

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1135

To establish the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders committed to democratic institutions, processes, and values.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders committed to democratic institutions, processes, and values.

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 “Leadership Institute
5 for Transatlantic Engagement Act” or “LITE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR**
2 **TRANSATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 legislative branch the Leadership Institute for Trans-
5 atlantic Engagement.

6 (b) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The Institute shall be
7 subject to the supervision and direction of a Board of
8 Trustees which shall be composed of five members as fol-
9 lows:

10 (1) Two members appointed by the Speaker of
11 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
12 designated by the majority leader of the House of
13 Representatives and one of whom shall be designated
14 by the minority leader of the House of Representa-
15 tives.

16 (2) Two members appointed by the President
17 pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be
18 designated by the majority leader of the Senate and
19 one of whom shall be designated by the minority
20 leader of the Senate.

21 (3) The Executive Director of the Institute,
22 who shall serve as an ex officio member of the
23 Board.

24 (c) TERM.—Each member of the Board appointed
25 under this section shall serve for a term of three years.
26 Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the

1 original appointment and the individual so appointed shall
2 serve for the remainder of the term. A Member of Con-
3 gress appointed to the Board may not consecutively serve
4 as a member of the Board for more than a total of six
5 years.

6 (d) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—At the first meeting
7 and at its first regular meeting in each calendar year
8 thereafter the Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair
9 from among the members of the Board. The Chair and
10 Vice-Chair may not be members of the same political
11 party.

12 (e) PAY NOT AUTHORIZED; EXPENSES.—Members of
13 the Board (other than the Executive Director) shall serve
14 without pay, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for
15 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
16 in the performance of their duties.

17 (f) LOCATION OF INSTITUTE AND REGIONAL OF-
18 FICES.—The Institute shall be located in Washington, DC,
19 and the Executive Director may also establish other offices
20 for the Institute in regions of the United States and Eu-
21 rope.

22 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES AND AUTHORITY OF LEADERSHIP INSTI-**
23 **TUTE FOR TRANSATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT.**

24 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Institute shall
25 be to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders,

1 including emerging leaders, committed to democratic insti-
2 tutions, processes, and values by—

3 (1) providing training and professional develop-
4 ment opportunities for racially and ethnically diverse
5 leaders on democratic governance and international
6 affairs;

7 (2) enabling international exchanges between
8 leaders to increase understanding and knowledge of
9 democratic models of governance; and

10 (3) increasing awareness of the importance of
11 international public service careers in racially and
12 ethnically diverse communities.

13 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Institute is authorized, con-
14 sistent with this Act, to develop such programs, activities,
15 and services as it considers appropriate to carry out the
16 purposes described in subsection (a). Such authority shall
17 include the following:

18 (1) The development and implementation of
19 training and educational programs and tools for
20 leaders and for students in secondary and postsec-
21 ondary schools and colleges, including minority serv-
22 ing institutions.

23 (2) The development and implementation of
24 media and telecommunications productions, as well
25 as online and social media methods, to assist the In-

1 stitute in expanding the reach of its programs
2 throughout the United States and abroad.

3 (3) The establishment of library and research
4 facilities for the collection, publication, compilation,
5 and distribution of research materials for use in car-
6 rying out the programs of the Institute.

7 (c) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—The Executive Director
8 shall determine the priority of the programs to be carried
9 out under this Act and the amount of funds to be allocated
10 for such programs.

11 (d) GRANT PROGRAM.—

12 (1) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Institute shall es-
13 tablish a program to awards grants in the United
14 States and abroad on an annual basis to colleges
15 and universities, other research institutions and or-
16 ganizations, public departments and Federal agen-
17 cies (including State, territorial, and overseas de-
18 partments), and individuals for the purposes of as-
19 sisting the Institute's work in conducting research,
20 international exchanges, education or training activi-
21 ties, to develop such programs, activities, and serv-
22 ices as it considers appropriate to carry out the pur-
23 poses described in subsection (a).

24 (2) APPLICATION.—Each organization that
25 seeks a grant under this subsection shall submit an

1 application to the Institute at such time, in such
2 manner, and accompanied by such information as
3 the Institute may reasonably require.

4 (3) SET-ASIDE FOR CENTERS OF EXCEL-
5 LENCE.—The Institute shall ensure that not less
6 than 50 percent of amounts made available to carry
7 out this subsection are used to provide grants to mi-
8 nority-serving institutions and entities that have
9 made significant efforts to work with racially and
10 ethnically diverse populations in the United States
11 or abroad.

