

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6221

To establish the United States Public Service Academy.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. FORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish the United States Public Service Academy.

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 “Public Service Acad-  
5       emy Act of 2006”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) National disasters such as September 11,  
9       2001, and Hurricane Katrina, along with the United  
10       States’ struggle against international terrorism, have  
11       highlighted the importance of public service and the

1 need for the United States to improve its capacity  
2 to effectively handle future catastrophes, as well as  
3 the daily challenges of life in a global society.

4 (2) Young Americans, particularly after the  
5 September 11, 2001 attacks, have a strong ethic of  
6 public service. According to the Higher Education  
7 Research Institute, more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the 2005 fresh-  
8 man class at institutions of higher education in the  
9 United States expressed a desire to serve others, the  
10 highest rate in a generation. Applications to private  
11 programs such as Teach for America and City Year,  
12 publicly funded public service programs within USA  
13 Freedom Corps, and religious mission trips have in-  
14 creased dramatically since 2001. Yet with the in-  
15 crease in college tuition causing the average college  
16 graduate to owe about \$20,000, many students often  
17 can afford to pursue public service only for short pe-  
18 riods of time and avoid public service careers in  
19 favor of more lucrative fields.

20 (3) The aging of the population of the United  
21 States and the subsequent retirement of the Baby  
22 Boomer generation will create serious shortages in  
23 critically needed public service positions at all levels  
24 of our society, as evidenced by the following:

1 (A) A recent study by the Congressional  
2 Budget Office highlighted “the graying of the  
3 Federal work force,” while the Partnership for  
4 Public Service warns of a “Federal brain drain”  
5 as 44 percent of all Federal workers become eli-  
6 gible to retire in the next 5 years.

7 (B) The National Center for Education  
8 Statistics estimates that more than 2,000,000  
9 teachers will be needed in the next 10 years due  
10 to teacher retirement and increased student en-  
11 rollment. The teacher shortages will particularly  
12 affect high-need rural and inner-city local edu-  
13 cational agencies.

14 (C) More than 80 percent of the Nation’s  
15 17,000 law enforcement agencies report that  
16 they cannot fill needed positions due to a lack  
17 of qualified candidates.

18 (D) The Bridgespan Group reports that  
19 nonprofit organizations will need to attract and  
20 develop 640,000 new senior managers by 2016,  
21 nearly 2½ times the number in 2006.

22 (4) The United States does not have a national  
23 undergraduate institution to promote public service  
24 and develop well-trained, highly qualified civilian  
25 leaders.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish a United  
3 States Public Service Academy that will—

4 (1) strengthen and protect the United States by  
5 creating a corps of well-trained, highly qualified ci-  
6 vilian leaders willing to devote themselves to leader-  
7 ship through patriotic public service;

8 (2) be the first national civilian institution of  
9 higher education in the United States; and

10 (3) provide competitive, federally subsidized,  
11 public service-driven undergraduate education to stu-  
12 dents from across the United States and the world.

13 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) PUBLIC SERVICE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “public serv-  
17 ice” includes a variety of public, private, and  
18 non-profit endeavors that strengthen and pro-  
19 tect living conditions, create opportunities, and  
20 enhance the civic well-being of communities  
21 across the United States and the world.

22 (B) PREAPPROVED PUBLIC SERVICE EN-  
23 DEAVORS.—The following fields shall be deemed  
24 to meet the requirement of subparagraph (A):

25 (i) Economy.

26 (ii) Education.

- 1 (iii) Emergency management.
- 2 (iv) Environment.
- 3 (v) Foreign policy.
- 4 (vi) Health care.
- 5 (vii) Law enforcement.
- 6 (viii) Public infrastructure.

7 (2) BOARD OF VISITORS.—The term “Board of  
8 Visitors” means an appointed board of not more  
9 than 15 members, including the Secretary of the De-  
10 partment of Homeland Security to oversee the Pub-  
11 lic Service Academy established under section 5. The  
12 remaining board members shall be appointed by the  
13 President with the approval of both Houses of Con-  
14 gress.

