

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4084

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to establish a
Community Gardens Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Cartwright, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Moran, Mr. Rangel, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Serrano, and Mr. Connolly) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to
establish a Community Gardens Pilot Program, and for
other purposes.

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 “Community Gardening
5 and Nutrition Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) A community garden improves the quality
2 of life, encourages self-reliance, produces highly nu-
3 tritious food, reduces family food budgets, and cre-
4 ates opportunities for recreation, social interaction,
5 exercise, education, and economic development for
6 people participating in the garden.

7 (2) The creation of community gardens has
8 been an effective approach to cleaning up and main-
9 taining abandoned vacant lots.

10 (3) Many community gardens donate fresh
11 fruits and vegetables to local food pantries, coopera-
12 tives, and homeless members of the community, and
13 provide for a source of fresh fruits and vegetables
14 for participants of the gardens.

15 (4) An August 2013 report by the Union of
16 Concerned Scientists entitled “The \$11 Trillion Re-
17 ward” concluded that if Americans were to eat 2.5
18 cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit daily, as rec-
19 ommended by Federal dietary guidelines, nearly
20 130,000 deaths could be prevented and \$17 billion
21 could be saved in medical costs.

22 (5) The Department of Health and Human
23 Services recommends eating more dark green vegeta-
24 bles, legumes, and fruits; and eating fewer refined
25 grains, less fat, and fewer calories.

1 (6) A 2010 review of the Nutritional Implica-
2 tions of Farmers’ Markets and Community Gardens
3 published by the Journal of the American Dietetic
4 Association found that community gardens promote
5 healthy behaviors.

6 (7) A 2011 pilot study entitled “LA Sprouts”
7 published by the Journal of the American Dietetic
8 Association found that teaching gardening and nu-
9 trition improved the dietary intakes of children and
10 reduced childhood obesity.

11 **SEC. 3. COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 103(a) of the Domestic Vol-
13 unteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)) is amend-
14 ed—

15 (1) in paragraph (12) by striking “and” at the
16 end;

17 (2) in paragraph (13) by striking the period
18 and inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(14) in establishing initiatives that address the
21 health and nutrition of individuals in low-income and
22 underserved communities, including by—

23 “(A) creating new community gardens and
24 supporting and expanding existing community
25 gardens;

1 “(B) recruiting local community members
2 to actively engage in community gardens and
3 gardening projects;

4 “(C) transforming vacant places into com-
5 munity garden plots;

6 “(D) increasing access for community
7 members to healthy foods and local foods while
8 also encouraging community members to stay
9 active;

10 “(E) expanding anti-poverty efforts by
11 teaching basic nutrition and self-reliance
12 through community gardening programs; and

13 “(F) developing initiatives that increase
14 access to healthy, locally grown foods for the
15 community at large.”.

16 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part A of title I of such Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 **“SEC. 110. COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) The Director shall establish a Community Gar-
21 den Pilot Program for the purpose of carrying out the
22 work described under section 103(a)(14). In conducting
23 the Program, the Director shall carry out no less than 40
24 projects.

1 “(b) In carrying out the Program established under
2 subsection (a), the Director shall give priority to—

3 “(1) volunteers with experience in health, nutri-
4 tion, and gardening;

5 “(2) projects located in varied geographic re-
6 gions; and

7 “(3) selecting a balance of urban and rural
8 projects.”.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 501(a) of such Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 5081(a)) is amended by—

11 (1) redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph
12 (4); and

13 (2) inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

14 “(3) COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.—

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 section 110 of part A of title I \$4,000,000 for fiscal
17 year 2014 and such sums shall remain available
18 until expended.”.

19 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
20 in section 1(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4950) is amended
21 by adding after the item relating to section 109 the fol-
22 lowing new item:

“Sec. 110. Community Garden Pilot Program.”.

23 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

24 Not later than 90 days after the completion of the
25 Community Garden Pilot Program established under sec-

tion 110(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973
(42 U.S.C. 4951(a)), the Assistant Director appointed
pursuant to section 194(d)(1)(A) of the National and
Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12651e(d)(1)(A)), shall submit to Congress a report con-
taining—

- (1) a description of the projects and volunteer
placements under the Program;
- (2) results and analysis of completed projects
under the Program; and
- (3) any recommendations for continuation of
the Program.

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