

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3028

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to promote community service among United States youth by connecting secondary school seniors to community service opportunities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2008

Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to promote community service among United States youth by connecting secondary school seniors to community service opportunities.

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 “Senior Year Commu-
5 nity Service Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to promote community
3 service among United States youth by connecting sec-
4 ondary school seniors to community service opportunities.

5 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM.**

6 The National and Community Service Act of 1990
7 is amended by inserting after section 198D (42 U.S.C.
8 12653d) the following:

9 **“SEC. 198E. SENIOR YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE PILOT**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

12 “(1) COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY.—The
13 term ‘community service opportunity’, used with re-
14 spect to a student, means a service opportunity in
15 the student’s community or school.

16 “(2) GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘gradua-
17 tion rate’ means the percentage described in section
18 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
20 6311(b)(2)(C)(ii)).

21 “(b) SENIOR YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE PILOT
22 PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall es-
24 tablish and carry out a national pilot program. In
25 carrying out the program, the Corporation shall
26 make grants on a competitive basis to local edu-

1 cational agencies, to enable the agencies to establish
2 local programs to match secondary school seniors to
3 community service opportunities.

4 “(2) AMOUNT, NUMBER, AND DURATION OF
5 GRANTS.—

6 “(A) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—In deter-
7 mining the amount of a grant to be made to a
8 local educational agency under paragraph (1),
9 the Corporation shall consider the number and
10 percentage of secondary school seniors the local
11 educational agency plans to match to commu-
12 nity service opportunities under the local pro-
13 gram involved.

14 “(B) NUMBER AND DURATION OF
15 GRANTS.—The Corporation shall make not less
16 than 6 grants under paragraph (1) and the
17 grants shall be for periods of 2 years.

18 “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under paragraph (1), a local educational agen-
20 cy shall submit an application to the Corporation at
21 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
22 formation as the Corporation may require. The local
23 educational agency shall demonstrate in the applica-
24 tion that the local educational agency—

1 “(A) is well-positioned to successfully im-
2 plement a local program through the national
3 pilot program;

4 “(B) demonstrates that appropriate lead-
5 ers in the education, civic, and private sectors
6 exhibit a strong commitment to community
7 service;

8 “(C) is able to leverage additional funds to
9 support the local program;

10 “(D) has a full commitment to match as
11 many secondary school seniors as possible with
12 service opportunities within the community or
13 school involved; and

14 “(E) has worked with a local community-
15 based organization to establish goals for the
16 service that participating secondary school sen-
17 iors will provide.

18 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational
19 agency that receives a grant under paragraph (1)
20 shall use the grant funds to—

21 “(A) establish a partnership with the local
22 community-based organization described in
23 paragraph (3)(E) to carry out the local pro-
24 gram;

1 “(B) provide meaningful community serv-
2 ice opportunities for students in their senior
3 year, for terms of service described in section
4 139(b)(1);

5 “(C) supply a service coordinator to assist
6 secondary schools participating in the local pro-
7 gram; and

8 “(D) provide information to students in
9 their junior year of secondary school regarding
10 the community service opportunities available
11 under the local program.

12 “(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CORPORA-
13 TION.—The Corporation shall support the local edu-
14 cational agencies participating in the national pilot
15 program, by—

16 “(A) providing a downloadable template
17 for the local educational agencies to use when
18 providing information to students in their jun-
19 ior year as described in paragraph (4)(D);

20 “(B) offering assistance to the local edu-
21 cational agencies in finding community service
22 opportunities for all participating seniors;

23 “(C) offering assistance to the local edu-
24 cational agencies regarding completing the pa-
25 perwork necessary for participating seniors to

1 be eligible for national service educational
2 awards under subtitle D; and

3 “(D) providing any technical assistance the
4 Corporation determines to be necessary.

5 “(6) ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE EDU-
6 CATIONAL AWARD.—A participant under this section
7 shall be eligible for the national service educational
8 award described in subtitle D if the participant
9 meets the requirements of sections 139(b)(1) and
10 146(b).