15 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
16 the several States of the United States and the Dis-  
17 trict of Columbia.

18 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the  
20 Department of Homeland Security, a United States Public  
21 Service Academy (referred to in this Act as the “Acad-  
22 emy”), at the location to be determined by an Act of Con-  
23 gress, for the instruction and preparation for public serv-  
24 ice of selected individuals, who shall be called Academy  
25 students.

1 (b) ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-  
2 curity shall prescribe the organization of the Academy, in  
3 accordance with the requirements of this section.

4 (c) KEY POSITIONS.—There shall be at the Academy  
5 the following:

6 (1) A Superintendent.

7 (2) A Dean of the Academic Board, who is a  
8 permanent professor.

9 (3) A Director of Admissions.

10 (4) A Director of Placement.

11 (d) SUPERINTENDENT.—The Superintendent shall  
12 oversee the immediate government of the Academy.

13 (e) DEAN OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD.—

14 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Superintendent shall  
15 appoint the Dean of the Academic Board as an addi-  
16 tional permanent professor from the permanent pro-  
17 fessors who have served as heads of departments of  
18 instruction at the Academy, except that for the first  
19 year of the Academy the Superintendent shall ap-  
20 point the Dean of the Academic Board from quali-  
21 fied applicants.

22 (2) DUTIES.—The Dean of the Academic Board  
23 shall perform such duties as the Superintendent of  
24 the Academy may prescribe, with the approval of the  
25 Board of Visitors.

1 **SEC. 6. FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTS.**

2 (a) NUMBER OF FACULTY.—The Superintendent  
3 may employ as many professors, instructors, and lecturers  
4 at the Academy as the Secretary considers necessary to  
5 ensure that the student-faculty ratio is not more than 16  
6 to 1.

7 (b) FACULTY COMPENSATION.—The Superintendent  
8 may prescribe the compensation of persons employed  
9 under this section.

10 (c) DEPARTMENT TITLES.—The Superintendent may  
11 prescribe the titles of each of the departments of instruc-  
12 tion and the professors of the Academy.

13 (d) DEPARTMENT HEAD.—Upon becoming the senior  
14 professor in a department, a permanent professor becomes  
15 the head of that department.

16 **SEC. 7. STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**  
17 **FOR ADMISSION.**

18 (a) STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS.—A student wishing  
19 to be admitted to the Academy shall—

20 (1) be 17 years of age or older;

21 (2) be unmarried; and

22 (3) have no dependents, as defined in section  
23 152(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

24 (b) ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—A student wishing  
25 to be admitted to the Academy shall fulfill the following  
26 requirements:

1 (1) Earn a secondary school diploma.

2 (2) Take the SAT, ACT, or equivalent college-  
3 level aptitude test.

4 (3) Sit for a personal interview with representa-  
5 tives of the Academy.

6 (4) Any further admissions requirements deter-  
7 mined by the Director of Admissions.

8 (c) HONOR CODE.—A student wishing to be admitted  
9 to the Academy shall sign an Honor Code developed by  
10 the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Visitors.

11 **SEC. 8. APPOINTMENT OF STUDENTS.**

12 (a) NOMINATION PROCESS.—Prospective applicants  
13 to the Academy for seats described in paragraphs (1) and  
14 (3) shall follow a nomination process established by the  
15 Director of Admissions that is similar to that used for ad-  
16 mission to the military academies of the United States  
17 Armed Forces.

18 (b) APPOINTMENTS.—

19 (1) CONGRESSIONAL SEATS.—

20 (A) SEATS ALLOCATED PER STATE.—The  
21 Director of Admissions shall allocate the con-  
22 gressional seats for incoming first-year students  
23 of the Academy by State on the basis of 2 seats  
24 per electoral vote from each State.



1 (B) NOMINEES REQUIRED PER EACH SEN-  
2 ATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE.—Each member of  
3 the Senate or the House of Representatives  
4 shall nominate a minimum of 5 candidates from  
5 the State that the nominator represents for  
6 each incoming first-year class of the Academy.

