

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TSONGAS (for himself, Mr. Cranston, Mr. Pell and Mr. Levin)

introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

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

(Insert title of bill here)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Select Commission on Voluntary Service Opportunities Act of 1981."

PURPOSE

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

(1) to focus national attention on the need for voluntary service, on opportunities which exist for such service, and on alternative types of national service programs which may help the United States to meet a broad range of national and local needs;

(2) to explore and assess alternative methods for providing the people of the United States with the incentives and the opportunities to provide useful service to the community and the United States; and

(3) to provide the President, the Congress, and the people of the United States with an overview and assessment of existing opportunities for voluntary service and a series of options for alternative types of national service programs designed to help the United States deal with a number of serious challenges in the areas of youth employment, conservation or natural resources, protection of the environment, rebuilding the inner cities, education, providing services for older Americans and handicapped individuals, and personnel requirements for 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 Opportunities (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

DUTIES

SEC. 5. The Commission shall ----

(1) identify existing voluntary service opportunities in the public and private sectors of the United States and assess the effectiveness of these opportunities in meeting national and local needs, in building a sense of commitment to the community and the United States, and in instilling in the volunteers a sense of accomplishment and pride;

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

(3) examine and assess the need for and the desirability, feasibility, and cost of expanding existing service opportunities and incentives and establishing any of the alternative types of national service programs;

(4) identify and examine alternative types of national service programs and assess the relative costs and benefits of such national service programs;

(5) examine the impact of potential changes in the incentives for service, and of various alternative types of national service programs, on existing institutions (including educational institutions, labor organizations, private and public service programs, and Federal youth, jobs, and training programs);

(6) assess the cost effectiveness of both alternative and existing voluntary service programs and the feasibility and desirability of incorporating these programs into a comprehensive national service program;

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

(8) identify the way in which existing service programs and alternative types of national service programs will provide young individuals and other participants with a sense of accomplishment and pride and an opportunity to contribute to the welfare of the society by responding to unmet needs of the community and the United States; and

(9) conduct meetings, hearings, and conferences in various regions and localities in the United States to gather the opinions of a wide variety of individuals, particularly young individuals and those individuals and groups most likely to be affected by any changes in existing service programs or the establishment of a program of national service.

#### MEMBERSHIP

SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall be composed of 21 members as follows:

(1) 11 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are broadly representative of private volunteer organizations, secondary and higher education, business, organized labor, the military, social service and civil liberty organizations, Federal, State, and local governments, and groups with a primary interest in service opportunities for youth, handicapped individuals, and older Americans, of which not less than 3 of the members appointed by the President shall be individuals who are not less than 17 years of age and not more than 25 years of age on the date of their appointment to the Commission.

(2) 5 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, of which 2 shall be Members of the House of Representatives and one shall be an individual who is not less than 17 years of age and not more than 25 years of age on the date of the individual's appointment to the Commission.

(3) 5 members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate in consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, of which 2 shall be Senators and one shall be an individual who is not less than 17 years of age and not more than 25 years of age on the date of the individual's appointment to the Commission.

(b) If any member of the Commission was appointed to the Commission as a Member of the Congress leaves that office, he may continue as a member of the Commission until his successor is appointed.

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

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

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

(2) Members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States or Members of the Congress shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Commission.

(f) 11 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(g) Not later than 45 days after the effective date of this Act, the President shall designate the Chairman of the Commission from among those individuals appointed by the President under subsection (a)(1).

(h) The first meeting of the Commission shall be held not later than 60 days after the designation of the Chairman under subsection (g). The Commission shall meet at least once each 3 months after its first meeting. The date and time of all meetings of the Commission shall be at the call of the Chairman or a majority of its members.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

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

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

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

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

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

#### POWERS

SEC. 8. (a) The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings and conferences, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

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

(c) The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

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

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

(f) The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

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

## REPORTS

SEC. 9. (a) The Commission may transmit to the President and to each House of the Congress such interim reports as it considers appropriate and shall transmit a final report to the President and to each House of the Congress not later than 15 months after the first meeting of the Commission is held pursuant to section 6(h). The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

(b)(1) After the final report is transmitted to the President and each House of the Congress pursuant to subsection (a) each executive department and agency affected by the final report, as determined by the President, shall submit to the President recommendations for implementing the final report.

(2) Not later than 90 days after the final report is transmitted by the Commission to each House of the Congress pursuant to subsection (a) the President shall transmit to each House of the Congress an interim report containing a detailed statement on --

- (A) the desirability, feasibility, and cost of implementing each of the Commission's recommendations, and the actions taken or planned with respect to the implementation; and
- (B) recommendations with respect to any legislation proposed by the Commission and the need for any alternative or additional legislation to implement the Commission's recommendations.

(3) Not later than 90 days after the interim report is transmitted to each House of the Congress pursuant to paragraph (2) the President shall transmit to each House of the Congress a final report containing a detailed statement on any actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Commission, together with any further recommendations for legislation or administrative actions.

## TERMINATION

SEC. 10. The Commission shall cease to exist 180 days after its final report is transmitted to the President and each House of the Congress pursuant to section 9(a).

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

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

EFFECTIVE DATE

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