

Calendar No. 140

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 504

[Report No. 108–71]

To establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DODD, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MILLER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

JUNE 13, 2003

Reported by Mr. GREGG, without amendment

A BILL

To establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, 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 “American History and
3 Civics Education Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**—The term
7 “American history and civics” means the key events,
8 key persons, key ideas, and key documents that
9 shaped the institutions and democratic heritage of
10 the United States.

11 (2) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The term “Chairperson”
12 means the Chairperson of the National Endowment
13 for the Humanities.

14 (3) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The
15 term “institution of higher education” has the
16 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

18 (4) **KEY DOCUMENTS.**—The term “key docu-
19 ments” means the documents that established or ex-
20 plained the foundational principles of democracy in
21 the United States, including the United States Con-
22 stitution and the amendments to the Constitution
23 (particularly the Bill of Rights), the Declaration of
24 Independence, the Federalist Papers, and the Eman-
25 cipation Proclamation.

1 (5) KEY EVENTS.—The term “key events”
 2 means the critical turning points in the history of
 3 the United States (including the American Revolu-
 4 tion, the Civil War, the world wars of the twentieth
 5 century, the civil rights movement, and the major
 6 court decisions and legislation) that contributed to
 7 extending the promise of democracy in American
 8 life.

9 (6) KEY IDEAS.—The term “key ideas” means
 10 the ideas that shaped the democratic institutions
 11 and heritage of the United States, including the no-
 12 tion of equal justice under the law, freedom, individ-
 13 ualism, human rights, and a belief in progress.

14 (7) KEY PERSONS.—The term “key persons”
 15 means the men and women who led the United
 16 States as founding fathers, elected officials, sci-
 17 entists, inventors, pioneers, advocates of equal
 18 rights, entrepreneurs, and artists.

19 (8) NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—
 20 The term “nonprofit educational institution”—

21 (A) means—

22 (i) an institution of higher education;

23 or

24 (ii) a nonprofit educational research

25 center; and

1 (B) includes a consortium of entities de-
 2 scribed in subparagraph (A).

3 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 4 the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

5 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIES FOR TEACHING OF**
 6 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
 8 under subsection (j), the Chairperson shall award grants,
 9 on a competitive basis, to nonprofit educational institu-
 10 tions to establish Presidential Academies for Teaching of
 11 American History and Civics (in this section referred to
 12 as “Academies”) that shall offer workshops for teachers
 13 of American history and civics—

14 (1) to learn how better to teach the subjects of
 15 American history and civics; and

16 (2) to strengthen such teachers’ knowledge of
 17 such subjects.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational in-
 20 stitution that desires to receive a grant under this
 21 section shall submit an application to the Chair-
 22 person at such time, in such manner, and containing
 23 such information as the Chairperson may require.

24 (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
 25 under paragraph (1) shall—

1 (A) include the criteria the nonprofit edu-
2 cational institution intends to use to determine
3 which teachers will be selected to attend work-
4 shops offered by the Academy;

5 (B) identify the individual the nonprofit
6 educational institution intends to appoint to be
7 the primary professor at the Academy; and

8 (C) include a description of the curriculum
9 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
10 emy.

11 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Except as provided in
12 subsection (e)(2)(B), the Chairperson shall award not
13 more than 12 grants to different nonprofit educational in-
14 stitutions under this section.

15 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this
16 section, the Chairperson shall ensure that such grants are
17 equitably distributed among the geographical regions of
18 the United States.

19 (e) GRANT TERMS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
21 section shall be for a term of 2 years.

22 (2) GRANTS AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS.—Upon
23 completion of the first 2-year grant term, the Chair-
24 person shall—

1 (A) renew a grant awarded under this sec-
 2 tion to a nonprofit educational institution for
 3 one more term of 2 years; or

4 (B) award a new grant to a nonprofit edu-
 5 cational institution having an application ap-
 6 proved under this section for a term of 2 years,
 7 notwithstanding the 12 grant award maximum
 8 under subsection (c).