7 (C) COMPETITION.—In selecting nominees  
8 for a first-year incoming class for the seats re-  
9 served for a State, the Director of Admissions  
10 shall only consider the candidates nominated by  
11 members of Congress from the State.

12 (2) INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.—

13 (A) SEATS.—The Director of Admissions  
14 shall reserve in each incoming first-year class of  
15 the Academy 100 seats for international stu-  
16 dents.

17 (B) TUITION.—An international student's  
18 home country is responsible for subsidizing the  
19 student's tuition, fees, room and board, and  
20 other expenses.

21 (C) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—Each inter-  
22 national student shall agree to a 5-year public  
23 service requirement in the international stu-  
24 dent's home country upon graduation.

25 (3) EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOMINEES.—

1 (A) SEATS.—The Director of Admissions  
2 shall reserve in each incoming first-year class of  
3 the Academy 25 seats for executive branch  
4 nominees.

5 (B) NOMINEES.—The President shall  
6 nominate a minimum of 75 candidates to com-  
7 pete for the 25 executive branch nominees.

8 (4) OTHER.—The Director of Admissions shall  
9 reserve in each incoming first-year class of the Acad-  
10 emy 75 seats for at-large selections from the remain-  
11 ing pool of congressional nominees.

12 **SEC. 9. ACADEMIC FOCUS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC**  
13 **SERVICE ACADEMY.**

14 (a) CURRICULUM.—Each Academy student shall fol-  
15 low a structured curriculum that is self-reinforcing to em-  
16 phasize leadership development and public service.

17 (b) DEGREE.—

18 (1) DEGREE CONFERRED UPON GRADUATION.—  
19 Under such conditions as the Board of Visitors may  
20 prescribe, the Superintendent of the Academy may  
21 confer a baccalaureate of science or baccalaureate of  
22 arts degree upon a graduate of the Academy.

23 (2) MAJORS.—Each Academy student shall  
24 pursue a program of study for a baccalaureate of

1 arts or a baccalaureate of sciences degree in tradi-  
2 tional liberal arts subjects.

3 (c) BREADTH OF REQUIRED SUBJECT AREAS STUD-  
4 IED.—Each Academy student shall take courses in a  
5 broad array of subject areas as part of the student’s pro-  
6 gram of study.

7 (d) PUBLIC SERVICE CONCENTRATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the comple-  
9 tion of the fourth semester, each Academy student  
10 shall choose a public service concentration described  
11 in paragraph (2), which shall be the field in which  
12 the student ultimately will serve upon graduation.

13 (2) CONCENTRATIONS.—Each Academy student  
14 may choose a public service concentration from the  
15 fields described in section 4(1)(B).

16 (e) PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE  
17 GRADUATION.—

18 (1) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMMING.—Each  
19 Academy student shall participate in daily public  
20 service programming, to be determined by the Dean  
21 of the Academic Board.

22 (2) PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT.—Each Academy  
23 student shall plan and implement a 1-year public  
24 service project during the student’s final year at the  
25 academy.

1 (f) STUDY ABROAD REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Academy student shall  
3 spend the student’s junior year in a study abroad  
4 program approved by the Dean of the Academic  
5 Board.

6 (2) CLASSES IN PREPARATION FOR STUDY  
7 ABROAD.—In preparation for the junior year study  
8 abroad program, each Academy student shall take  
9 courses in foreign languages and international rela-  
10 tions.

11 (3) INTERNSHIP DURING STUDY ABROAD.—As  
12 part of an Academy student’s junior year study  
13 abroad program, each Academy student shall partici-  
14 pate in an internship at the United States mission  
15 in the student’s junior year study abroad program  
16 location.

17 (g) SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM REQUIRE-  
18 MENTS.—For each year of attendance at the Academy,  
19 each Academy student shall spend 8 weeks each summer  
20 participating in the following structured learning pro-  
21 grams:

22 (1) Following the first year at the Academy,  
23 emergency response training.

24 (2) Following the second year, a civilian intern-  
25 ship in the United States Armed Forces.

