

97TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1052

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29 (legislative day, APRIL 27), 1981

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 Governmental Affairs

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".

6 PURPOSE

7 SEC. 2. It is the purpose of this Act to establish a select
8 commission to examine the issues associated with voluntary
9 service and—

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

6 (2) to explore and assess alternative methods for
7 providing the people of the United States with the in-
8 centives and the opportunities to provide useful service
9 to the community and the United States; and

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

22 FINDINGS

23 SEC. 3. The Congress finds that—

24 (1) voluntary service in a variety of areas repre-
25 sents a vast and essentially untapped resource which

1 can and should be utilized to meet national and local
2 needs;

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

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

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

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

19 ESTABLISHMENT

20 SEC. 4. There is established a select commission to be
21 known as the Select Commission on Voluntary Service Op-
22 portunities (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
23 "Commission").

24 DUTIES

25 SEC. 5. The Commission shall—

- 1 (1) identify existing voluntary service opportuni-
2 ties in the public and private sectors of the United
3 States and assess the effectiveness of these opportuni-
4 ties in meeting national and local needs, in building a
5 sense of commitment to the community and the United
6 States, and in instilling in the volunteers a sense of ac-
7 complishment and pride;
- 8 (2) identify incentives which attract, or which are
9 needed to attract, voluntary service in the public and
10 private sectors of the United States;
- 11 (3) examine and assess the need for and the desir-
12 ability, feasibility, and cost of expanding existing serv-
13 ice opportunities and incentives and establishing any of
14 the alternative types of national service programs;
- 15 (4) identify and examine alternative types of na-
16 tional service programs and assess the relative costs
17 and benefits of such national service programs;
- 18 (5) examine the impact of potential changes in the
19 incentives for service, and of various alternative types
20 of national service programs, on existing institutions
21 (including educational institutions, labor organizations,
22 private and public service programs, and Federal
23 youth, jobs, and training programs);
- 24 (6) assess the cost effectiveness of both alternative
25 and existing voluntary service programs and the feasi-

1 bility and desirability of incorporating these programs
2 into a comprehensive national service program;

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

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

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

21 MEMBERSHIP

22 SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall be composed of
23 twenty-one members as follows:

24 (1) Eleven members appointed by the President
25 from among individuals who are broadly representative

1 of private volunteer organizations, secondary and
2 higher education, business, organized labor, the mili-
3 tary, social service and civil liberty organizations, Fed-
4 eral, State, and local governments, and groups with a
5 primary interest in service opportunities for youth,
6 handicapped individuals, and older Americans, of which
7 not less than three of the members appointed by the
8 President shall be individuals who are not less than
9 seventeen years of age and not more than twenty-five
10 years of age on the date of their appointment to the
11 Commission.

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

20 (3) Five members appointed by the majority
21 leader of the Senate in consultation with the minority
22 leader of the Senate, of which two shall be Senators
23 and one shall be an individual who is not less than sev-
24 enteen years of age and not more than twenty-five

1 years of age on the date of the individual's appoint-
2 ment to the Commission.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) Members of the Commission who are officers or em-
18 ployees of the United States or Members of the Congress
19 shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or benefits by
20 reason of their service on the Commission.

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

23 (g) Not later than forty-five days after the effective date
24 of this Act, the President shall designate the Chairman of the

1 Commission from among those individuals appointed by the
2 President under subsection (a)(1).

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

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

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

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

21 (c) The Executive Director and staff of the Commission
22 may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
23 United States Code, governing appointments in the competi-
24 tive service, and may be paid without regard to the provi-
25 sions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such

1 title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates,
2 except that no individual so appointed may receive pay in
3 excess of the annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of
4 the General Schedule.

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

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

16 POWERS

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

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

1 (c) The Commission may secure directly from any de-
2 partment or agency of the United States information neces-
3 sary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the
4 Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or
5 agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

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

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

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

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

16 **REPORTS**

17 **SEC. 9.** (a) The Commission may transmit to the Presi-
18 dent and to each House of the Congress such interim reports
19 as it considers appropriate and shall transmit a final report to
20 the President and to each House of the Congress not later
21 than fifteen months after the first meeting of the Commission
22 is held pursuant to section 6(h). The final report shall contain
23 a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the
24 Commission, together with its recommendations for such leg-
25 islation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

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

7 (2) Not later than ninety days after the final report is
8 transmitted by the Commission to each House of the Con-
9 gress pursuant to subsection (a) the President shall transmit
10 to each House of the Congress an interim report containing a
11 detailed statement on—

12 (A) the desirability, feasibility, and cost of imple-
13 menting each of the Commission's recommendations,
14 and the actions taken or planned with respect to the
15 implementation; and

16 (B) recommendations with respect to any legisla-
17 tion proposed by the Commission and the need for any
18 alternative or additional legislation to implement the
19 Commission's recommendations.

20 (3) Not later than ninety days after the interim report is
21 transmitted to each House of the Congress pursuant to para-
22 graph (2) the President shall transmit to each House of the
23 Congress a final report containing a detailed statement on
24 any actions taken to implement the recommendations of the

1 Commission, together with any further recommendations for
2 legislation or administrative actions.

3 **TERMINATION**

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

8 **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

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

14 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

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