11 “(7) EVALUATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
13 award a contract to an independent agency with
14 expertise in evaluating trends in student
15 achievement to study the effects of the national
16 pilot program on the achievement of partici-
17 pating students.

18 “(B) MEASUREMENT.—The evaluation de-
19 scribed in subparagraph (A)—

20 “(i) shall compare—

21 “(I) secondary school seniors who
22 are participating in the program; to

23 “(II) similar secondary school
24 seniors who are not participating in
25 the program;

1 “(ii) shall include measurements of—

2 “(I) academic achievement on the
3 student academic assessments de-
4 scribed in section 1111(b)(3) of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education
6 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3));

7 “(II) graduation rates;

8 “(III) student attendance rates;

9 “(IV) student rates of enroll-
10 ment, persistence, and attainment in
11 institutions of higher education; and

12 “(V) success with respect to any
13 other academic factor the Corporation
14 determines is necessary; and

15 “(iii) shall measure whether the goals
16 established by the local educational agency
17 under paragraph (3)(E) were met.

18 “(8) BUILDING ON THE SENIOR YEAR COMMU-
19 NITY SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.—If the evaluation
20 under paragraph (7) demonstrates that the national
21 pilot program was effective in improving student
22 achievement, as measured by the indicators de-
23 scribed in paragraph (7)(B)(ii), the Corporation, in
24 collaboration with the agency described in paragraph
25 (7)(A), shall develop a plan to include in the pro-

1 gram as many secondary school seniors as pos-
2 sible.”.

3 **SEC. 4. EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL SERVICE POSITION ELIGIBLE FOR NA-
5 TIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—Section 123 of
6 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
7 U.S.C. 12573) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
9 graph (8); and

10 (2) by inserting before paragraph (8) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(7) A position involving service as a partici-
13 pant under section 198E.”.

14 (b) RESERVATION OF APPROVED POSITIONS.—Sec-
15 tion 129 of the National and Community Service Act of
16 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) by striking “The Corporation” and in-
19 serting the following:

20 “(1) VISTA VOLUNTEERS AND CIVILIAN COM-
21 MUNITY CORPS PARTICIPANTS.—The Corporation”;
22 and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(2) SENIOR YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE PAR-
25 TICIPANTS.—The Corporation shall ensure that each

individual selected by a local educational agency during a fiscal year as a participant under section 198E shall receive the national service educational award described in subtitle D if the individual satisfies the eligibility requirements for the award. Funds for approved national service positions required by this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be deducted from the funds appropriated under section 501(a)(2)(B)(ii).”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by inserting before “The Corporation” the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Corporation is authorized to make necessary and reasonable adjustments to the program rules—

“(A) relating to participants described in subsection (b)(2), if appropriations under section 501(a)(2)(B)(ii) are insufficient to provide the maximum allowable national service educational awards under subtitle D for all those participants who are eligible for such an award; and

1 “(B) relating to participants (other than
 2 those referred to in subparagraph (A)), if ap-
 3 propriations under section 501(a)(2)(A) are in-
 4 sufficient to provide the maximum allowable na-
 5 tional service educational awards under subtitle
 6 D for all those participants who are eligible for
 7 such an award.”.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 Section 501(a)(2) of the National and Community
 10 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(2)) is amend-
 11 ed—

12 (1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by inserting
 13 “(other than assistance described in subparagraph
 14 (B)(i))” after “H of title I”;

15 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(other
 16 than awards described in subparagraph (B)(ii))”
 17 after “subtitle D of title I”;

18 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
 19 paragraph (C); and

20 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(B) SENIOR YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE
 23 PILOT PROGRAM.—

24 “(i) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—There
 25 are authorized to be appropriated to pro-

1 vide financial assistance under section
2 198E, such sums as may be necessary for
3 each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

4 “(ii) NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS
5 FOR SENIOR YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE
6 PARTICIPANTS.—There are authorized to
7 be appropriated to provide national service
8 educational awards under subtitle D of
9 title I for participants under section 198E,
10 such sums as may be necessary for each of
11 fiscal years 2009 through 2011.”.

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