12 (4) CONSORTIUM.—One or more research insti-
13 tutions may constitute themselves as a consortium
14 for purposes of seeking a grant under this sub-
15 section.

16 **SEC. 4. LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR TRANSATLANTIC EN-**
17 **GAGEMENT TRUST FUND.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
19 Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known
20 as the “Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engage-
21 ment Trust Fund”. The Fund shall consist of amounts
22 which may be appropriated, credited, or transferred to it
23 under this section.

1 (b) DONATIONS.—Any money or other property do-
2 nated, bequeathed, or devised to the Institute under the
3 authority of this section shall be credited to the Fund.

4 (c) FUND MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT.—

5 (1) INVESTMENT.—At the request of the Insti-
6 tute, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the
7 Treasury to invest in full the amounts appropriated
8 to the Fund. Such investments may be made only in
9 interest-bearing obligations of the United States
10 issued directly to the Fund.

11 (2) ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS.—The purposes
12 for which obligations of the United States may be
13 issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States
14 Code, are hereby extended to authorize the issuance
15 at par of special obligations directly to the Fund.
16 Such special obligations shall bear interest at a rate
17 equal to the average rate of interest, computed as to
18 the end of the calendar month next preceding the
19 date of such issue, borne by all marketable interest-
20 bearing obligations of the United States then form-
21 ing a part of the public debt, except that if such av-
22 erage rate is not a multiple of one-eighth of 1 per
23 centum, the rate of interest of such special obliga-
24 tions shall be the multiple of one-eighth of 1 per
25 centum next lower than such average rate. All re-

1 quests of the Institute to the Secretary of the Treas-
2 ury provided for in this section shall be binding upon
3 the Secretary.

4 (d) **AUTHORITY TO SELL OBLIGATIONS.**—At the re-
5 quest of the Institute, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
6 redeem any obligation issued directly to the Fund. Obliga-
7 tions issued to the Fund under subsection (c)(2) shall be
8 redeemed at par plus accrued interest. Any other obliga-
9 tions issued directly to the Fund shall be redeemed at the
10 market price.

11 (e) **PROCEEDS FROM CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS**
12 **CREDITED TO FUND.**—In addition to the appropriations
13 received pursuant to this Act, the interest on, and the pro-
14 ceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held
15 in the Fund pursuant to this Act, shall be credited to and
16 form a part of the Fund.

17 (f) **FUND RESERVES.**—No less than five percent of
18 the original amount appropriated to the Fund must re-
19 main in the Fund at all times.

20 (g) **EXPENDITURES.**—The Secretary of the Treasury
21 is authorized to pay to the Institute from the interests
22 and earnings of the Fund, and moneys credited to the
23 Fund pursuant to this section, such sums as the Board
24 determines are necessary and appropriate to enable the
25 Institute to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

2 (a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall ap-
3 point an Executive Director who shall be the chief execu-
4 tive officer and principal executive of the Institute and
5 who shall supervise the affairs of, assist the directions of,
6 and carry out the functions of the Board to administer
7 the Institute. The Executive Director of the Institute shall
8 be compensated at an annual rate specified by the Board.

9 (b) OTHER DUTIES.—The Executive Director, in
10 consultation with the Board shall appoint and fix the com-
11 pensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry
12 out this Act, including personnel to carry out duties at
13 any locations of the Institute which are established outside
14 of Washington, DC.

15 (c) INSTITUTE PERSONNEL.—

16 (1) STAFF APPOINTMENTS.—All staff appoint-
17 ments shall be made without regard to the provi-
18 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
19 pointments in the competitive service, and without
20 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
21 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to
22 classification and general schedule pay rates.

23 (2) TREATMENT AS CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOY-
24 EES.—For purposes of pay and other employment
25 benefits, rights, and privileges and for all other pur-
26 poses, any employee of the Institute shall be consid-

1 ered to be a Congressional employee under section
2 2107 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (3) COVERAGE UNDER CONGRESSIONAL AC-
4 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—

5 (A) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COV-
6 ERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(3) of the Con-
7 gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.
8 1301(3)) is amended—

9 (i) by striking “or” at the end of sub-
10 paragraph (J);

11 (ii) by striking the period at the end
12 of subparagraph (K) and inserting “; or”;
13 and

14 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing new subparagraph:

16 “(L) the Leadership Institute for Trans-
17 atlantic Engagement.”.