1           (3) Following the third year, an internship with  
2           a preapproved organization described in section  
3           4(1)(C)(ii).

4 **SEC. 10. PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING**  
5 **GRADUATION.**

6           (a) PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT.—Each Academy  
7 student from the United States shall sign an agreement  
8 with respect to the student’s length of public service to  
9 the United States. The agreement shall provide that the  
10 student agrees to the following:

11           (1) That the student will complete the course of  
12 instruction at the Academy, culminating in gradua-  
13 tion from the Academy.

14           (2) That upon graduation from the Academy  
15 the student—

16           (A) will accept an appointment, if ten-  
17 dered, in the location assigned, as a public serv-  
18 ant of the United States in public service; and

19           (B) will serve as a public servant of the  
20 United States for not less than 5 years imme-  
21 diately after such appointment, unless the stu-  
22 dent continues the student’s education in ac-  
23 cordance with subsection (i).

24           (b) INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AGREEMENT.—Each  
25 international student shall sign an agreement with the stu-

1 dent's home country that meets the same conditions set  
2 forth in subsection (a).

3 (c) FAILURE TO GRADUATE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A student who has com-  
5 pleted a minimum of 4 semesters at the Academy  
6 but fails to fulfill the Academy's requirements for  
7 graduation within 4 years shall be—

8 (A) dishonorably discharged from the  
9 Academy; and

10 (B) obligated to repay the Academy for the  
11 cost of the delinquent student's education.

12 (2) AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT.—The delinquent  
13 student shall be financially responsible for each se-  
14 mester that the student was officially enrolled in the  
15 Academy.

16 (d) FAILURE TO ACCEPT OR COMPLETE ASSIGNED  
17 PUBLIC SERVICE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—A delinquent graduate shall  
19 be—

20 (A) dishonorably discharged from the  
21 Academy; and

22 (B) obligated to repay the Academy for the  
23 cost of the delinquent graduate's education.

24 (2) AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT.—In the case of a  
25 delinquent graduate who fails to complete all years

1 of public service required under subsection (a)(2)  
2 (including any additional years required for graduate  
3 education under subsection (h)), the delinquent  
4 graduate shall be financially responsible for the cost  
5 of the delinquent graduate's education (including the  
6 costs of any graduate education), except that the  
7 amount of financial responsibility under this para-  
8 graph shall be reduced by 10 percent for each year  
9 of public service under subsection (a)(2) that the de-  
10 linquent graduate did complete.

11 (3) DEFINITION OF DELINQUENT GRADUATE.—

12 In this subsection, the term “delinquent graduate”  
13 means a graduate of the Academy who violates the  
14 agreement entered into under subsection (a) by—

15 (A) not accepting the graduate's public  
16 service assignment upon graduation from the  
17 Academy; or

18 (B) not completing the required years of  
19 public service in the assignment due to—

20 (i) voluntarily quitting the assign-  
21 ment; or

22 (ii) being fired from the assignment.

23 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—The Superintendent may provide  
24 for the partial or total waiver or suspension of any public  
25 service or payment obligation by an individual under this

1 section whenever compliance by the individual with the ob-  
2 ligation is impossible or deemed to involve extreme hard-  
3 ship to the individual, or if enforcement of such obligation  
4 with respect to the individual would be unconscionable.

5 (f) STUDENT SALARIES AND BENEFITS.—The Acad-  
6 emy shall not be responsible for the salaries and benefits  
7 of graduates of the Academy while the graduates are ful-  
8 filling the public service requirement under this section.  
9 All salaries and benefits shall be paid by the employer with  
10 whom the Academy graduate is placed.

11 (g) DETERMINING STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Superintendent, acting  
13 through the Academy Placement Office, shall assign  
14 graduates to appropriate public service employment  
15 that satisfies the public service requirements of this  
16 section.

17 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Academy Place-  
18 ment Office shall assess the following when deter-  
19 mining the appropriate public service employment  
20 for a graduate:

21 (A) National security needs.

22 (B) State and local community needs.