9 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational
 12 institution that receives a grant under this sec-
 13 tion shall establish an Academy that shall offer
 14 a workshop during the summer, or during an-
 15 other appropriate time, for kindergarten
 16 through grade 12 teachers of American history
 17 and civics—

18 (i) to learn how better to teach the
 19 subjects of American history and civics;
 20 and

21 (ii) to strengthen such teachers'
 22 knowledge of such subjects.

23 (B) DURATION OF WORKSHOP.—A work-
 24 shop offered pursuant to this section shall be
 25 approximately 2 weeks in duration.

1 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

2 (A) PRIMARY PROFESSOR.—Each Academy
3 shall be headed by a primary professor identi-
4 fied in the application submitted under sub-
5 section (b) who shall—

6 (i) be accomplished in the field of
7 American history and civics; and

8 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
9 the workshop.

10 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary pro-
11 fessor shall appoint an appropriate number of
12 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
13 professor, the core teachers shall teach and
14 train the workshop attendees.

15 (3) SELECTION OF TEACHERS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—

17 (i) NUMBER OF TEACHERS.—Each
18 year, each Academy shall select approxi-
19 mately 300 kindergarten through grade 12
20 teachers of American history and civics to
21 attend the workshop offered by the Acad-
22 emy.

23 (ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF
24 TEACHERS.—An Academy may select more
25 than or fewer than 300 teachers depending

1 on the population in the region where the
2 Academy is located.

3 (B) TEACHERS FROM SAME REGION.—In
4 selecting teachers to attend a workshop, an
5 Academy shall select primarily teachers who
6 teach in schools located in the region where the
7 Academy is located.

8 (C) TEACHERS FROM PUBLIC AND PRI-
9 VATE SCHOOLS.—An Academy may select
10 teachers from public schools and private schools
11 to attend the workshop offered by the Academy.

12 (g) COSTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), a teacher who attends a workshop offered
15 pursuant to this section shall not incur costs associ-
16 ated with attending the workshop, including costs
17 for meals, lodging, and materials while attending the
18 workshop.

19 (2) TRAVEL COSTS.—A teacher who attends a
20 workshop offered pursuant to this section shall use
21 non-Federal funds to pay for such teacher's costs of
22 transit to and from the Academy.

23 (h) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after com-
24 pletion of all of the workshops assisted in the third year

1 grants are awarded under this section, the Chairperson
2 shall conduct an evaluation to—

3 (1) determine the overall success of the grant
4 program authorized under this section; and

5 (2) highlight the best grantees’ practices in
6 order to become models for future grantees.

7 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A nonprofit educational
8 institution receiving Federal assistance under this section
9 may contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of op-
10 erating the Academy.

11 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

14 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR STUDENTS OF**
15 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
17 under subsection (j), the Chairperson shall award grants,
18 on a competitive basis, to nonprofit educational institu-
19 tions to establish Congressional Academies for Students
20 of American History and Civics (in this section referred
21 to as “Academies”) that shall offer workshops for out-
22 standing students of American history and civics to broad-
23 en and deepen such students’ understanding of American
24 history and civics.

25 (b) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational in-
2 stitution that desires to receive a grant under this
3 section shall submit an application to the Chair-
4 person at such time, in such manner, and containing
5 such information as the Chairperson may require.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
7 under paragraph (1) shall—

8 (A) include the criteria the nonprofit edu-
9 cational institution intends to use to determine
10 which students will be selected to attend work-
11 shops offered by the Academy;

12 (B) identify the individual the nonprofit
13 educational institution intends to appoint to be
14 the primary professor at the Academy; and

15 (C) include a description of the curriculum
16 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
17 emy.

18 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Except as provided in
19 subsection (e)(2)(B), the Chairperson shall award not
20 more than 12 grants to different nonprofit educational in-
21 stitutions under this section.

22 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this
23 section, the Chairperson shall ensure that such grants are
24 equitably distributed among the geographical regions of
25 the United States.

1 (e) GRANT TERMS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
3 section shall be for a term of 2 years.

4 (2) GRANTS AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS.—Upon
5 completion of the first 2-year grant term, the Chair-
6 person shall—

7 (A) renew a grant awarded under this sec-
8 tion to a nonprofit educational institution for
9 one more term of 2 years; or

10 (B) award a new grant to a nonprofit edu-
11 cational institution having an application ap-
12 proved under this section for a term of 2 years,
13 notwithstanding the 12 grant award maximum
14 under subsection (c).

