

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3031

To establish the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland memorial fellowship programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, 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 establish the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland memorial fellowship programs, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Congressional Hunger Fellows Act of 1997”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

7 (1) There is a critical need for compassionate
8 individuals who are committed to assisting people

1 who suffer from hunger as well as a need for such
2 individuals to initiate and administer solutions to the
3 hunger problem.

4 (2) Bill Emerson, the distinguished late Rep-
5 resentative from the 8th District of Missouri, dem-
6 onstrated his commitment to solving the problem of
7 hunger in a bipartisan manner, his commitment to
8 public service, and his great affection for the institu-
9 tion and the ideals of the United States Congress.

10 (3) George T. (Mickey) Leland, the distin-
11 guished late Representative from the 18th District
12 of Texas, demonstrated his compassion for those in
13 need, his high regard for public service, and his live-
14 ly exercise of political talents.

15 (4) The special concern that Mr. Emerson and
16 Mr. Leland demonstrated during their lives for the
17 hungry and poor was an inspiration for others to
18 work toward the goals of equality and justice for all.

19 (5) These two outstanding leaders maintained a
20 special bond of friendship regardless of political af-
21 filiation and worked together to encourage future
22 leaders to recognize and provide service to others,
23 and therefore it is especially appropriate to honor
24 the memory of Mr. Emerson and Mr. Leland by cre-
25 ating a fellowship program to develop and train the

1 future leaders of the United States to pursue careers
2 in humanitarian service.

3 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT; BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established as an inde-
5 pendent entity of the executive branch of the United
6 States Government, the Congressional Hunger Fellows
7 Program (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Pro-
8 gram”).

9 (b) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The Program shall be
10 subject to the supervision and direction of a Board of
11 Trustees.

12 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Board shall be com-
13 posed of 7 voting members appointed under sub-
14 paragraph (A) and 1 nonvoting ex officio member
15 designated in subparagraph (B) as follows:

16 (A) VOTING MEMBERS.—(i) The President
17 in consultation with the Speaker of the House
18 of Representatives and the minority leader,
19 shall appoint 4 members.

20 (ii) The President in consultation with the
21 majority leader and the minority leader of the
22 Senate shall appoint 2 members.

23 (iii) The President in consultation with the
24 Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint 1 mem-
25 ber.

1 (B) NONVOTING MEMBER.—The Executive
2 Director of the Program shall serve as a non-
3 voting ex officio member.

4 (2) TERMS.—Members of the Board shall serve
5 a term of 4 years.

6 (3) VACANCY.—

7 (A) AUTHORITY OF BOARD.—A vacancy in
8 the membership of the Board does not affect
9 the power of the remaining members to carry
10 out this Act.

11 (B) APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSORS.—A
12 vacancy in the membership of the Board shall
13 be filled in the manner in which the original ap-
14 pointment was made.

15 (C) INCOMPLETE TERM.—If a member of
16 the Board does not serve the full term applica-
17 ble to the member, the individual appointed to
18 fill the resulting vacancy shall be appointed for
19 the remainder of the term of the predecessor of
20 the individual.

21 (4) CHAIRPERSON.—As the first order of busi-
22 ness of the first meeting of the Board, the members
23 shall elect a Chairperson.

24 (5) COMPENSATION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), members of the Board may not re-
3 ceive compensation for service on the Board.

4 (B) TRAVEL.—Members of the Board may
5 be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other
6 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the
7 duties of the Program.

8 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES; AUTHORITY OF PROGRAM.**

9 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—
10 (1) to encourage future leaders of the United
11 States—

12 (A) to pursue careers in humanitarian
13 service;

14 (B) to recognize the needs of people who
15 are hungry and poor; and

16 (C) to provide assistance and compassion
17 for those in need;

18 (2) to increase awareness of the importance of
19 public service; and

20 (3) to provide training and development oppor-
21 tunities for such leaders.

22 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Program is authorized to de-
23 velop such fellowships, activities, and services to carry out
24 the purposes of this Act, including the fellowships de-
25 scribed in subsection (c).

1 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall establish
3 and develop the following fellowships:

4 (A) The Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship
5 shall address domestic hunger and other hu-
6 manitarian needs.

7 (B) The Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship
8 shall address international hunger and other
9 humanitarian needs.

10 (2) CURRICULUM.—The fellowships established
11 under paragraph (1) shall provide education and
12 training to develop the skills and understanding of
13 the fellows necessary to improve the humanitarian
14 conditions and the lives of individuals who suffer
15 from hunger, including—

16 (A) training in direct service to the hungry
17 in conjunction with community based organiza-
18 tions through a program of field placement; and

19 (B) experience in policy development
20 through placement in a governmental entity or
21 nonprofit organization.

22 (3) EVALUATION.—The Program shall from
23 time to time conduct an evaluation of the fellowships
24 under this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. TERMS OF FELLOWSHIPS.**

2 (a) PERIOD OF FELLOWSHIP.—An applicant selected
3 under subsection (b) shall be awarded a fellowship for a
4 period not to exceed 12 months.

