

97TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2500

To establish a select commission to examine the issues associated with voluntary service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 1981

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. MCCLORY, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. SIMON, Mr. BONIOR of Michigan, Mr. BEILENSON, Mr. ADDABBO, Mr. COELHO, Mr. FROST, Mr. BINGHAM, and Mr. MCCLOSKEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish a select commission to examine the issues associated with voluntary service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SHORT TITLE**

4 **SECTION 1.** This Act may be cited as the "Select Com-
5 mission on Voluntary Service Opportunities Act of 1981".

1 (3) Not later than ninety days after the interim report is
2 PURPOSE

3 SEC. 2. It is the purpose of this Act to establish a Select
4 Commission to examine the issues associated with voluntary
5 service and—

6 (1) to focus national attention on the need for vol-
7 untary service, on opportunities which exist for such
8 service, and on alternative types of national service
9 programs which may help the United States to meet a
10 broad range of national and local needs;

11 (2) to explore and assess alternative methods for
12 providing the people of the United States with the in-
13 centives and the opportunities to provide useful service
14 to the community and the United States; and

15 (3) to provide the President, the Congress, and
16 the people of the United States with an overview and
17 assessment of existing opportunities for voluntary serv-
18 ice and a series of options for alternative types of na-
19 tional service programs designed to help the United
20 States deal with a number of serious challenges in the
21 areas of youth unemployment, conservation of natural
22 resources, protection of the environment, rebuilding the
23 inner cities, education, providing services for older
24 Americans and handicapped individuals, and personnel
25 requirements in a wide variety of Federal, State, and
local programs and agencies.

FINDINGS

SEC. 3. The Congress finds that—

(1) voluntary service in a variety of areas represents a vast and essentially untapped resource which can and should be utilized to meet national and local needs;

(2) greater leadership is needed on the part of the Federal Government to encourage the people of the United States to serve and to encourage State and local authorities to provide opportunities for meaningful service;

(3) useful public service is very important for the educational and personal development of young people;

(4) the United States faces numerous challenges which can be better met if we draw upon the creative energies of young people and other individuals through a program of national service; and

(5) a high-level commission is needed to make recommendations to the President and the Congress about the effectiveness of existing voluntary service programs and the costs and benefits of alternative types of national service programs.

ESTABLISHMENT

SEC. 4. There is established a select commission to be known as the Select Commission on Voluntary Service Op-

1 opportunities (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
2 “Commission”).

3 DUTIES

4 SEC. 5. The Commission shall—

5 (1) identify existing voluntary service opportuni-
6 ties in the public and private sectors of the United
7 States and assess the effectiveness of these opportuni-
8 ties in meeting national and local needs, in building a
9 sense of commitment to the community and the United
10 States, and in instilling in the volunteers a sense of ac-
11 complishment and pride;

12 (2) identify incentives which attract, or which are
13 needed to attract, voluntary service in the public and
14 private sectors of the United States;

15 (3) examine and assess the need for and the desir-
16 ability, feasibility, and cost of expanding existing serv-
17 ice opportunities and incentives and establishing any of
18 the alternative types of national service programs;

19 (4) identify and examine alternative types of na-
20 tional service programs and assess the relative costs
21 and benefits of such national service programs;

22 (5) examine the impact of potential changes in the
23 incentives for service, and of various alternative types
24 of national service programs, on existing institutions
25 (including educational institutions, labor organizations,

1 private and public service programs, and Federal
2 youth, jobs, and training programs);

3 (6) assess the cost effectiveness of both alternative
4 and existing voluntary service programs and the feasi-
5 bility and desirability of incorporating these programs
6 into a comprehensive national service program;

7 (7) examine the role of all individuals (regardless
8 of age, sex, income, and education) in existing service
9 programs and in the alternative types national service
10 programs;

11 (8) identify the way in which existing service pro-
12 grams and alternative types of national service pro-
13 grams will provide young individuals and other partici-
14 pants with a sense of accomplishment and pride and an
15 opportunity to contribute to the welfare of the society
16 by responding to unmet needs of the community and
17 the United States; and

18 (9) conduct meetings, hearings, and conferences in
19 various regions and localities in the United States to
20 gather the opinions of a wide variety of individuals,
21 particularly young individuals and those individuals and
22 groups most likely to be affected by any changes in ex-
23 isting service programs or the establishment of a pro-
24 gram of national service.

MEMBERSHIP

1
2 SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall be composed of
3 twenty-one members as follows:

4 (1) Eleven members appointed by the President
5 from among individuals who are broadly representative
6 of private volunteer organizations, secondary and
7 higher education, business, organized labor, the mili-
8 tary, social service and civil liberty organizations, mi-
9 nority group and ethnic organizations, Federal, State,
10 and local governments, and groups with a primary in-
11 terest in service opportunities for youth, handicapped
12 individuals, and older Americans, of which not less
13 than three of the members appointed by the President
14 shall be individuals who are not less than seventeen
15 years of age and not more than twenty-five years of
16 age on the date of their appointment to the
17 Commission.

18 (2) Five members appointed by the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives in consultation with the mi-
20 nority leader of the House, of which two shall be
21 Members of the House of Representatives and one
22 shall be an individual who is not less than seventeen
23 years of age and not more than twenty-five years of
24 age on the date of the individual's appointment to the
25 Commission.