23 (C) Student experience.

24 (D) Student academic performance.



1           (3) PREAPPROVED PUBLIC SERVICE PLACE-  
2           MENTS.—Postgraduation public service requirements  
3           under this subsection shall be fulfilled through place-  
4           ments in public service employment in any of the fol-  
5           lowing sectors:

6                   (A) PUBLIC.—

7                           (i) Civil service employment at the  
8                           Federal, State, or local level.

9                           (ii) Civilian service in the United  
10                          States Armed Forces.

11                   (B) PRIVATE.—Employment in an organi-  
12                   zation that—

13                           (i) is described in section 501(c)(3) of  
14                           the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

15                           (ii) is exempt from tax under section  
16                           501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
17                           1986; and

18                           (iii) provides a service determined by  
19                           the Board of Visitors to meet critical na-  
20                           tional needs.

21           (4) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STUDENT AS-  
22           SIGNMENTS.—The Superintendent shall review and  
23           approve each graduate’s assignment.

24           (h) GRADUATE EDUCATION.—

1           (1) **SUBSIDY.**—The Academy may subsidize an  
2 Academy student’s graduate education in return for  
3 an extended public service commitment.

4           (2) **EXTENDED PUBLIC SERVICE.**—For every  
5 year of subsidized graduate education, the Academy  
6 student shall agree to add 2 additional years to such  
7 Academy student’s public service commitment re-  
8 quired under the agreement described in subsection  
9 (a).

10 **SEC. 11. FUNDING THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC SERVICE**  
11 **ACADEMY.**

12           (a) **FULLY-SUBSIDIZED EDUCATION.**—Each Acad-  
13 emy student’s tuition at the Academy shall be fully sub-  
14 sidized.

15           (b) **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.**—The Academy  
16 will be a public-private partnership funded by the fol-  
17 lowing:

18           (1) **PUBLIC FUNDS.**—Congress shall fund 80  
19 percent of the Academy’s annual budget.

20           (2) **PRIVATE FUNDS.**—The Academy officials  
21 shall raise 20 percent of the Academy’s annual  
22 budget in private funds.

23           (c) **INITIAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—For each of the first  
24 2 fiscal years for which funds are appropriated under sec-  
25 tion 13, the Superintendent shall use such funds, and any

1 matching private funds, to acquire land, construct facili-  
2 ties, recruit faculty and students, hire employees, and de-  
3 velop curricula in preparation for the opening of the Acad-  
4 emy.

5 (d) SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS.—For each of  
6 the 4 subsequent fiscal years for which funds are appro-  
7 priated under section 13, the Superintendent shall use  
8 such funds, and any matching private funds, to fund the  
9 Academy as it grows 1 class at a time into a 4-year insti-  
10 tution.

11 **SEC. 12. USE OF CERTAIN GIFTS TO THE ACADEMY.**

12 (a) GIFTS NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000.—Under regula-  
13 tions prescribed by the Secretary, the Superintendent of  
14 the Academy may accept, hold, administer, invest, and  
15 spend any gift, devise, or bequest of personal property of  
16 a value of \$20,000 or less made to the United States on  
17 the condition that such gift, devise, or bequest be used  
18 for the benefit of the Academy or any entity thereof. The  
19 Superintendent may pay or authorize the payment of all  
20 reasonable and necessary expenses in connection with the  
21 conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or bequest under  
22 this section.

23 (b) GIFTS EXCEEDING \$20,000.—The Board of Visi-  
24 tors may accept, hold, administer, invest, and spend any  
25 gift, devise, or bequest of personal property of a value of

1 more than \$20,000 made to the United States on the con-  
2 dition that such gift, devise, or bequest be used for the  
3 benefit of the Academy or any entity thereof. The Board  
4 of Visitors may pay or authorize the payment of all rea-  
5 sonable and necessary expenses in connection with the  
6 conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or bequest under  
7 this section.

8 **SEC. 13. AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.**

9       There is authorized to be appropriated, and there is  
10 appropriated, \$164,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and each  
11 of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

○