scholarship recipients who fail to maintain a
11 high level of academic standing, as defined by the
12 Administrator by regulation, who are dismissed from
13 their educational institutions for disciplinary rea-
14 sons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training
15 before graduation from the educational program for
16 which the scholarship was awarded, shall be in
17 breach of their contractual agreement and, in lieu of
18 any service obligation arising under such agreement,
19 shall be liable to the United States for repayment
20 not later than 1 year after the date of default of all
21 scholarship funds paid to them and to the institution
22 of higher education on their behalf under the agree-
23 ment, except as provided in subsection (h)(2). The
24 repayment period may be extended by the Adminis-

1 trator when determined to be necessary, as estab-
2 lished by regulation.

16 (A) the total amount of scholarships re-
17 ceived by such individual under this section;
18 plus

19 (B) the interest on the amounts of such
20 awards which would be payable if at the time
21 the awards were received they were loans bear-
22 ing interest at the maximum legal prevailing
23 rate, as determined by the Treasurer of the
24 United States.

25 (h) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATION.—

16 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act the following defini-
17 tions apply:

18 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration”
19 means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
20 Administration.

1 tion 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 1087ll).

Passed the House of Representatives September 17,
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,

Clerk.