

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1486

To establish a Take Pride in America Program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 1999

Mr. GORTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish a Take Pride in America 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Take Pride in America  
5 Volunteer Recognition Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8               (1) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
9       the Take Pride in America Program established by  
10       section 3(a).

1           (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
2           means the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-  
3           retary of Agriculture.

4 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Take  
7           Pride in America Program in the Department of the Inte-  
8           rior and Department of Agriculture.

9           (b) DUTIES.—The Program shall—

10           (1) establish and maintain a public awareness  
11           campaign in cooperation with public and private or-  
12           ganizations and individuals—

13                   (A) to instill in the public the importance  
14                   of the appropriate use of, and appreciation for,  
15                   Federal, State, and local land, facilities, and  
16                   natural and cultural resources;

17                   (B) to encourage an attitude of steward-  
18                   ship and responsibility toward land, facilities,  
19                   and resources described in subparagraph (A);  
20                   and

21                   (C) to promote participation by individuals,  
22                   organizations, and communities in developing a  
23                   conservation ethic to care for the land, facili-  
24                   ties, and resources described in subparagraph  
25                   (A); and

1           (2) conduct a national award program in ac-  
2 cordance with section 4 to honor individuals and en-  
3 tities that have distinguished themselves in the ac-  
4 tivities described in paragraph (1).

5 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—

7           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall  
8 establish a program to recognize volunteers under  
9 the Program.

10           (2) VOLUNTEER WORK.—Volunteer work that  
11 qualifies toward earning credit for an award de-  
12 scribed in subsection (b) shall be directed and super-  
13 vised by an official designated by the Secretaries.

14           (b) PROGRAM PASS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—A Program pass that may  
16 be redeemed for free access to Federal recreational  
17 land and facilities shall be awarded to each volunteer  
18 described in subsection (a)(2) that completes the re-  
19 quired number of hours of volunteer service deter-  
20 mined by the Secretaries under paragraph (2).

21           (2) REQUIRED SERVICE.—The number of hours  
22 of volunteer service required for receipt of a Pro-  
23 gram pass under paragraph (1)—

24                   (A) shall be determined by the Secretaries;

25                   but

1 (B) shall be not less than 50 hours, of  
2 which not less than 20 hours shall be devoted  
3 to any 1 individual project.

4 **SEC. 5. GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO VOLUNTEERS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE VOLUNTEERS.**—The Secre-  
6 taries may recruit, train, and accept the services of indi-  
7 viduals or entities, without compensation, as volunteers in  
8 carrying out the Program, without regard to—

9 (1) the provisions of title 5, United States  
10 Code, relating to appointments in the competitive  
11 service; or

12 (2) chapter 51 or subchapter III of chapter 53  
13 of title 5, United States Code.

14 (b) **STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS AS FEDERAL EMPLOY-**  
15 **EES.**—

16 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in para-  
17 graph (2), a volunteer shall not—

18 (A) be considered to be a Federal em-  
19 ployee; and

20 (B) be subject to the provisions of law re-  
21 lating to Federal employment (including provi-  
22 sions relating to hours of work, rates of com-  
23 pensation, leave, unemployment compensation,  
24 and Federal employee benefits).

25 (2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

1           (A) FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT.—For  
2 purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United  
3 States Code, a volunteer described in subsection  
4 (a) shall be considered to be an employee of the  
5 government (as defined in section 2671 of that  
6 title).

7           (B) COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJU-  
8 RIES.—For purposes of subchapter I of chapter  
9 81 of title 5, United States Code, a volunteer  
10 described in subsection (a) shall be considered  
11 to be an employee (as defined in section 8101  
12 of title 5, United States Code).

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