



96th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. _____

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Tsongas introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to establish
a Commission on National Service.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That
3 this Act may be cited as the ``Presidential Commission on
4 National Service Act``.

5 Sec. 2. The Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 is
6 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new title:

7 ``TITLE VII--COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SERVICE

8 ``FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

9 ``Sec. 701. (a) The Congress finds that--

10 ``(1) young people have demonstrated, through various
11 public and private programs, that they can be effective
12 in providing services to society;

13 ``(2) existing opportunities for full-time volunteer
14 service are available only to a small percentage of
15 American young people;

16 ``(3) there are many important, yet unmet, social
17 needs that could be met through the services volunteered
18 by young people;

19 ``(4) youth unemployment rates are consistently high;

20 ``(5) there is a need for opportunities for young
21 people from all segments of society to provide service

1 and to be productive members of our society; and

2 `` (6) serious questions are being raised about the
3 ability of a peacetime all-volunteer Armed Forces to
4 enlist the men and women necessary to meet the Nation's
5 military needs.

6 `` (b) It is the purpose of this title to establish a
7 Presidentially appointed Commission to study the feasibility
8 of organizing a large-scale system for national service,
9 where participants would serve for one year or more, and
10 which would have both non-military as well as military
11 options available to all young people.

12 `` ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

13 `` Sec. 702. (a) The President shall appoint a Commission
14 on National Service which shall be composed of twenty-five
15 members as follows:

16 `` (1) one Member of the House of Representatives;

17 `` (2) one Member of the Senate upon the joint
18 recommendation of the majority and minority leaders;

19 `` (3) two military leaders;

20 `` (4) four individuals from the various Federal,
21 State, and local voluntary agencies;

22 `` (5) two individuals representing the elderly
23 community;

24 `` (6) four individuals representing the various
25 private voluntary organizations;

26 `` (7) two individuals representing the academic
27 community;

28 `` (8) one individual representing organized labor;

29 `` (9) one individual representing the business
30 community; and

31 `` (10) seven individuals representing a cross-section
32 of American youth.

33 Of the seven individuals appointed under paragraph (10),
34 three shall be high school students, two shall be college

1 students, and two shall be of high school or college age who
2 are not full-time students.

3 `` (b) The President shall make efforts to select
4 minorities and women to serve on the Commission.

5 `` (c) Thirteen members of the Commission shall constitute
6 a quorum for the transaction of its business.

7 `` (d) The President shall appoint a Chairperson from
8 among the members of the Commission.

9 `` (e) The members of the Commission shall be appointed
10 not later than 60 days after the enactment of this title.

11 `` (f) Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its
12 powers and shall be filled in the same manner in which the
13 original appointment was made.

14 `` (g) Each member of the Commission who is not otherwise
15 employed by the United States Government shall receive
16 compensation at a daily rate equal to the daily rate
17 prescribed for GS-15 under the General Schedule contained in
18 section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including
19 traveltime, for each day he or she is engaged in the actual
20 performance of his or her duties as a member of the
21 Commission. A member of the Commission who is an officer or
22 employee of the United States Government shall serve without
23 additional compensation. All members of the Commission shall
24 be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary
25 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties
26 to the same extent that employees serving intermittently in
27 Government service are allowed such expenses under section
28 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

29 `` DUTIES

30 `` Sec. 703. (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission to
31 examine several questions surrounding the issue of national
32 service, including but not limited to the following:

33 `` (1) whether a year or more of service by recent
34 high school graduates would help meet the non-military

1 needs of the Nation;

2 "(2) what type of services would be most beneficial;

3 "(3) whether and how a system of national service
4 could assist the Armed Forces by enlisting the men and
5 women necessary to meet the Nation's military need;

6 "(4) how a system of national service could train
7 volunteers and increase their job opportunities after
8 service or could otherwise contribute to their education
9 and development;

10 "(5) what the costs and benefits of a national
11 service system would be, including ways in which it would
12 reduce the cost of existing programs;

13 "(6) whether national service should be compulsory
14 or voluntary;

15 "(7) what the pay scale for participants should be;

16 "(8) what incentives could be used to attract both
17 minority and disadvantaged youth;

18 "(9) whether national service should be restricted
19 to include only young people;

20 "(10) what should the duration of service be; and

21 "(11) whether and how the country as a whole and the
22 participants themselves would benefit from a system of
23 national service.

24 "(b) The Commission shall hold regional conferences
25 throughout the United States and actively seek out the
26 opinions of young people on the subject of national service
27 and the questions as stated above in subsection (a).

28 "(c) The Commission shall actively encourage a national
29 debate on national service concerning the questions in
30 subsection (a).

31 "POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

32 "Sec. 704. (a) The Commission, or on the authorization
33 of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may,
34 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this title,

1 hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places,
2 and request the attendance and testimony of such witnesses
3 and the production of such books, records, correspondence,
4 memoranda, papers, and documents as the Commission or such
5 subcommittee or member may deem advisable.

6 “(b) The Commission may acquire directly from the head
7 of any department, agency, independent instrumentality, or
8 other authority of the executive branch of the Government,
9 available information which the Commission considers useful
10 in the discharge of its duties. All departments, agencies,
11 and independent instrumentalities, or other authorities of
12 the executive branch of the Government shall cooperate with
13 the Commission and furnish all information requested by the
14 Commission to the extent permitted by law.

15 “ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

16 “Sec. 705. The Commission is authorized to--

17 “(1) appoint and fix the compensation of such
18 personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the
19 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing
20 appointments in the competitive service, and without
21 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III
22 of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification
23 and General Schedule pay rates;

24 “(2) obtain the services of experts and consultants
25 in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of
26 title 5, United States Code, at a rate of pay not to
27 exceed the rate of basic pay in effect from time to time
28 for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule under section
29 5332 of title 5, United States Code;

30 “(3) accept and utilize the services of voluntary
31 and noncompensated personnel and reimburses them for
32 travel expenses, including per diem, or authorized by
33 section 5703 of title 5, United States Code;

34 “(4) receive money and other property donated,

1 bequeathed or devised, without condition or restriction
2 other than that it will be used for the purposes of the
3 Commission, and to use, sell, and otherwise dispose of
4 such property for the purpose of carrying out the
5 functions of the Commission under this title;

6 `` (5) enter into agreements with the General Services
7 Administration for procurement of necessary financial and
8 administrative services, for which payment shall be made
9 by reimbursement from funds of the Commission in such
10 amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman and the
11 Administrator of General Services;

12 `` (6) procure supplies, services, and property, and
13 make contracts, without regard to the laws and procedures
14 applicable to Federal agencies; and

15 `` (7) enter into contracts with Federal or State
16 agencies, private firms, institutions, and agencies for
17 the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of
18 reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge
19 of its duties.

20 ``REPORT AND TERMINATION

21 ``Sec. 706. (a) The Commission shall, within twelve
22 months from the date of enactment of this title, transmit a
23 final report to the President and the Congress concerning its
24 actions and its findings and recommendations.

25 `` (b) The Commission shall cease to exist on the date two
26 months from the date it transmits the final report unless
27 extended by a subsequent Act of Congress.

28 ``AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

29 ``Sec. 707. There are authorized to be appropriated such
30 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
31 title.''.
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