15 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational
18 institution that receives a grant under this sec-
19 tion shall establish an Academy that shall offer
20 a workshop during the summer, or during an-
21 other appropriate time, for outstanding stu-
22 dents of American history and civics to broaden
23 and deepen such students' understanding of
24 American history and civics.

1 (B) DURATION OF WORKSHOP.—A work-
 2 shop offered pursuant to this section shall be
 3 approximately 4 weeks in duration.

4 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

5 (A) PRIMARY PROFESSOR.—Each Academy
 6 shall be headed by a primary professor identi-
 7 fied in the application submitted under sub-
 8 section (b) who shall—

9 (i) be accomplished in the field of
 10 American history and civics; and

11 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
 12 the workshop.

13 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary pro-
 14 fessor shall appoint an appropriate number of
 15 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
 16 professor, the core teachers shall teach the
 17 workshop attendees.

18 (3) SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—

20 (i) NUMBER OF STUDENTS.—Each
 21 year, each Academy shall select approxi-
 22 mately 300 eligible students to attend the
 23 workshop offered by the Academy.

24 (ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF STU-
 25 DENTS.—An Academy may select more

1 than or fewer than 300 eligible students
2 depending on the population in the region
3 where the Academy is located.

4 (B) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—A student shall
5 be eligible to attend a workshop offered by an
6 Academy if the student—

7 (i) is recommended by the student's
8 secondary school principal (or other head
9 of such student's secondary school) to at-
10 tend the workshop; and

11 (ii) will be a junior or senior in a pub-
12 lic or private secondary school in the aca-
13 demic year following attendance at the
14 workshop.

15 (C) STUDENTS FROM SAME REGION.—In
16 selecting students to attend a workshop, an
17 Academy shall select primarily students who at-
18 tend secondary schools located in the region
19 where the Academy is located.

20 (g) COSTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), a student who attends a workshop offered
23 pursuant to this section shall not incur costs associ-
24 ated with attending the workshop, including costs

1 for meals, lodging, and materials while attending the
2 workshop.

3 (2) TRAVEL COSTS.—A student who attends a
4 workshop offered pursuant to this section shall use
5 non-Federal funds to pay for such student’s costs of
6 transit to and from the Academy.

7 (h) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after com-
8 pletion of all of the workshops assisted in the third year
9 grants are awarded under this section, the Chairperson
10 shall conduct an evaluation to—

11 (1) determine the overall success of the grant
12 program authorized under this section; and

13 (2) highlight the best grantees’ practices in
14 order to become models for future grantees.

15 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A nonprofit educational
16 institution receiving Federal assistance under this section
17 may contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of op-
18 erating the Academy.

19 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$14,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

22 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF TEACHERS OF AMERICAN**
23 **HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
2 under subsection (e), the Chairperson shall award a
3 grant to an organization for the creation of a na-
4 tional alliance of elementary school and secondary
5 school teachers of American history and civics.

6 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the national al-
7 liance is—

8 (A) to facilitate the sharing of ideas among
9 teachers of American history and civics; and

10 (B) to encourage best practices in the
11 teaching of American history and civics.

12 (b) APPLICATION.—An organization that desires to
13 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
14 tion to the Chairperson at such time, in such manner, and
15 containing such information as the Chairperson may re-
16 quire.

17 (c) GRANT TERM.—A grant awarded under this sec-
18 tion shall be for a term of 2 years and may be renewed
19 after the initial term expires.

20 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An organization that receives
21 a grant under this section may use the grant funds for
22 any of the following:

23 (1) Creation of a website on the Internet to fa-
24 cilitate discussion of new ideas on improving Amer-
25 ican history and civics education.

1 (2) Creation of in-State chapters of the national
2 alliance, to which individual teachers of American
3 history and civics may belong, that sponsors Amer-
4 ican history and civics activities for such teachers in
5 the State.

6 (3) Seminars, lectures, or other events focused
7 on American history and civics, which may be spon-
8 sored in cooperation with, or through grants award-
9 ed to, libraries, States' humanities councils, or other
10 appropriate entities.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

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