

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3456

To amend the Peace Corps Act to reauthorize the Peace Corps, better support current, returning, and former volunteers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. SHALALA, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 amend the Peace Corps Act to reauthorize the Peace Corps, better support current, returning, and former volunteers, 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 “Peace Corps Reauthor-
5 ization Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR THE PEACE CORPS; INTEGRATION OF**
2 **INFORMATION AGE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNI-**
3 **TIES.**

4 Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
5 2502(b)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking
7 “\$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, \$298,000,000
8 for fiscal year 2001, \$327,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2002, and \$365,000,000 for fiscal year 2003” and
10 inserting “\$450,000,000 for each of fiscal years
11 2019 through 2023”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “that fiscal
13 year and the subsequent fiscal year” and inserting
14 “obligation through the end of the subsequent fiscal
15 year”;

16 (3) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
17 section (e); and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(f) In recognition of the transformative power of
21 internet access in developing countries, the Peace Corps
22 shall be administered to give particular attention to those
23 programs, projects, training, and other activities which le-
24 verage the internet, as appropriate, for development, edu-
25 cation, and social and economic mobility and to develop

1 positions for volunteers that include such programs,
 2 projects, training, and other activities.”.

3 **SEC. 3. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES FOR VOLUNTEERS**
 4 **AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS.**

5 (a) VOLUNTEERS.—Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act
 6 (22 U.S.C. 2504) is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by in-
 8 serting “, safety” after “health”;

9 (2) in the first sentence of subsection (c), by
 10 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$417”;

11 (3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (p)
 12 as subsections (d) through (o), respectively;

13 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, in the
 14 first sentence, by striking “subsection (f)” and in-
 15 serting “subsection (e)”;

16 (5) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

17 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
 18 section (e)” each place it appears and inserting
 19 “subsection (d)”;

20 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “sub-
 21 section (1)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

22 (b) VOLUNTEER LEADERS.—Section 6(1) of the
 23 Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2505(1)) is amended by strik-
 24 ing “\$125” and inserting “\$417”.

1 **SEC. 4. PEACE CORPS NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

2 Section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2511)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
7 graph (A), by striking “conduct on-site in-
8 spections, and make examinations, of the
9 activities of the Peace Corps in the United
10 States and in other countries in order to”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
12 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

13 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
14 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

15 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
16 (C) the the following new subparagraph:

17 “(D) make recommendations for utilizing
18 the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-
19 teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace Corps;
20 and”;

21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (I) in the first sentence—

25 (aa) by striking “fifteen”
26 and inserting “seven”; and

1 (bb) by striking “President,
2 by and with the advice and con-
3 sent of the Senate” and inserting
4 “Director of the Peace Corps”;
5 and

6 (II) by striking the second sen-
7 tence and inserting the following new
8 sentence: “At least four of such mem-
9 bers shall be former Peace Corps vol-
10 unteers, and not more than four of
11 such members may be members of the
12 same political party.”;

13 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to
14 read as follows:

15 “(B) No member appointed under this
16 paragraph may be an officer or employee of the
17 Peace Corps.”;

18 (iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to
19 read as follows:

20 “(D) The members of the council shall be
21 appointed to 2-year terms.”; and

22 (iv) by striking subparagraphs (E),
23 (F), (G), (H), and (I); and

24 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
25 follows:

1 “(3) The Director of the Peace Corps shall des-
2 ignate one of the voting members of the Council as
3 Chair, who shall serve in such capacity for a period
4 not to exceed two years.”;

5 (3) in subsection (g)—

6 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “At
7 its first meeting and at its first regular meeting
8 in each calendar year thereafter” and inserting
9 “At its first meeting each calendar year”; and

10 (B) in the second sentence, by inserting
11 before the period at the end the following: “,
12 and shall each serve in that capacity for a pe-
13 riod not to exceed two years.”;

14 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “The Coun-
15 cil” and all that follows through the period at the
16 end and inserting the following: “The Council shall
17 hold a regular meeting during each calendar quarter
18 at a date and time to be determined by the Chair
19 of the Council or at the call of the Director of the
20 Peace Corps.”; and

21 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 sections:

23 “(k) INDEPENDENCE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—
24 None of the activities or functions of the Council under
25 subsection (b)(2) may undermine the independence or su-

1 persede the duties of the Inspector General of the Peace
2 Corps.

