

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5678

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out grant programs to encourage student participation in local government and volunteer service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out grant programs to encourage student participation in local government and volunteer 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 “Service Starts At
5 Home Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT INTERNSHIPS IN LOCAL GOV-**
7 **ERNMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education

1 shall carry out a program under which the Secretary
2 makes grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities
3 to support paid internships within units of local govern-
4 ment for secondary school students and students who are
5 qualified undergraduates at institutions of higher edu-
6 cation in the State in which the entity is located.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
8 under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit an ap-
9 plication to the Secretary of Education at such time, in
10 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
11 retary may require.

12 (c) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—
13 Each eligible entity that receives a grant under subsection
14 (a) shall use such grant to carry out a program under
15 which the entity—

16 (1) identifies appropriate paid internship oppor-
17 tunities within units of local government for sec-
18 ondary school students and students who are under-
19 graduates at institutions of higher education in the
20 State in which the entity is located;

21 (2) establishes a process for the selection of
22 students to fill such internships;

23 (3) determines hourly rates of pay and other
24 terms and conditions applicable to such internships;

1 (4) pays the costs incurred in providing such in-
 2 ternships.

3 (d) ACCOMMODATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL STAND-
 4 ARDS.—In carrying out the internship program under sub-
 5 section (c), an eligible entity shall—

6 (1) work with institutions of higher education
 7 to ensure that the work performed by interns has
 8 educational value and meets applicable educational
 9 standards; and

10 (2) seek to provide reasonable employment-re-
 11 lated accommodations to interns who have childcare
 12 needs, transportation difficulties, or other such chal-
 13 lenges, which may include accommodations such as
 14 flexible work schedules for interns and allowing in-
 15 terns to telework to the extent determined prac-
 16 ticable by the eligibility entity concerned.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 19 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

20 **SEC. 3. SCHOLARSHIP FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE PRO-**
 21 **GRAMS.**

22 (a) FUNDING.—

23 (1) STATE PROGRAMS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary of Education shall carry out a program
2 under which the Secretary makes allocations to
3 States, in accordance with subparagraph (B), to
4 carry out the scholarship program under sub-
5 section (b).

6 (B) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—Of the
7 amount appropriated to carry out this section
8 for each fiscal year and not reserved under
9 paragraph (2), each State that has an applica-
10 tion approved by the Secretary under subpara-
11 graph (C) shall be allocated an amount in pro-
12 portion to number of students enrolled in the
13 public elementary and secondary schools in the
14 State for the previous school year relative to the
15 total number of students enrolled in the public
16 elementary and secondary schools for such
17 school year in every State that has an applica-
18 tion approved by the Secretary under such sub-
19 paragraph.

20 (C) STATE APPLICATION.—To be eligible
21 to receive an allocation under subparagraph (B)
22 a State shall submit an application to the Sec-
23 retary of Education at such time, in such man-
24 ner, and containing such information as the
25 Secretary may require.

1 (2) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—Of the amount ap-
2 propriated to carry out this section for each fiscal,
3 the Secretary of Education may reserve not more
4 than 20 percent to carry out the Federal supple-
5 mental scholarship program under subsection (c).

6 (b) STATE ADMINISTERED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
7 GRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives an
9 allocation under subsection (a)(2) shall use such al-
10 location to carry out a program under which the
11 State awards scholarships, on a competitive basis, to
12 eligible students who demonstrate a commitment to
13 volunteer service work.

14 (2) APPLICATION.—A student who seeks a
15 scholarship under this subsection shall submit an ap-
16 plication to the State at such time, in such manner,
17 and containing such information as the State may
18 require.

19 (3) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
20 receive a scholarship under this subsection a student
21 shall meet the following criteria:

22 (A) FIRST-TIME APPLICANT.—In the case
23 of a first-time applicant for a scholarship under
24 this subsection, the student shall—

1 (i)(I) be enrolled in a secondary school
2 and be in the final year of a program of
3 study leading to a regular high school di-
4 ploma; or

5 (II) be enrolled in an institution of
6 higher education; and

7 (ii) have completed at least 100 hours
8 of volunteer service work in the preceding
9 school year (or another one-year period de-
10 termined by the Secretary of Education).

