

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1825

To improve the management of the Job Corps program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13 (legislative day, DECEMBER 11), 2013

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the management of the Job Corps 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 “Securing Job Corps
5 Centers Act”.

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

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

8 (1) The Department of Labor’s management of
9 the Job Corps program has recently suffered from
10 poor budgeting and financial management. The Of-

1 fice of Inspector General of the Department of
2 Labor found that the Department had projected
3 costs erroneously and managerial factors exacer-
4 bated the resulting budget shortfalls.

5 (2) For nearly 50 years, the Job Corps pro-
6 gram was overseen by a single individual appointed
7 to a position in the Senior Executive Service. The
8 management structure for the program has ex-
9 panded to include 3 positions in the Senior Execu-
10 tive Service. This expansion has not contributed to
11 better management of the program but has created
12 uncertainty about roles and responsibilities, accord-
13 ing to the May 31, 2013, report by the Office of In-
14 spector General.

15 (3) The Department of Labor has not been suf-
16 ficiently transparent with Congress regarding poli-
17 cies that significantly affect constituents, particu-
18 larly decisions to suspend enrollments or reduce the
19 number of enrollees the Job Corps program serves.

20 (4) An advisory board of Job Corps operational
21 experts can assist the new leadership of the Depart-
22 ment of Labor as the Department—

23 (A) addresses the structural challenges the
24 Job Corps program faces in its administration;
25 and

1 (B) returns the program to the administra-
2 tive and operational efficiency that character-
3 ized the program's first 50 years.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) local Job Corps center operational experts
7 should play an important role in ensuring the effec-
8 tive management by the Secretary of the Job Corps
9 program, by informing the Office of Job Corps on
10 the impact Federal decisions may have on Job Corps
11 campuses;

12 (2) the Job Corps program continues to
13 produce results as the economy of the United States
14 recovers and unemployment remains high, as more
15 than 85 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain a
16 job, enroll in higher education, or enlist in the mili-
17 tary upon completion; and

18 (3) the 125 Job Corps center campuses, which
19 includes locations in nearly every State, have com-
20 piled an impressive record of preparing at-risk youth
21 for the workforce or higher education, and in nearly
22 50 years, more than 3,000,000 youth have obtained,
23 through the Job Corps program, the job and social
24 skills needed to start a career or obtain further edu-
25 cational credentials.

1 **SEC. 3. JOB CORPS PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
4 Department of Labor the Job Corps Program Advi-
5 sory Board (referred to in this section as the “Advi-
6 sory Board”).

7 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary, act-
8 ing through the Assistant Secretary for Employment
9 and Training, shall solicit and receive recommenda-
10 tions relating to the administration and management
11 structure of the Job Corps program from the Advi-
12 sory Board.

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Board shall be
14 composed of 5 members appointed by the Secretary, of
15 whom—

16 (1) 1 shall be selected from recommendations
17 submitted by the Board of Directors of the National
18 Job Corps Association; and

19 (2) 4 shall be selected from recommendations
20 submitted by the chairpersons, in consultation with
21 the ranking members, of the Committee on Health,
22 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and
23 the Committee on Education and the Workforce of
24 the House of Representatives.

25 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—A majority of the individuals
26 appointed to the Board under subsection (b) shall have—

1 (1) backgrounds containing significant involve-
2 ment in Job Corps managing operations; or

3 (2) relevant management experience, in areas
4 such as financial management, procurement and
5 contract administration, and performance manage-
6 ment, at a Job Corps center or at the regional or
7 national level of the Job Corps program.

8 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
9 bers of the Advisory Board shall serve for the life of the
10 Advisory Board. Any vacancy in the Advisory Board shall
11 not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same man-
12 ner as the original appointment.

13 (e) CHAIRPERSON.—The Advisory Board shall select
14 a Chairperson from among its members.

15 (f) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.—

16 (1) ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
17 STRUCTURE STUDY AND REPORT.—

18 (A) STUDY.—The Advisory Board shall
19 conduct a thorough study of all matters relating
20 to the administration of and management struc-
21 ture for the Job Corps program.

22 (B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory
23 Board shall develop recommendations on ways
24 of improving the administration and manage-
25 ment structure of the Job Corps program, in-

1 including reducing to 1 the number of positions
2 in the Senior Executive Service within the pro-
3 gram.

