

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3648

To reestablish the National Science Scholars Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 1996

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and in addition to the Committee on Science, 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 reestablish the National Science Scholars Program.

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. PURPOSE; APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

5 (1) to establish a National Science Scholars
6 Program to recognize student excellence and
7 achievement in the physical, life, and computer
8 sciences, mathematics, and engineering;

9 (2) to provide financial assistance to students
10 under paragraph (1) to continue their postsecondary

1 education in such fields of study at sustained high
2 levels of performance;

3 (3) to contribute to strengthening the leader-
4 ship of the United States in such fields;

5 (4) to strengthen the United States mathe-
6 matics, science, and engineering base by offering op-
7 portunities to pursue postsecondary education in life,
8 physical, and computer sciences, mathematics, and
9 engineering;

10 (5) to encourage role models in scientific, math-
11 ematics, and engineering fields for young people;

12 (6) to strengthen the United States mathe-
13 matics, scientific, and engineering potential by en-
14 couraging equal participation of women with men in
15 mathematics, scientific, and engineering fields; and

16 (7) to attract talented students to teaching ca-
17 reers in mathematics and science in elementary and
18 secondary schools.

19 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated \$4,500,000 for fiscal
21 year 1997 and such sums as may be necessary for each
22 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years for awards to National
23 Science Scholars.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

2 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is author-
3 ized, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, to carry
4 out a program of awarding scholarships to students for
5 the study of the physical, life, or computer sciences, math-
6 ematics, or engineering, who—

7 (1) are selected by the President;

8 (2) have demonstrated outstanding academic
9 achievement in the physical, life, or computer
10 sciences, mathematics, or engineering; and

11 (3) show promise of continued outstanding aca-
12 demic performance in such field of study.

13 (b) PERIOD OF AWARDS.—

14 (1) PERIOD OF INITIAL AWARD.—A student
15 who satisfies the requirements of section 4(a) may
16 receive a scholarship, for a period of 1 academic
17 year, for the first year of undergraduate study at an
18 institution of higher education.

19 (2) CONTINUATION AWARDS.—A student who
20 satisfies the requirements of section 4(b) may re-
21 ceive additional scholarships, each awarded for a pe-
22 riod of 1 academic year, in order to complete his or
23 her undergraduate course of study. A student may
24 receive additional scholarships for not more than 3
25 academic years of undergraduate study, except that,
26 in the case of a student who is enrolled in an under-

1 graduate course of study that requires attendance
2 for 5 academic years, the student may receive addi-
3 tional scholarships for not more than 4 academic
4 years of undergraduate study.

5 (c) USE AT ANY INSTITUTION PERMITTED.—A stu-
6 dent awarded a scholarship under this Act may attend any
7 institution of higher education.

8 (d) NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS.—Students
9 awarded scholarships under this Act shall be known as
10 “National Science Scholars”.

11 **SEC. 3. SELECTION OF SCHOLARS.**

12 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA FOR INITIAL AWARDS.—

13 (1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Director shall
14 develop and submit to the Secretary proposed cri-
15 teria to be used in the selection of National Science
16 Scholars for initial year awards under section
17 2(b)(1). Such criteria shall provide for the selection
18 of such scholars on the basis of potential to success-
19 fully complete a postsecondary program in the phys-
20 ical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engi-
21 neering, and on the basis of motivation to pursue a
22 career in such fields. In addition, consideration may
23 be given to the financial need of the individual, and
24 to promoting participation by minorities and individ-
25 uals with disabilities. The Director shall determine

1 proposed criteria for measuring the potential and
2 motivation of nominees.

3 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary and the Di-
4 rector shall agree to, and jointly publish in the Fed-
5 eral Register, appropriate selection criteria.

6 (b) SELECTION PROCESS FOR INITIAL AWARDS.—

7 (1) NOMINATING COMMITTEE.—Each State de-
8 siring to qualify its students for selection as Na-
9 tional Science Scholars shall establish a nominating
10 committee. Such committee shall be appointed by
11 the chief State school officer or by an existing grant
12 agency or panel designated by such officer, and shall
13 be approved by the Secretary. The nominating com-
14 mittee shall be a broad-based committee composed of
15 educators, scientists, mathematicians, and engineers,
16 who shall serve as volunteers without compensation.

17 (2) NOMINATIONS.—The nominating committee
18 in each State shall submit to the President the
19 nominations of at least four individuals from each
20 congressional district in the State, at least half of
21 whom are female. Such selections shall be ranked in
22 order of priority.

23 (3) SELECTION.—The President, after consulta-
24 tion with the Secretary and the Director, shall select
25 two National Science Scholars for each academic

1 year from each congressional district, at least one of
2 whom shall be female.

3 (4) ANNOUNCEMENT AND AWARD OF SCHOLAR-
4 SHIPS.—The selection process shall be completed,
5 and the announcement of the selection of National
6 Science Scholars shall be made by the President
7 prior to January 1st of each fiscal year. The Sec-
8 retary shall notify each Member of Congress of se-
9 lections made from such Member’s district and State
10 before the public announcement by the President.
11 Presentation of scholarships may be made in a pub-
12 lic ceremony.

13 (5) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.—For purposes
14 of this subsection, the term “congressional district”
15 includes the part or all of a State (within the mean-
16 ing of section 1201(b) of the Higher Education Act
17 of 1965) represented by a Member or Delegate of
18 the House of Representatives, and includes the Com-
19 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

20 (c) CONTINUATION AWARDS.—The Secretary shall
21 award additional scholarships under section 2(b)(2) to re-
22 cipients of initial awards under section 2(b)(1) who the
23 Secretary determines meet the requirements of section
24 4(b).

