

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7286

To provide for a more inclusive voluntary civilian national service program to promote civic engagement, enhance national unity, and foster a sense of shared sacrifice by helping young Americans participate in national service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2018

Mr. MOULTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a more inclusive voluntary civilian national service program to promote civic engagement, enhance national unity, and foster a sense of shared sacrifice by helping young Americans participate in national service, 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 “21st Century American
5 Service Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 Section 2 of the National and Community Service Act
3 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(7) The number of Americans applying to par-
7 ticipate in national service programs each year sig-
8 nificantly exceeds the number of available positions,
9 depriving hundreds of thousands of Americans from
10 participating in national and community service,
11 which unintentionally transforms national service
12 programs into exclusive and selective entities and
13 prevents national service from serving as an inclu-
14 sive, unifying activity open to all Americans.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(6), by inserting “so that
16 all young Americans between ages 18 and 30 are
17 provided a voluntary opportunity to serve in organi-
18 zations” after “national service programs”.

19 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF AMERICORPS**
20 **EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Internal Rev-
22 enue Code of 1986 (relating to qualified scholarships) is
23 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

25 “(e) AMERICORPS EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Gross
26 income shall not include any national service educational

1 award described in subtitle D of title I of the National
 2 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
 3 et seq.).”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 5 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
 6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 4. CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY**
 8 **SERVICE DEFINED.**

9 In this Act, the terms “Corporation” and the “Cor-
 10 poration for National and Community Service” have the
 11 meaning given the term “Corporation” in section 101 of
 12 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
 13 U.S.C. 12511).

14 **SEC. 5. 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
 16 the Federal Government an inter-agency task force to be
 17 known as the “21st Century National Service Program
 18 Implementing Taskforce” (in this Act referred to as the
 19 “Task force”).

20 (b) DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.—

21 (1) PROGRAM.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task force shall
 23 develop the 21st Century National Service Pro-
 24 gram to ensure that each eligible individual who
 25 applies to serve in a voluntary national service

1 program will be provided an opportunity to
2 serve in such program.

3 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the
4 21st Century National Service Program de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Task force
6 shall carry out the following:

7 (i) NOTIFICATION.—Determine how
8 the Corporation for National and Commu-
9 nity Service will work with Federal or
10 State agencies and other entities to—

11 (I) contact each eligible indi-
12 vidual upon such individual's 18th
13 birthday to notify the individual
14 about—

15 (aa) the individual's eligi-
16 bility for national service pro-
17 grams;

18 (bb) such national service
19 programs and how to register for
20 a specific program;

21 (cc) other service programs
22 for which the individual may be
23 eligible, including the Peace
24 Corps (as established by the
25 Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.

1 2501 et seq.)) and military serv-
2 ice; and

3 (dd) the individual's option
4 to opt-out of receiving any notifi-
5 cations, or just notifications in a
6 paper format, under subclause
7 (II); and

8 (II) after contacting an eligible
9 individual under subclause (I), notify
10 the eligible individual every 2 years
11 thereafter of the information de-
12 scribed in items (aa) through (dd) of
13 subclause (I), unless—

14 (aa) the individual is serving
15 in a national service program;

16 (bb) the individual has opted
17 out of receiving such notifications
18 under subclause (I)(dd); or

19 (cc) the individual reaches
20 30 years of age.

21 (ii) REGISTRATION.—Determine how
22 the Corporation will enable eligible individ-
23 uals to register for a specific national serv-
24 ice program for not less than 1 year of
25 service, and ensure that such registration

1 process is the most effective process for the
2 purpose of registering for such a program.

3 (2) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Task force shall—

4 (A) develop a 10-year strategic implemen-
5 tation plan to fully implement the 21st Century
6 National Service Program described in para-
7 graph (1)(A), including concrete timelines and
8 milestones for an effective and phased imple-
9 mentation (which shall include beginning the
10 notification under paragraph (1)(B)(i) not later
11 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
12 Act, to the greatest extent practicable); and

13 (B) publish on the website of the Corpora-
14 tion the information described in subparagraph
15 (A).

16 (3) TASK FORCES.—The Task force shall carry
17 out the following sub-task forces to assist in devel-
18 oping the program described in paragraph (1)(A):

19 (A) A sub-task force headed by the Chair-
20 person of the Task force on expanding national
21 service opportunities to ensure that any indi-
22 vidual who applies to serve is guaranteed an op-
23 portunity to do so.

