

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3192

To establish an aerospace fellowship program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 14, 2020

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish an aerospace fellowship program, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Air Grant
5 Fellowship Program Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM MAINTENANCE.—The Administrator
8 shall maintain within the Administration a program to be
9 known as the “National Air Grant Fellowship Program”.
10 The National Air Grant Fellowship Program shall be ad-

1 ministered by a National Air Grant Office within the Ad-
2 ministration.

3 (b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The National Air Grant
4 Fellowship Program shall provide support for the fellow-
5 ship program under section 3.

6 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

7 (1) GUIDELINES.—The Administrator shall es-
8 tablish guidelines related to the activities and re-
9 sponsibilities of air grant fellowships under section
10 3.

11 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Administrator shall
12 by regulation prescribe the qualifications required
13 for designation of air grant fellowships under section
14 3.

15 (3) AUTHORITY.—In order to carry out the pro-
16 visions of this Act, the Administrator may—

17 (A) appoint, assign the duties, transfer,
18 and fix the compensation of such personnel as
19 may be necessary, in accordance with civil serv-
20 ice laws;

21 (B) make appointments with respect to
22 temporary and intermittent services to the ex-
23 tent authorized by section 3109 of title 5,
24 United States Code;

1 (C) enter into contracts, cooperative agree-
2 ments, and other transactions without regard to
3 section 6101 of title 41, United States Code;

4 (D) notwithstanding section 1342 of title
5 31, United States Code, accept donations and
6 voluntary and uncompensated services;

7 (E) accept funds from other Federal de-
8 partments and agencies, including agencies
9 within the Administration, to pay for and add
10 to activities authorized by this Act; and

11 (F) promulgate such rules and regulations
12 as may be necessary and appropriate.

13 (d) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOW-
14 SHIP PROGRAM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall ap-
16 point, as the Director of the National Air Grant Fel-
17 lowship Program, a qualified individual who has ap-
18 propriate administrative experience and knowledge
19 or expertise in fields related to aerospace. The Di-
20 rector shall be appointed and compensated, without
21 regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appoint-
22 ments in the competitive service, at a rate payable
23 under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.

24 (2) DUTIES.—Subject to the supervision of the
25 Administrator, the Director shall administer the Na-

1 tional Air Grant Fellowship Program and oversee
 2 the operation of the National Air Grant Office. In
 3 addition to any other duty prescribed by law or as-
 4 signed by the Administrator, the Director shall—

5 (A) cooperate with institutions of higher
 6 education that offer degrees in fields related to
 7 aerospace;

8 (B) encourage the participation of grad-
 9 uate and post-graduate students in the National
 10 Air Grant Fellowship Program; and

11 (C) cooperate and coordinate with other
 12 Federal activities in fields related to aerospace.

13 **SEC. 3. FELLOWSHIPS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall support
 15 a program of fellowships for qualified individuals at the
 16 graduate and post-graduate level. The fellowships shall be
 17 in fields related to aerospace and awarded pursuant to
 18 guidelines established by the Administrator. The Adminis-
 19 trator shall strive to ensure equal access for minority and
 20 economically disadvantaged students to the program car-
 21 ried out under this subsection.

22 (b) AEROSPACE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
 24 award aerospace policy fellowships to support the
 25 placement of individuals at the graduate level of

1 education in fields related to aerospace in positions
2 with—

3 (A) the executive branch of the United
4 States Government; and

5 (B) the legislative branch of the United
6 States Government.

7 (2) PLACEMENT PRIORITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE
8 FELLOWSHIPS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—In considering the
10 placement of individuals receiving a fellowship
11 for a legislative branch position under para-
12 graph (1)(B), the Administrator shall give pri-
13 ority to placement of such individuals in the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (i) Positions in offices of, or with
16 Members on, committees of Congress that
17 have jurisdiction over the Federal Aviation
18 Administration.

19 (ii) Positions in offices of Members of
20 Congress that have a demonstrated inter-
21 est in aerospace policy.

22 (B) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In plac-
23 ing fellows in positions described under sub-
24 paragraph (A), the Administrator shall ensure

1 that placements are equally distributed among
2 the political parties.

3 (3) DURATION.—A fellowship awarded under
4 this subsection shall be for a period of not more
5 than 1 year.

6 (c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts
7 available for fellowships under this section, including
8 amounts accepted under section 2(c)(3)(E) or appro-
9 priated under section 5 to carry out this section, shall be
10 used only for award of such fellowships and administrative
11 costs of implementing this section.

12 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.**

13 Each department, agency, or other instrumentality of
14 the Federal Government that is engaged in or concerned
15 with, or that has authority over, matters relating to aero-
16 space—

17 (1) may, upon a written request from the Ad-
18 ministrator, make available, on a reimbursable basis
19 or otherwise, any personnel (with their consent and
20 without prejudice to their position and rating), serv-
21 ice, or facility that the Administrator deems nec-
22 essary to carry out any provision of this Act;

23 (2) shall, upon a written request from the Ad-
24 ministrator, furnish any available data or other in-

1 formation that the Administrator deems necessary to
2 carry out any provision of this Act; and

3 (3) shall cooperate with the Administration and
4 duly authorized officials thereof.

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

6 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
7 ministrator \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
8 through 2025 to carry out this Act. Amounts appropriated
9 under the preceding sentence shall remain available until
10 expended.

11 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
14 tion” means the Federal Aviation Administration.

15 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
16 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
17 Aviation Administration.

18 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
19 the Director of the National Air Grant Fellowship
20 Program, appointed pursuant to section 2(d).

21 (4) FIELDS RELATED TO AEROSPACE.—The
22 term “fields related to aerospace” means any dis-
23 cipline or field that is concerned with, or likely to
24 improve, the development, assessment, operation,
25 safety, or repair of aircraft and other airborne ob-

1 jects and systems, including, but not limited to, the
2 following:

- 3 (A) Aerospace engineering.
- 4 (B) Aerospace physiology.
- 5 (C) Aeronautical engineering.
- 6 (D) Airworthiness engineering.
- 7 (E) Electrical engineering.
- 8 (F) Human factors.
- 9 (G) Software engineering.
- 10 (H) Systems engineering.

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