1 (d) DISBURSAL OF SCHOLARSHIP PROCEEDS.—
2 Scholarship proceeds shall be disbursed on behalf of stu-
3 dents who receive scholarships under this Act to the insti-
4 tutions of higher education at which the students are en-
5 rolled. No scholarship proceeds shall be disbursed on be-
6 half of a student until the student is enrolled at an institu-
7 tion of higher education.

8 (e) SPECIAL RULE.—The Director and the Secretary
9 shall encourage the support and assistance of civic groups,
10 the business community, professional associations, institu-
11 tions of higher education, and others in providing scholar-
12 ship assistance to National Science Scholarship finalists.

13 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY OF SCHOLARS.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL AWARD.—To be eli-
15 gible to receive a scholarship under section 2(b)(1), a stu-
16 dent shall—

17 (1) be scheduled to graduate from a public or
18 private secondary school, or to obtain the equivalent
19 of a certificate of graduation (as recognized by the
20 State in which the student resides), during the
21 school year in which the award is made;

22 (2) be a citizen or national of the United States
23 or the entities set forth in section 3(b)(5), or be an
24 alien lawfully admitted to the United States for per-
25 manent residence;

1 (3) have demonstrated outstanding academic
2 achievement in secondary school in physical, life, or
3 computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering;

4 (4) have been accepted for enrollment at an in-
5 stitution of higher education as a full-time under-
6 graduate student (as determined by the institution);
7 and

8 (5) have declared a major in 1 of the physical,
9 life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineer-
10 ing, or provided a written statement to the State of
11 his or her intent to major in 1 of these fields of
12 study, if it is the policy of the institution at which
13 the student has been accepted for enrollment that
14 students not declare a major until a later point in
15 their course of study.

16 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUATION AWARDS.—
17 A student who has received a scholarship under section
18 2(b)(1) may receive a scholarship for a subsequent aca-
19 demic year of undergraduate education under section
20 2(b)(2) if the student—

21 (1) maintains a high level of academic achieve-
22 ment, as determined in accordance with the regula-
23 tions of the Secretary;

24 (2) continues to major in, or provides a state-
25 ment to the State as described in subsection (a)(5)

1 of his or her continuing intent to major in, one of
2 the physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics,
3 or engineering; and

4 (3) continues to be enrolled at an institution of
5 higher education as a full-time undergraduate stu-
6 dent (as determined by the institution).

7 (c) WAIVER OF FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE REQUIRE-
8 MENT.—The Secretary may waive the full-time attendance
9 requirements in this section in unusual circumstances.

10 (d) FAILURE TO MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIRE-
11 MENTS.—In the event that the student fails to meet the
12 requirements of this section, the student’s eligibility to re-
13 ceive further scholarships (or scholarship proceeds) under
14 this Act shall be suspended in accordance with the regula-
15 tions of the Secretary.

16 (e) REINSTATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Sec-
17 retary shall determine circumstances under which eligi-
18 bility of a scholarship recipient under this Act may be re-
19 instated if the recipient seeks to re-enter school after an
20 interruption of schooling for personal reasons, including,
21 but not limited to, pregnancy, child-rearing, and other
22 family responsibilities.

23 (f) NOTIFICATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—The
24 Secretary shall notify all public and private secondary
25 schools and all institutions of higher education in each

1 State annually of the availability of scholarships under
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.**

4 (a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—Except as provided in sub-
5 sections (b) and (c), the amount of a scholarship awarded
6 under this Act for any academic year shall be \$5,000.

7 (b) RELATION TO COST OF ATTENDANCE.—Notwith-
8 standing subsection (a), the amount of a scholarship
9 awarded under this Act shall be reduced by the amount
10 that the scholarship exceeds the student's cost of attend-
11 ance, as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education
12 Act of 1965. A scholarship awarded under this Act shall
13 not be reduced on the basis of the student's receipt of
14 other forms of Federal student financial assistance, but
15 shall be taken into account in determining the eligibility
16 of the student for those other forms of Federal student
17 financial assistance.

18 (c) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INSUFFICIENT APPROPRIA-
19 TIONS.—In the event that funds available in a fiscal year
20 are insufficient to fully fund all awards under this Act,
21 the amount paid to each student shall be reduced propor-
22 tionately.

1 **SEC. 6. SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
2 **SCHOLARS.**

3 (a) PRIORITY FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT.—To the
4 extent that they are otherwise qualified, students receiving
5 scholarships under this Act shall be given priority consid-
6 eration for federally financed summer employment in fed-
7 erally funded research and development centers, that, to
8 the maximum extent practicable, complements and rein-
9 forces the educational program of these students.

10 (b) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.—Federal
11 agencies shall cooperate fully with the Secretary and par-
12 ticipate actively in providing appropriate summer employ-
13 ment opportunities for such students.

14 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

15 As used in this Act—

16 (1) the term “Director” shall refer to the Di-
17 rector of the National Science Foundation;

18 (2) the term “elementary school” has the same
19 meaning given that term in section 14101(14) of the
20 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

21 (3) the term “institution of higher education”
22 has the same meaning given that term in section
23 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965;

24 (4) the term “minorities” refers to members of
25 those racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in
26 mathematics, science and engineering, including

1 American Indians, Black Americans, Hispanic
2 Americans, Native Alaskans, or Native Pacific Is-
3 landers;

4 (5) the term “scholarship” refers to a financial
5 award made to a student which enables a student to
6 pursue a desired course of study at an institution of
7 higher education;

8 (6) the term “secondary school” has the same
9 meaning given that term in section 14101(25) of the
10 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
11 and

12 (7) the term “Secretary” refers to the Sec-
13 retary of the Department of Education.

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