1 (B) A sub-task force headed by the Direc-
 2 tor of the Selective Service System on notifying
 3 eligible individuals.

4 (C) A sub-task force headed by the Sec-
 5 retary of Education on expanding bridge-year
 6 service learning programs.

7 (D) A sub-task force headed by the Sec-
 8 retary of Defense on transitioning servicemem-
 9 bers to civilian life through national service.

10 (E) A sub-task force headed by the Direc-
 11 tor of the Peace Corps on integrating interna-
 12 tional service opportunities.

13 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task force shall be
 15 composed of the following members:

16 (A) The Secretary of Education (or the
 17 Secretary's designee).

18 (B) The Director of the Selective Service
 19 System (or the Director's designee).

20 (C) The Director of the Peace Corps (or
 21 the Director's designee).

22 (D) The Secretary of Defense (or the Sec-
 23 retary's designee).

24 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
 25 Task force shall be the Chief Executive Officer of

1 the Corporation for National and Community Serv-
2 ice.

3 (3) STAFF.—With the approval of the Task
4 force, the Chairperson may appoint additional per-
5 sonnel (who may be from public or private sectors)
6 as the Chairperson considers appropriate.

7 (d) TERMINATION.—The Task force shall terminate
8 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

10 (1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
11 individual” means an individual who—

12 (A) is a citizen, national of the United
13 States, or a lawful permanent resident alien of
14 the United States; and

15 (B) is between the ages of 18 and 30, in-
16 clusive.

17 (2) NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM.—The term
18 “national service program” is a voluntary civilian
19 national service program authorized under the Na-
20 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
21 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) or the Domestic Volunteer
22 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL SERVICE COLLEGE AGREEMENT PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Corporation for National
4 and Community Service shall establish a national service
5 college agreement—

6 (1) with not fewer than 2 States, not later than
7 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

8 (2) with not fewer than 5 States, not later than
9 5 years after such date of enactment.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS.—A national service
11 agreement is an agreement between the Corporation and
12 a State under which—

13 (1) eligible individuals who desire to attend a
14 public institution of higher education in the State
15 will be able to use an educational award under sub-
16 section (d) to attend a 2- or 4-year program of in-
17 struction, or a career or technical education pro-
18 gram, at such a public institution of higher edu-
19 cation, at no additional charge to the individuals;
20 and

21 (2) the Corporation and the State determine
22 the timeframe by which eligible individuals shall suc-
23 cessfully complete the activities under paragraphs
24 (1) and (2) of subsection (c) in order to qualify to
25 use an educational award in accordance with para-

graph (1) of this subsection, and avoid repayment of such educational award or other penalties.

(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible individual” means an individual described in section 146(a) of the National and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12602(a)) who, as a condition of receiving an educational award under subsection (d)—

(1) successfully completes, or agrees to complete, two required terms of full-time national service in an approved national service position for purposes of eligibility for 2 educational awards under section 147(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)); and

(2) successfully completes, or agrees to complete, not less than one calendar year of employment with a Federal, State, or local government entity, or a nonprofit organization.

(d) INCREASED EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive an educational award under this section, an eligible individual shall be selected by the Corporation and a State with which the Corporation has a national service agreement under this section to receive such award for the purpose of attending a public institution of higher education in the State in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

1 (2) CALCULATION.—An eligible individual se-
2 lected under paragraph (1) shall receive an edu-
3 cational award under this section that is equal to the
4 total value of the educational service awards under
5 section 147(a) of the National and Community Serv-
6 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)) that the individual is
7 eligible to receive for the two successfully completed
8 (or agreed to be completed) terms of full-time na-
9 tional service, as described in subsection (c)(1) of
10 this section, except that in calculating the value of
11 each such award, such section 147(a) (42 U.S.C.
12 12603(a)) shall be applied by inserting “twice” be-
13 fore “the maximum amount of a Federal Pell
14 Grant”.

15 (3) LIMITATION.—Not more than a total of
16 250,000 individuals may receive an educational
17 award under this section.

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The
20 term “career and technical education” has the
21 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D.
22 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
23 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

24 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

3 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
4 ing given the term in section 101 of the National
5 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
6 12511).

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