

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1149

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to create as a component of the Volunteers in Service to America program a technology corps that uses VISTA volunteers and other persons with expertise regarding information technology to facilitate the use of information technology in schools, libraries, and community centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2001

Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mr. HORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to create as a component of the Volunteers in Service to America program a technology corps that uses VISTA volunteers and other persons with expertise regarding information technology to facilitate the use of information technology in schools, libraries, and community centers, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Education
3 Technology Corps Act” or as the “NET Corps Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Elementary and secondary school students
7 who receive regular access in school to Internet-ac-
8 cessible computers enjoy higher quality educational
9 opportunities and are better prepared to succeed in
10 college or the workplace.

11 (2) Local educational agencies have made ex-
12 traordinary gains in the acquisition of computers
13 and other information technology equipment for
14 schools. The Department of Education reported in
15 January 2001 that each school contains on average
16 100 computers. In 1999, 63 percent of school rooms
17 used for the instruction of students had access to
18 the Internet.

19 (3) However, local educational agencies are
20 dedicating almost all of their information technology
21 resources to equipment acquisition, while informa-
22 tion technology training for teachers and other
23 school staff receives little financial support. A CEO
24 Forum on Education and Technology study indi-
25 cated that, in the 1997–1998 school year, schools

1 expended just five percent of their information tech-
2 nology budget on teacher training.

3 (4) The Department of Education reported in
4 1999 that only 33 percent of public school teachers
5 with access to computers and the Internet indicated
6 that they were “well prepared” to integrate the use
7 of computers and the Internet into their instruction.

8 (5) As new information technologies are intro-
9 duced into classrooms, teachers will need regular ac-
10 cess to professional technology training.

11 (6) The Corporation for National and Commu-
12 nity Service established by section 191 of the Na-
13 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
14 U.S.C. 12651) has a proven record of mobilizing the
15 most intelligent, qualified, and altruistic members of
16 our communities for the purpose of meeting our Na-
17 tion’s most urgent needs.

18 (7) The Volunteers in Service to America pro-
19 gram, commonly known as VISTA, which is admin-
20 istered by the Corporation to efforts to eliminate
21 and alleviate poverty and poverty-related problems in
22 the United States, would provide a ready means to
23 facilitate the expanded use of information technology
24 in schools, libraries, and community centers, particu-
25 larly in low-income areas, and to provide information

1 technology training for teachers and administrators
2 of school, library, and community center information
3 technology networks.

4 **SEC. 3. CREATION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**
5 **CORPS AS A PART OF VISTA.**

6 The Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 is
7 amended by inserting after section 109 (42 U.S.C. 4959)
8 the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 109A. NATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CORPS.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the Volunteers in
11 Service to America program established under this part,
12 the Director shall establish a National Education Tech-
13 nology Corps for the purpose of developing, strengthening,
14 supplementing, and expanding efforts of the Federal Gov-
15 ernment, State and local governments, and public and
16 nonprofit organizations to mobilize local, State, Federal,
17 and private sector financial and volunteer resources—

18 “(1) to improve the ability of teachers, staff,
19 students, and other persons to use information tech-
20 nology in schools, libraries, and community centers;

21 “(2) to provide information technology training
22 for teachers so that teachers can incorporate the use
23 of computers and other information technologies in
24 classroom instruction; and

1 “(3) to provide technical support to administra-
2 tors of school, library, and community center infor-
3 mation technology networks.

4 “(b) RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.—

5 “(1) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In establishing
6 the recruitment procedures under section 103(b) ap-
7 plicable to the selection and placement of volunteers
8 for service in the National Education Technology
9 Corps, the Director shall limit selection to
10 individuals—

11 “(A) who already have sufficient experi-
12 ence or expertise regarding information tech-
13 nology and its uses to permit their prompt par-
14 ticipation in the types of activities described in
15 subsection (a); or

16 “(B) who, with minimal additional training
17 (as determined by the Director), would be ready
18 to participate in such activities.

19 “(2) RELATIONSHIP TO AMERICORPS.—A par-
20 ticipant in a national service program assisted under
21 subtitle C of title I of the National and Community
22 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), com-
23 monly known as the Americorps program, may be
24 selected to also serve in the National Education

1 Technology Corps if the participant meets the eligi-
2 bility criteria in paragraph (2).

3 “(c) PLACEMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall assign
5 volunteers selected for the National Education Tech-
6 nology Corps to projects and programs that utilize
7 volunteers to perform the types of activities de-
8 scribed in subsection (a). Such programs and
9 projects may be administered by public or private
10 nonprofit agencies and organizations, community-
11 based nonprofit organizations, local and State edu-
12 cation agencies, local and State agencies admin-
13 istering information technology programs, edu-
14 cational institutions, libraries, and local, municipal,
15 and State governmental entities.

16 “(2) TECHNOLOGY PLAN.—A volunteer serving
17 in the National Education Technology Corps may
18 not be assigned to a school to perform services de-
19 scribed in subsection (a) unless the school, or a local
20 educational agency on behalf of the school, submits
21 to the Director a technology plan that—

22 “(A) outlines the goals for the school’s
23 education technology; and

24 “(B) complies with such guidelines as the
25 Director may establish.