5 (b) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—A fellowship shall be award-
7 ed pursuant to a nationwide competition established
8 by the Executive Director with the approval of a ma-
9 jority of the Board. The Executive Director shall es-
10 tablish the procedure for the competition process.

11 (2) QUALIFICATION.—A successful applicant
12 shall be an individual who has demonstrated—

13 (A) a desire to pursue a career in humani-
14 tarian service; and

15 (B) outstanding potential for such a ca-
16 reer.

17 (3) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—The Board shall de-
18 termine the amount of an educational award and liv-
19 ing allowance that a successful applicant will receive
20 under a fellowship.

21 (4) RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP RECEIPT.—

22 (A) A recipient of a fellowship from the
23 Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship shall be
24 known as an “Emerson Fellow”.

1 (B) A recipient of a fellowship from the
2 Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship shall be
3 known as a “Leland Fellow”.

4 **SEC. 5. TRUST FUND.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Con-
6 gressional Hunger Fellows Trust Fund (hereinafter in this
7 Act referred to as the “Fund”) in the Treasury of the
8 United States, consisting of amounts appropriated to the
9 Fund under section 8(a), amounts credited to it under
10 subsection (c), and amounts received under section
11 7(c)(2).

12 (b) INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of the
13 Treasury shall invest the full amount of the Fund. Each
14 investment shall be made in an interest bearing obligation
15 of the United States or an obligation guaranteed as to
16 principal and interest by the United States that, as deter-
17 mined by the Secretary in consultation with the Board,
18 has a maturity suitable for the Fund.

19 (c) RETURN ON INVESTMENT.—Except as provided
20 in section 6(a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall credit
21 to the Fund the interest on, and the proceeds from sale
22 or redemption of, obligations held in the Fund.

23 **SEC. 6. EXPENDITURES; AUDIT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury
25 shall transfer to the Program from the amounts described

1 in section 5(c) and section 7(c)(2) such sums as the Board
2 determines are necessary to enable the Program to carry
3 out the provisions of this Act.

4 (b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not transfer to
5 the Program the amounts appropriated to the Fund under
6 section 8(a).

7 (c) AUDIT BY GAO.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
9 the United States shall conduct an annual audit of
10 the accounts of the Program.

11 (2) BOOKS.—The Program shall make available
12 to the Comptroller General all books, accounts, fi-
13 nancial records, reports, files, and all other papers,
14 things, or property belonging to or in use by the
15 Program and necessary to facilitate such audit.

16 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Comptroller
17 General shall submit a copy of the results of each
18 such audit to the Congress.

19 **SEC. 7. STAFF; POWERS OF PROGRAM.**

20 (a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint an
22 Executive Director of the Program who shall be a
23 nonvoting member of the Board and who shall ad-
24 minister the Program. The Executive Director shall

1 carry out such other functions consistent with the
2 provisions of this Act as the Board shall prescribe.

3 (2) RESTRICTION.—The Executive Director
4 may not serve as Chairperson of the Board.

5 (3) COMPENSATION.—The Executive Director
6 shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate of basic
7 pay payable for level GS–15 of the General Sched-
8 ule.

9 (b) STAFF.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of a ma-
11 jority of the Board, the Executive Director may ap-
12 point and fix the pay of additional personnel as the
13 Executive Director considers necessary and appro-
14 priate to carry out the functions of the provisions of
15 this Act.

16 (2) COMPENSATION.—An individual appointed
17 under paragraph (1) shall be paid at a rate not to
18 exceed the rate of basic pay payable for level GS–
19 15 of the General Schedule.

20 (c) POWERS.—In order to carry out the provisions
21 of this Act, the Program may perform the following func-
22 tions:

23 (1) GIFTS.—The Program may accept, use, and
24 dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or
25 property, both real and personal, for the purpose of

1 aiding or facilitating the work of the Program. Gifts,
2 bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from
3 sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or
4 devises shall be deposited in the Fund and shall be
5 available for disbursement upon order of the Board.

6 (2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Pro-
7 gram may procure temporary and intermittent serv-
8 ices under section 3109 of title 5, United States
9 Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the
10 daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate of
11 basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Sched-
12 ule.

13 (3) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Program may
14 contract with and compensate government and pri-
15 vate agencies or persons without regard to section
16 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

17 (4) OTHER NECESSARY EXPENDITURES.—The
18 Program shall make such other expenditures which
19 the Program considers necessary to carry out the
20 provisions of this Act.

21 **SEC. 8. TRANSFER OF FUNDS; REPORT.**

22 (a) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Agri-
23 culture shall transfer \$20,000,000 from the surplus funds
24 available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935
25 (7 U.S.C. 612e).

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each
2 year, the Board shall submit to Secretary of Agriculture
3 and to Congress a report on the activities of the Program
4 carried out during the previous fiscal year.

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