11 (B) RENEWAL APPLICANT.—In the case of
12 a student who received scholarship under this
13 subsection for an academic year and who is
14 seeking a scholarship for a subsequent academic
15 year, the student shall—

16 (i) be enrolled in an institution of
17 higher education;

18 (ii) be in good academic standing (as
19 determined by the institution); and

20 (iii) have completed at least 100 hours
21 of volunteer service work in the preceding
22 school year (or another one-year period de-
23 termined by the Secretary of Education).

1 (4) RENEWAL PROCESS.—Subject to the avail-
2 ability of funds for such purpose, a State that re-
3 ceives an allocation under subsection (a) shall—

4 (A) award a scholarship to each renewal
5 applicant who meets the requirements described
6 in paragraph (3)(B); and

7 (B) establish a streamlined process under
8 which renewal applicants can apply for such
9 scholarships with minimal documentation re-
10 quired.

11 (5) PRIORITY.—In awarding scholarships under
12 this subsection, a State shall—

13 (A) in accordance with paragraph (4), first
14 award scholarships to renewal applicants de-
15 scribed in paragraph (3)(B); and

16 (B) from any funds remaining after award-
17 ing such scholarships, award scholarships to
18 first-time applicants described in paragraph
19 (3)(A).

20 (6) USE OF FUNDS.—A scholarship received by
21 a student under this subsection may be used by such
22 student only to pay the student's costs of attendance
23 at an institution of higher education.

24 (7) DURATION.—Each scholarship under this
25 subsection shall be awarded for a period of one aca-

1 demic year. A student may receive a scholarship
2 under this subsection for a total period of not more
3 than four academic years.

4 (8) AMOUNT.—The amount of each scholarship
5 under this subsection shall be—

6 (A) \$1000, for a student who completed at
7 least 100 hours, but less than 138 hours, of vol-
8 unteer service work in the preceding school year
9 (or another one-year period determined by the
10 Secretary of Education);

11 (B) \$1500, for a student who completed at
12 least 138 hours, but less than 175 hours, of vol-
13 unteer service work in the preceding school year
14 (or another one-year period determined by the
15 Secretary of Education);

16 (C) \$2000, for a student who completed at
17 least 175 hours, but less than 213 hours, of vol-
18 unteer service work in such period;

19 (D) \$2500, for a student who completed at
20 least 213 hours, but less than 250 hours, of vol-
21 unteer service work in such period; and

22 (E) \$3000, for a student who completed at
23 least 250 hours of volunteer service work in
24 such period.

1 (c) FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
2 GRAM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts reserved
4 under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary of Education
5 may carry out a program under which the Secretary
6 awards supplementary funds, on a competitive basis,
7 directly to eligible students who have already re-
8 ceived scholarships for volunteer service work.

9 (2) AMOUNT.—The amount of supplementary
10 funds awarded to each student under paragraph (1)
11 shall be determined by the Secretary of Education.

12 (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding scholarships under
13 this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize the
14 award of funds to students who have not received a
15 scholarship under subsection (b).

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) The term “cost of attendance” has the
22 meaning given that term in section 472 of the High-
23 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

24 (2) The term “eligible entity” means a State or
25 a unit of local government.

1 (3) The terms “elementary school”, “regular
2 high school diploma”, “secondary school”, and
3 “State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
4 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
5 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

6 (4) The term “institution of higher education”
7 has the meaning given that term in section 101 of
8 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 1001).

10 (5) The term “unit of local government”
11 means—

12 (A) a county, municipality, town, township,
13 village, parish, borough, or other unit of general
14 government below the State level; or

15 (B) a governing body of an Indian tribe or
16 tribal organization.

17 (6)(A) The term “volunteer service work”
18 means unpaid acts of volunteer service conducted for
19 or on behalf of a government or other nonprofit or-
20 ganization, which may include a community-based
21 organization, faith-based organization, school, na-
22 tional service program, civic or fraternal service or-
23 ganization, local government agency, or other such
24 organization.

1 (B) Such term does not include acts of proselyt-
2 izing, conducting worship services, religious instruc-
3 tion, political lobbying, court ordered service, or
4 service conducted primarily for the benefit of the
5 family of a student eligible for a scholarship under
6 section 3.