1 “(3) PLACEMENT PRIORITY.—In the assign-
2 ment of volunteers under this section, the Director
3 shall give priority consideration to programs and
4 projects to assist schools that—

5 “(A) are located in urban or rural areas
6 with the highest concentrations of illiteracy and
7 of low income individuals and families; or

8 “(B) have been unable to secure assistance
9 for information technology improvements and
10 training from other sources.

11 “(d) PARTNERSHIPS WITH QUALIFIED NONPROFIT
12 ORGANIZATIONS.—The Director is authorized and encour-
13 aged to enter into partnerships with qualified nonprofit
14 organizations that undertake the types of services de-
15 scribed in subsection (a) for schools, libraries, and commu-
16 nity centers to support and expand the efforts of these
17 organizations.

18 “(e) COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF EDU-
19 CATION.—The Director shall coordinate with the Sec-
20 retary of Education in the training of volunteers for the
21 National Education Technology Corps to ensure that the
22 activities undertaken by the volunteers under this section
23 is consistent with the educational needs of schools.

24 “(f) AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Di-
25 rector may enter into an agreement with a private sector

1 business under which an employee of the business who has
 2 experience or expertise regarding information technology
 3 and its uses will assist, without financial remuneration
 4 from the Director, on a full-time or part-time basis—

5 “(1) the National Education Technology Corps
 6 and programs and projects that receive volunteers to
 7 undertake the types of activities described in sub-
 8 section (a); and

9 “(2) the Director in the training of National
 10 Education Technology Corps volunteers.

11 “(g) EFFECT OF FUNDING REDUCTION.—In any fis-
 12 cal year in which the services provided under this part are
 13 reduced, the services provided under this section shall be
 14 proportionately reduced.”.

15 **SEC. 4. INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**
 16 **TO NATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**
 17 **CORPS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
 19 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
 20 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by
 21 inserting after section 45D the following new section:

22 **“SEC. 45E. NATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CORPS AS-**
 23 **SISTANCE.**

24 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,
 25 the National Education Technology Corps assistance cred-

1 it determined under this section for the taxable year is
2 an amount equal to 20 percent of the sum of —

3 “(1) the wages paid or incurred by the taxpayer
4 during the taxable year for qualified employee serv-
5 ices, and

6 “(2) the amount allowed as a deduction under
7 section 170 for the taxable year for qualified con-
8 tributions.

9 “(b) MAXIMUM CREDIT.—

10 “(1) NATIONAL LIMITATION.—The amount of
11 credit determined under this section for all taxable
12 years beginning in a calendar year shall not exceed
13 \$75,000,000.

14 “(2) TAXPAYER LIMITATION.—The amount of
15 credit determined under this section for a taxpayer
16 for a taxable year shall not exceed the portion of the
17 national limitation under paragraph (1) for the cal-
18 endar year in which such taxable year begins which
19 is allocated by the National Education Technology
20 Corps to such taxpayer for such year.

21 “(3) PER EMPLOYEE LIMIT.—The credit deter-
22 mined under this section with respect to services
23 performed by an employee during a taxable year
24 shall not exceed \$25,000 (or such lesser amount de-
25 termined under paragraph (2)).

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

2 “(1) QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE SERVICES.—The
3 term ‘qualified employee services’ means any service
4 furnished by an employee of the taxpayer through
5 the National Education Technology Corps, either di-
6 rectly as a volunteer in the National Education
7 Technology Corps or as a participant in a National
8 Education Technology Corps partnership entered
9 into under section 109A(d) of the Domestic Volun-
10 teer Service Act of 1973.

11 “(2) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTION.—The term
12 ‘qualified contribution’ means any contribution of
13 tangible personal property to or for the benefit of
14 the National Education Technology Corps.

15 “(3) WAGES.—The term ‘wages’ has the mean-
16 ing given to such term by section 51.

17 “(d) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the
18 rules of section 1397(b) shall apply for purposes of this
19 section.”.

20 (b) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Subsection (a)
21 of section 280C of such Code is amended by inserting
22 “45E(a),” after “45A(a),”.

23 (c) CREDIT MADE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS
24 CREDIT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 38
2 of such Code (relating to current year business cred-
3 it) is amended by striking “plus” at the end of para-
4 graph (12), by striking the period at the end of
5 paragraph (13) and inserting “, plus”, and by add-
6 ing at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

7 “(14) the National Education Technology Corps
8 assistance credit determined under section 45E(a).”.

9 (2) LIMITATION ON CARRYBACK.—Subsection
10 (d) of section 39 of such Code is amended by adding
11 at the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(10) NO CARRYBACK OF NATIONAL EDU-
13 CATION TECHNOLOGY CORPS ASSISTANCE CREDIT
14 BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—No portion of the un-
15 used business credit for any taxable year which is
16 attributable to the credit determined under section
17 45E may be carried back to any taxable year ending
18 before the date of the enactment of this para-
19 graph.”.

20 (3) DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN UNUSED BUSI-
21 NESS CREDITS.—Subsection (c) of section 196 of
22 such Code is amended by striking “and” at the end
23 of paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end
24 of paragraph (9) and inserting “, and”, and by add-

1 ing after paragraph (9) the following new para-
2 graph:

3 “(10) the National Education Technology Corps
4 assistance credit determined under section 45E.”.

5 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
7 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relat-
8 ing to section 45D the following new item:

 “Sec. 45E. National Education Technology Corps assistance.”.

9 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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