

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1047

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish the Silver Scholarship program to encourage increased volunteer work by seniors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Mr. SESTAK (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish the Silver Scholarship program to encourage increased volunteer work by seniors.

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. SILVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title I of the Na-
5 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
6 12653 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 198F. SILVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Corporation is author-
3 ized to award grants to eligible entities, to enable the enti-
4 ties to provide volunteers participating in service projects
5 in accordance with this section with scholarships that may
6 be used by the volunteers or by individuals designated by
7 the volunteers.

8 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
9 a grant under this section, an entity shall be a public agen-
10 cy or private nonprofit organization with experience in ad-
11 ministering service programs (including the programs de-
12 scribed in or administered under title II of the Domestic
13 Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5000 et seq.)).

14 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
15 under this section, an entity shall submit to the Corpora-
16 tion an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
17 taining such information as the Corporation may reason-
18 ably require.

19 “(d) CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR GRANTS.—The
20 Corporation shall establish criteria and priorities for
21 awarding grants under this section.

22 “(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP.—An entity
23 that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall use the
24 funds made available through the grant to award a schol-
25 arship described in subsection (a) to recipients, each of
26 whom—

1 “(1) is, or has been designated for the scholar-
2 ship by, a volunteer who—

3 “(A) has performed not less than 500
4 hours of volunteer service, of a type specified by
5 the Corporation under subsection (f)(1), during
6 a 12-month period that is—

7 “(i) after the volunteer at issue has
8 attained age 55; and

9 “(ii) after the date of the enactment
10 of this section; or

11 “(B) has performed not less than 250
12 hours but less than 500 hours of volunteer serv-
13 ice of that type during such a 12-month period,
14 based on compelling personal circumstances;
15 and

16 “(2) has received, during the 5-year period pre-
17 ceding the date that the scholarship is awarded,
18 fewer than 2 scholarships under this section.

19 “(f) SERVICES, CRITERIA, AND PRIORITIES FOR
20 SCHOLARSHIPS.—The Corporation shall—

21 “(1) specify the types of volunteer service a vol-
22 unteer may engage in to meet term of service re-
23 quirements for a scholarship under this section,
24 which shall include—

1 “(A) tutoring or mentoring in a school,
2 after-school program, or other community-based
3 educational setting; and

4 “(B) assisting persons with special needs,
5 including persons who are homebound, to con-
6 tinue living independently; and

7 “(2) establish criteria and priorities for eligible
8 entities to use in awarding scholarships under this
9 section.

10 “(g) AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.—The entities shall
11 award the scholarships—

12 “(1) in an amount of not more than \$1,000; or

13 “(2) in a amount that is prorated based on the
14 individual’s hours of service, for an individual who
15 meets the requirements of subsection (e) with a term
16 of service described in subsection (e)(2)(B).

17 “(h) USE OF SCHOLARSHIPS.—A scholarship award-
18 ed under this section may be used—

19 “(1) by the volunteer or the person designated
20 by the volunteer, in accordance with subsection (e);

21 “(2) only for qualified tuition and related ex-
22 penses, as defined in section 117 of the Internal
23 Revenue Code of 1986, and only under such condi-
24 tions as are set forth by the Corporation through
25 regulation; and

1 “(3) not later than 20 years after the date of
2 the award of the scholarship, to allow time for ‘an
3 individual’ designated under subsection (e)(1) to use
4 the scholarship.

5 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
6 funds appropriated to carry out this section—

7 “(1) not more than 15 percent shall be used for
8 administrative purposes by the Corporation;

9 “(2) not less than 50 percent shall be made
10 available for grants under subsection (a) and used to
11 award scholarships to volunteers who have met the
12 term of service requirements for the scholarships by
13 providing tutoring or mentoring described in sub-
14 section (f)(1)(A);

15 “(3) not less than 10 percent shall be made
16 available for such grants and used to award scholar-
17 ships to volunteers who have met the requirements
18 by providing assistance described in subsection
19 (f)(1)(B); and

20 “(4) not more than 10 percent shall be made
21 available for such grants and used for administrative
22 purposes by the eligible entities receiving the
23 grants.”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
2 501(a)(2), as amended by section 202(b) of this Act, is
3 further amended—

4 (1) by striking “section 198E” each place it ap-
5 pears and inserting “sections 198E and 198F”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(D) SILVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to
9 carry out section 198F, \$20,000,000 for the
10 first fiscal year beginning after the date of the
11 enactment of section 198F and such sums as
12 are necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.”.

13 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
14 the Act is further amended in the items relating to subtitle
15 H of title I, by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 198F. Silver scholarship programs.”.

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