18 (B) TREATMENT OF INSTITUTE AS EM-
19 PLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(9)(D) of such
20 Act (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)) is amended by strik-
21 ing “and the John C. Stennis Center” and in-
22 serting “the Leadership Institute for Trans-
23 atlantic Engagement, and the John C. Stennis
24 Center”.

1 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

2 In order to carry out this Act, the Institute may carry
3 out any of the following:

4 (1) Prescribe such regulations as it considers
5 necessary for governing the manner in which its
6 functions shall be carried out.

7 (2) Procure temporary and intermittent services
8 of experts and consultants as are necessary to the
9 extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United
10 States Code.

11 (3) Accept and utilize the services of voluntary
12 and uncompensated personnel and reimburse them
13 for travel expenses, including per diem, as author-
14 ized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

15 (4) Request and utilize the assignment of any
16 Federal officer or employee from a department,
17 agency, or Congressional office to the Institute, in-
18 cluding on a rotating basis, by entering into an
19 agreement for such assignment.

20 (5) Solicit and receive money and other prop-
21 erty donated, bequeathed, or devised, without condi-
22 tion or restriction other than it be used for the pur-
23 poses of the Institute, and to use, sell, or otherwise
24 dispose of such property for the purpose of carrying
25 out its functions.

1 (6) Enter into contracts, grants, or other ar-
2 rangements, or modifications thereof, to carry out
3 the provisions of this Act, including with any office
4 of the Federal government or of any State or any
5 subdivision thereof, and international public and pri-
6 vate sector entities.

7 (7) Make expenditures for any expenses in con-
8 nection with official training sessions or other au-
9 thorized programs or activities of the Institute.

10 (8) Apply for, receive, and use for the purposes
11 of the Institute grants or other assistance from Fed-
12 eral sources.

13 (9) Establish, receive, and use for the purposes
14 of the Institute fees or other charges for goods or
15 services provided in fulfilling the Institute's pur-
16 poses.

17 (10) Invest, as specified in section 4(c), monies
18 authorized to be received under this Act.

19 (11) Establish advisory committees or other
20 bodies composed of persons eminent in international
21 affairs, global security, and civil and human rights,
22 to advise the Board without compensation (other
23 than travel related expenses) on matters determined
24 to be necessary by the Board.

1 (12) Respond to the request of offices of Con-
2 gress and other departments or agencies of the Fed-
3 eral government to examine, study, or report on any
4 issue within the Institute’s competence, including the
5 use of classified materials if necessary.

6 (13) Work with the appropriate security offices
7 of the House of Representatives and Senate to ob-
8 tain or retain need-based security clearances for In-
9 stitute personnel.

10 (14) Assign Institute personnel to temporary
11 duty with offices of the Federal government, inter-
12 national organizations, agencies and other entities to
13 fulfill this Act.

14 (15) Make other necessary expenditures.

15 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) The term “Institute” means the “Leader-
18 ship Institute for Transatlantic Engagement” estab-
19 lished under section 2.

20 (2) The term “Board” means the Board of
21 Trustees of the Institute.

22 (3) The term “Fund” means the Leadership In-
23 stitute for Transatlantic Engagement Trust Fund
24 under section 4.

1 (4) The term “minority serving institutions” as
2 defined in section 365(3) of the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3)).

4 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; DISBURSE-**
5 **MENTS.**

6 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
8 appropriated such sums as may be necessary to
9 carry out this Act.

10 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be
11 appropriated under paragraph (1) are authorized to
12 remain available until expended.

13 (b) DISBURSEMENTS.—Amounts made available to
14 the Institution shall be disbursed on vouchers approved
15 by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board or by a majority
16 vote of the Board.

17 (c) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—For purposes of
18 section 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954 (22
19 U.S.C. 1754(b)), the Institute shall be deemed to be a
20 standing committee of the Congress and shall be entitled
21 to use funds in accordance with such section.

22 (d) FOREIGN TRAVEL.—Foreign travel for official
23 purposes by Members of the Institute who are Members
24 of Congress and Institute staff may be authorized by the
25 Chair, Vice-Chair, or Executive Director of the Institute.

1 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 on the date of enactment of this Act.

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