4 (C) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
6 visory Board shall prepare and submit to the
7 Secretary and the appropriate committees of
8 Congress—

9 (i) a report that contains a detailed
10 statement of the findings and conclusions
11 of the Advisory Board; and

12 (ii) recommendations for such legisla-
13 tion and administrative actions as the Ad-
14 visory Board considers appropriate.

15 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory Board
16 shall receive each report submitted under section
17 5(a)(2) and make recommendations to the Assistant
18 Secretary relating to the administration and man-
19 agement structure for the Job Corps program in re-
20 sponse to the report or to requests by the Secretary.

21 (g) NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.—

22 (1) VOLUNTARY SERVICE.—Each member of
23 the Advisory Board shall serve without compensation
24 in addition to any such compensation received for

1 the member's service as an officer or employee of the
2 United States, if applicable.

3 (2) NO TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
4 Advisory Board shall not be allowed travel expenses
5 while away from the member's home or regular place
6 of business in the performance of services for the
7 Advisory Board.

8 (h) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Board shall termi-
9 nate at the end of the 2-year period during which the Sec-
10 retary is not required to submit any notification reports
11 under section 5, unless the Secretary elects to extend the
12 life of the Advisory Board for any additional period of
13 time.

14 **SEC. 4. IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**
15 **STRUCTURE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after re-
17 ceiving a report under section 3(f)(1), the Secretary shall
18 take action to improve the administration and manage-
19 ment structure of the Job Corps program, which actions
20 shall include reducing to 1 the number of positions in the
21 Senior Executive Service funded through the annual ap-
22 propriations provided for the Job Corps program. The in-
23 dividual appointed to the position in the Senior Executive
24 Service for the Job Corps program shall be responsible

1 for the fiscal, program, and procurement oversight of the
2 Job Corps program.

3 (b) BUDGET PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after re-
4 ceiving the report submitted under section 6, the Secretary
5 shall prepare and submit a plan detailing how the Sec-
6 retary will address and prevent any current or anticipated
7 budget problem concerning the Job Corps program. The
8 Secretary shall submit the plan to the appropriate commit-
9 tees of Congress.

10 **SEC. 5. NOTIFICATION REPORTS.**

11 (a) REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
13 prior to implementation of a policy described in sub-
14 section (b), the Secretary, acting through the Assist-
15 ant Secretary for Employment and Training, shall
16 prepare, and submit to the appropriate committees
17 of Congress, a report that contains a notification re-
18 garding the policy.

19 (2) SUBMISSION TO THE ADVISORY BOARD.—
20 The Secretary shall submit any report prepared
21 under paragraph (1) to the Job Corps Program Ad-
22 visory Board established under section 3 at the same
23 time as such report is submitted to Congress, until
24 the date on which the Advisory Board is terminated
25 in accordance with section 3(h).

1 (b) POLICIES COVERED.—Subsection (a) applies to
2 any policy implemented by the Department of Labor that
3 would—

4 (1) suspend the enrollment of applicants to par-
5 ticipate in the Job Corps program;

6 (2) reduce the number of positions available for
7 enrollees in the program; or

8 (3) affect the closure of a Job Corps center.

9 **SEC. 6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.**

10 The Comptroller General of the United States shall
11 conduct a financial audit of the Job Corps program for
12 fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and prepare and submit a
13 report describing the results of the audit. Such audit shall
14 contain a full review of the financial shortfalls relating to
15 the program. The Comptroller General shall submit the
16 report to the Secretary and the appropriate committees
17 of Congress.

18 **SEC. 7. FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
20 sion of law, the Secretary shall reserve funds appropriated
21 for fiscal year 2013 for the Employment and Training Ad-
22 ministration that have not been obligated as of the date
23 of enactment of this Act, and shall use such funds to carry
24 out the requirements of this Act.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—The funds reserved under this
2 section shall remain available until expended.

3 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) **JOB CORPS.**—The term “Job Corps” means
6 the Job Corps described in section 143 of the Work-
7 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2882).

8 (2) **JOB CORPS CENTER.**—The term “Job Corps
9 center” means a center described in section 147 of
10 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
11 2887).

12 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Labor.

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