1 (3) Five members appointed by the majority
2 leader of the Senate in consultation with the minority
3 leader of the Senate, of which two shall be Senators
4 and one shall be an individual who is not less than sev-
5 enteen years of age and not more than twenty-five
6 years of age on the date of the individual's appoint-
7 ment to the Commission.

8 (b) If any member of the Commission who was appoint-
9 ed to the Commission as a Member of the Congress leaves
10 that office, he may continue as a member of the Commission
11 until his successor is appointed.

12 (c) A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the
13 manner in which the original appointment was made.

14 (d) Members of the Commission shall be appointed for
15 the life of the Commission.

16 (e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of
17 the Commission shall each be paid at a rate equal to the daily
18 equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay in effect
19 for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule for each day (in-
20 cluding travel time) during which they are engaged in the
21 actual performance of the duties of the Commission.

22 (2) Members of the Commission who are officers or em-
23 ployees of the United States or Members of the Congress
24 shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or benefits by
25 reason of their service on the Commission.

1 (f) Eleven members of the Commission shall constitute a
2 quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings.

3 (g) Not later than forty-five days after the effective date
4 of this Act, the President shall designate the Chairman of the
5 Commission from among those individuals appointed by the
6 President under subsection (a)(1).

7 (h) The first meeting of the Commission shall be held
8 not later than sixty days after the designation of the Chair-
9 man under subsection (g). The Commission shall meet at
10 least once each three months after its first meeting. The date
11 and time of all meetings of the Commission shall be at the
12 call of the Chairman or a majority of its members.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

14 SEC. 7. (a) The Commission shall have an Executive
15 Director who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the
16 Commission and who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the
17 maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General
18 Schedule.

19 (b) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the
20 Commission, the Chairman of the Commission may appoint
21 and fix the pay, at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of
22 basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule, of
23 such additional personnel as the Chairman considers
24 appropriate.

1 (c) The Executive Director and staff of the Commission
2 may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
3 United States Code, governing appointments in the competi-
4 tive service, and may be paid without regard to the provi-
5 sions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such
6 title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates,
7 except that no individual so appointed may receive pay in
8 excess of the annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of
9 the General Schedule.

10 (d) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the
11 Commission, the Chairman of the Commission may procure
12 temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
13 title 5 of the United States Code, but at rates for individuals
14 not to exceed the daily equivalent of the maximum annual
15 rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule.

16 (e) Upon request of the Commission, the head of any
17 Federal agency is authorized to detail, on a reimbursable
18 basis, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission
19 to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this
20 Act.

21 POWERS

22 SEC. 8. (a) The Commission may, for the purpose of
23 carrying out this Act, hold such hearings and conferences, sit
24 and act at such times and places, take such testimony,

1 and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers
2 appropriate.

3 (b) Any member or agent of the Commission may, if so
4 authorized by the Commission, take any action which the
5 Commission is authorized to take by this section.

6 (c) The Commission may secure directly from any de-
7 partment or agency of the United States information neces-
8 sary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the
9 Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or
10 agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

11 (d) The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of
12 gifts or donations of services or property.

13 (e) The Commission may use the United States mails in
14 the same manner and under the same conditions as other
15 departments and agencies of the United States.

16 (f) The Administrator of General Services shall provide
17 to the Commission on a reimbursable basis such administra-
18 tive support services as the Commission may request.

19 (g) The Commission through its Chairman may enter
20 into any contract which the Commission deems is necessary.

21 REPORTS

22 SEC. 9. (a) The Commission may transmit to the Presi-
23 dent and to each House of the Congress such interim reports
24 as it considers appropriate and shall transmit a final report to
25 the President and to each House of the Congress not later

1 than fifteen months after the first meeting of the Commission
2 is held pursuant to section 6(h). The final report shall contain
3 a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the
4 Commission, together with its recommendations for such leg-
5 islation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

6 (b)(1) After the final report is transmitted to the Presi-
7 dent and each House of the Congress pursuant to subsection

8 (a) each executive department and agency affected by the
9 final report, as determined by the President, shall submit to
10 the President recommendations for implementing the final
11 report.

12 (2) Not later than ninety days after the final report is
13 transmitted by the Commission to each House of the Con-
14 gress pursuant to subsection (a) the President shall transmit
15 to each House of the Congress an interim report containing a
16 detailed statement on—

17 (A) the desirability, feasibility, and cost of imple-
18 menting each of the Commission's recommendations,
19 and the actions taken or planned with respect to the
20 implementation; and

21 (B) recommendations with respect to any legisla-
22 tion proposed by the Commission and the need for any
23 alternative or additional legislation to implement the
24 Commission's recommendations.

1 (3) Not later than ninety days after the interim report is
2 transmitted to each House of the Congress pursuant to para-
3 graph (2) the President shall transmit to each House of the
4 Congress a final report containing a detailed statement on
5 any actions taken to implement the recommendations of the
6 Commission, together with any further recommendations for
7 legislation or administrative actions.

8 TERMINATION

9 SEC. 10. The Commission shall cease to exist one hun-
10 dred and eighty days after its final report is transmitted to
11 the President and each House of the Congress pursuant to
12 section 9(a).

13 AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

14 SEC. 11. There is authorized to be appropriated for the
15 fiscal year ending on September 30, 1982, the sum of
16 \$3,100,000 to carry out this Act. Any sums appropriated
17 under the authorization contained in this section shall remain
18 available until expended.

19 EFFECTIVE DATE

20 SEC. 12. This Act shall take effect on October 1, 1981.

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