3 “(l) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal
4 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply
5 to the Council.

6 “(m) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The
7 Director of the Peace Corps may accept donations of
8 funds, gifts, and in-kind contributions and use such dona-
9 tions without further appropriation for administrative ex-
10 penses relating to the functions of the Council.

11 “(n) MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT.—The Director of
12 the Peace Corps may enter into a multi-year agreement
13 with a nonprofit organization that supports current, re-
14 turning, or former Peace Corps volunteers, authorizing
15 such nonprofit organization to solicit donations, on behalf
16 of the Peace Corps, solely to support the administrative
17 expenses relating to the functions of the Council. Any
18 agreement under this subsection shall require the non-
19 profit organization at issue to transfer all donated funds
20 received under such agreement to the Peace Corps for use
21 under subsection (m).”.

22 **SEC. 5. USE OF OFFICIAL SEAL, EMBLEM, AND NAME OF**
23 **THE PEACE CORPS.**

24 Subsection (b) of section 19 of the Peace Corps Act
25 (22 U.S.C. 2518) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the pe-
 2 riod at the end the following: “, except that the offi-
 3 cial seal or emblem and the name ‘Peace Corps’ may
 4 be used on any death announcement, gravestone,
 5 plaque, or other grave marker of any person who
 6 served as a volunteer or as an officer or employee
 7 of the Peace Corps under such rules as may be pre-
 8 scribed by the Director”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence, by
 10 inserting “or in accordance with the exception speci-
 11 fied in paragraph (1),” before “shall be fined”.

12 **SEC. 6. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDER RE-**
 13 **LATING TO EXISTING NONCOMPETITIVE ELI-**
 14 **GIBILITY FEDERAL HIRING STATUS FOR RE-**
 15 **TURNING VOLUNTEERS.**

16 The Peace Corps Act is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating sections 26 through 28 (22
 18 U.S.C. 2522, 2523, and 2501 note) as sections 27
 19 through 29; and

20 (2) by inserting after section 25 the following
 21 new section:

1 “CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDER RELAT-
2 ING TO EXISTING NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY
3 FEDERAL HIRING STATUS FOR RETURNING VOLUN-
4 TEERS

5 “SEC. 26. (a) Executive Order 11103 (28 Fed. Reg.
6 3571; Apr. 10, 1963), as amended by Executive Order
7 12107 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; Dec. 28, 1978), as in effect
8 on the day before the date of the enactment of this section,
9 shall remain in effect and have the full force and effect
10 of law, consistent with subsection (b).

11 “(b)(1) The period of eligibility for noncompetitive
12 appointment to the civil service provided to an individual
13 by operation of subsection (a), including any individual
14 who is so eligible on the date of enactment of this section,
15 shall be extended by the total number of days that, during
16 such period—

17 “(A) a hiring freeze for civilian employees of
18 the executive branch is in effect by order of the
19 President with respect to any Executive agency at
20 which the individual has applied for employment;

21 “(B) there is a lapse in appropriations with re-
22 spect to any Executive agency at which the indi-
23 vidual has applied for employment; or

24 “(C) the individual is receiving disability com-
25 pensation under section 8142 of title 5, United

1 States Code, based on their service as a Peace Corp
2 volunteer, retroactive to the date the individual ap-
3 plied for such compensation.

4 “(2) For purposes of subsection (b)—

5 “(A) the term ‘hiring freeze’ means any memo-
6 randum, Executive order, or other action by the
7 President that prohibits an Executive agency from
8 filling vacant Federal civilian employee positions or
9 creating new such positions; and

10 “(B) the term ‘Executive agency’ has the mean-
11 ing given that term in section 105 of title 5, United
12 States Code, and includes the United States Postal
13 Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission, but
14 does not include the Government Accountability Of-
15 fice.”.

16 **SEC. 7. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH BUREAU OF**
17 **DIPLOMATIC SECURITY OF THE DEPART-**
18 **MENT OF STATE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—At least once every five years, the
20 Director of the Peace Corps and the Assistant Secretary
21 of State for Diplomatic Security shall review the Memo-
22 randum of Agreement between the Bureau of Diplomatic
23 Security of the Department of State and the Peace Corps
24 regarding security support and protection of Peace Corps

1 volunteers and staff members abroad and update such
2 Memorandum of Agreement, as appropriate.

