

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1420

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Mr. GOODLATTE) 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 2001”.

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 legislative 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 6 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 Speaker
17 of the House of Representatives shall appoint 2
18 members.

19 (ii) The minority leader of the House of
20 Representatives shall appoint 1 member.

21 (iii) The majority leader of the Senate
22 shall appoint 2 members.

23 (iv) The minority leader of the Senate shall
24 appoint 1 member.

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

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 to pursue careers in humanitarian service, to
12 recognize the needs of people who are hungry and
13 poor, and to provide assistance and compassion for
14 those in need;

15 (2) to increase awareness of the importance of
16 public service; and

17 (3) to provide training and development oppor-
18 tunities for such leaders.

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

23 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall establish
2 and carry out the Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship
3 and the Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship.

4 (2) CURRICULUM.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The fellowships estab-
6 lished under paragraph (1) shall provide edu-
7 cation and training to develop the skills and un-
8 derstanding necessary to improve the humani-
9 tarian conditions and the lives of individuals
10 who suffer from hunger, including—

11 (i) training in direct service to the
12 hungry in conjunction with community-
13 based organizations through a program of
14 field placement; and

15 (ii) experience in policy development
16 through placement in a governmental enti-
17 ty or nonprofit organization.

18 (B) FOCUS OF BILL EMERSON HUNGER
19 FELLOWSHIP.—The Bill Emerson Hunger Fel-
20 lowship shall address hunger and other humani-
21 tarian needs in the United States.

22 (C) FOCUS OF MICKEY LELAND HUNGER
23 FELLOWSHIP.—The Mickey Leland Hunger
24 Fellowship shall address international hunger
25 and other humanitarian needs.

1 (3) PERIOD OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship
2 awarded under this subsection shall be for a period
3 of not less than 12 months and not more than 24
4 months.

5 (4) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—A fellowship shall be
7 awarded pursuant to a nationwide competition
8 established by the Program.

9 (B) QUALIFICATION.—A successful appli-
10 cant shall be an individual who has dem-
11 onstrated both a desire to pursue a career in
12 humanitarian service and outstanding potential
13 for such a career.

14 (C) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—Each individual
15 awarded a fellowship under this subsection shall
16 receive an educational award and living allow-
17 ance as determined by the Program.

18 (D) RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP
19 AWARD.—

20 (i) EMERSON FELLOW.—An individual
21 awarded a fellowship from the Bill Emer-
22 son Hunger Fellowship shall be known as
23 an “Emerson Fellow”.

24 (ii) LELAND FELLOW.—An individual
25 awarded a fellowship from the Mickey Le-

1 land Hunger Fellowship shall be known as
2 a “Leland Fellow”.

3 (d) EVALUATION.—The Program shall conduct peri-
4 odic evaluations of the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland
5 Hunger Fellowships.

6 **SEC. 4. TRUST FUND.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Con-
8 gressional Hunger Fellows Trust Fund (hereinafter in this
9 Act referred to as the “Fund”) in the Treasury of the
10 United States, consisting of amounts appropriated to the
11 Fund under section 7(a), amounts credited to it under
12 subsection (c), and amounts received under section
13 6(c)(2).

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

21 (c) RETURN ON INVESTMENT.—Except as provided
22 in section 5(a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall credit
23 to the Fund the interest on, and the proceeds from sale
24 or redemption of, obligations held in the Fund.

1 **SEC. 5. EXPENDITURES; AUDITS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury
3 shall transfer to the Program from the amounts described
4 in section 4(c) and section 6(c)(2) such sums as the Board
5 determines are necessary to enable the Program to carry
6 out the provisions of this Act.

7 (b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not transfer to
8 the Program the amounts appropriated to the Fund under
9 section 7(a).

10 (c) AUDIT BY GAO.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
12 the United States shall conduct an annual audit of
13 the accounts of the Program.

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

19 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Comptroller
20 General shall submit a copy of the results of each
21 such audit to the Congress.

22 **SEC. 6. STAFF; POWERS OF PROGRAM.**

23 (a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint an
25 Executive Director of the Program who shall admin-
26 ister 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 III of the Executive Schedule
8 under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

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. 7. REPORT.**

22 Not later than December 31 of each year, the Board
23 shall submit to Secretary of Agriculture and to Congress
24 a report on the activities of the Program carried out dur-
25 ing the previous fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated \$18,000,000

3 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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