

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4175

To require the Secretary of Education to investigate the feasibility of establishing a National Environmental Science and Policy Academy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. LAZIO of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, 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 require the Secretary of Education to investigate the feasibility of establishing a National Environmental Science and Policy Academy.

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 “Environmental De-
5 fense Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that the Federal Government
8 should make a commitment to battle the Nation’s environ-

1 mental problems and ensure that the country's leadership
2 needs are met in the fields of environmental science and
3 policy.

4 **SEC. 3. INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.**

5 (a) INVESTIGATION.—The Secretary of Education
6 shall conduct an investigation of the feasibility of estab-
7 lishment by the Federal Government of a National Envi-
8 ronmental Science and Policy Academy that would fulfill
9 the purposes described in subsection (c). In conducting
10 such investigation, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) consider the feasibility of establishing a na-
12 tional academy for undergraduate and graduate pro-
13 grams in a broad spectrum of environmental fields;

14 (2) consider academy management, funding,
15 and location, the selection process for academy stu-
16 dents, curriculum requirements for graduation, and
17 service requirements for academy graduates; and

18 (3) consult with other appropriate Federal
19 agencies and with existing national nonprofit organi-
20 zations that have generally recognized ethical or
21 technical standards (or both) for environmental pro-
22 fessionals.

23 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 6 months after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Edu-
25 cation shall submit to the Congress a report on the results

1 of the investigation conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

2 Such report shall include—

3 (1) a recommendation on the feasibility of es-
4 tablishing a National Environmental Science and
5 Policy Academy and the most appropriate operating
6 and management policy for that academy;

7 (2) a recommendation on fields of study and de-
8 grees;

9 (3) a determination of the most appropriate
10 funding mechanism for the academy, such as oper-
11 ational grants, private endowments, or requirements
12 for matching funds;

13 (4) a recommendation on academy location,
14 such as single site, use of existing campuses, or es-
15 tablishment of national-level programs at the “land
16 grant” colleges;

17 (5) a recommendation on service requirements
18 of academy graduates, at Federal, State, or local
19 levels; and

20 (6) the Secretary’s recommendations for legisla-
21 tive or administrative action to achieve the establish-
22 ment of a National Environmental Science and Pol-
23 icy Academy.

1 (c) PURPOSES OF ACADEMY.—The establishment of
2 a National Environmental Science and Policy Academy
3 should be directed at achieving the following purposes:

4 (1) to serve as a national symbol of commit-
5 ment to the environment, much as West Point and
6 other service academies have done for defense; and

7 (2) to provide common points of reference for
8 environmental issues.