3 (b) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Peace Corps
4 and the Assistance Secretary of State for Diplomatic Se-
5 curity shall jointly submit to the Committee on Foreign
6 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate any update to
8 the Memorandum of Agreement under subsection (a) not
9 later than 30 days before such update shall take effect.

10 **SEC. 8. CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY OF**
11 **UNITED STATES NATIONALS.**

12 The Peace Corps Act is amended—

13 (1) in section 7(a)(5) (22 U.S.C. 2506(a)(5)),
14 by inserting “or nationals of the United States”
15 after “citizens” each place such term appears;

16 (2) in section 8(b) (22 U.S.C. 2507(b)), by in-
17 serting “or nationals of the United States” after
18 “citizens”;

19 (3) in section 10(b) (22 U.S.C. 2509(b)), by in-
20 serting “, national of the United States,” after “cit-
21 izen”;

22 (4) in section 12(g) (22 U.S.C. 2511(g)), by in-
23 serting “or nationals of the United” after “citizens”;
24 and

1 (5) in section 27 (as redesignated pursuant to
2 section 6 of this Act)—

3 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
4 through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (9), re-
5 spectively; and

6 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
7 following new paragraph:

8 “(5) The term ‘national’ has the meaning given
9 such term in section 101(a)(22)(B) of the Immigra-
10 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
11 1101(a)(22)(B)).”.

12 **SEC. 9. WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR PEACE CORPS VOL-**
13 **UNTEERS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8142 of title 5, United
15 States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “GS–7”
18 and inserting “GS–11”; and

19 (B) by striking paragraph (2) (and redesi-
20 gnating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs
21 (2) and (3), respectively); and

22 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “subsection
23 (c)(3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(2)”.

24 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
25 section (a)(1)(A) shall apply to any volunteer (as that

1 term is defined in subsection (a) of section 8142 of title
 2 5, United States Code) with respect to whom benefits
 3 under chapter 81 of such title commence, by operation of
 4 such section, on or after the date of the enactment of this
 5 Act.

6 **SEC. 10. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

7 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is
 8 amended—

9 (1) in section 7 (22 U.S.C. 2506)—

10 (A) in subsection (a), by moving para-
 11 graphs (7) and (8) two ems to the left; and

12 (B) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 13 section (b);

14 (2) in section 8A(d)(2) (22 U.S.C.
 15 2507a(d)(2)), insert “the” before “information”;

16 (3) in section 8C (22 U.S.C. 2507c), in the
 17 heading of subsection (a), by striking “VICTIMS”
 18 and inserting “VICTIM”;

19 (4) in section 8E (22 U.S.C. 2507e)—

20 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “sub-
 21 section (c),,” and inserting “subsection (c),”;
 22 and

23 (B) in subsection (e)(1)(F), by striking
 24 “Corp’s” and inserting “Corps’”;

1 (5) in section 9 (22 U.S.C. 2508), by striking
2 “Act proceedings” and inserting “Act. Removal pro-
3 ceedings”;

4 (6) in section 10 (22 U.S.C. 2509)—

5 (A) in subsection (d), by striking “section
6 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United
7 States, as amended, section 302 of the Federal
8 Property and Administrative Services Act of
9 1949” and inserting “sections 3101(a),
10 3101(c), 3104, 3106, 3301(b)(2), and 6101 of
11 title 41, United States Code”; and

12 (B) in subsection (j), in the first sentence,
13 by striking the second period;

14 (7) in section 15(c) (22 U.S.C. 2514(c)), in the
15 first sentence, by striking “that Act” and inserting
16 “that subchapter”;

17 (8) in section 23 (22 U.S.C. 2520), by striking
18 “Universal Military Training and Service Act” and
19 inserting “Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C.
20 3801 et seq.)”; and

21 (9) in section 27 (as redesignated pursuant to
22 section 6 of this Act)—

23 (A) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated pur-
24 suant to section 8 of this Act), by striking
25 “5(m)” and inserting “5(n)”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (9) (as redesignated pur-
2 suant to section 8 of this Act)—

3 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and
4 (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-
5 tively; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (A), as so redes-
7 ignated, by striking “section 5(f)” and in-
8 serting “section 5(e)”.

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