

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7161

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish service programs dedicated to digital equity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2022

Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) 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 service programs dedicated to digital equity, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “IT Service Corps Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. STATE AND NATIONAL.**

6 (a) STATE AND NATIONAL.—Section 122(b)(2) of the
7 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
8 12572(b)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as sub-
10 paragraph (J); and

1 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(I) A program that—

4 “(i) is dedicated to the achievement of
5 digital equity in underserved communities,
6 including through supporting digital inclu-
7 sion activities and enhancing digital lit-
8 eracy among individuals in such commu-
9 nities;

10 “(ii) provides participants—

11 “(I) assistance in the develop-
12 ment of professional and technical
13 skills with respect to information tech-
14 nology, including—

15 “(aa) by providing and pre-
16 paring participants with suffi-
17 cient training to effectively oper-
18 ate, maintain, or otherwise adapt
19 to new technologies related to in-
20 formation technology; and

21 “(bb) to the extent prac-
22 ticable, training and financial
23 support for training that pre-
24 pares such participants to ac-
25 quire an industry recognized,

1 vendor-neutral certification in in-
2 formation technology;

3 “(II) guidance that may be used
4 in careers in information technology,
5 or in pursuing further education or
6 apprenticeships relating to informa-
7 tion technology;

8 “(III) the necessary equipment,
9 or assistance in purchasing such
10 equipment, for such program, includ-
11 ing computer devices and
12 smartphones; and

13 “(IV) with mentors who are in-
14 formation technology professionals;

15 “(iii) in recruiting participants—

16 “(I) conducts outreach and re-
17 cruitment in underserved communities
18 and other local communities; and

19 “(II) gives consideration to indi-
20 viduals who are from a marginalized
21 community or background, have been
22 dislocated from their jobs as a result
23 of the COVID–19 pandemic and sub-
24 sequent economic crisis, or have expe-
25 rienced long-term unemployment;

1 “(iv) using data available by the Cor-
2 poration, if any, with respect to partici-
3 pants, collects and reports to Congress
4 workforce information on participants, in-
5 cluding—

6 “(I) demographic data;

7 “(II) prior career background, in-
8 cluding prior career industry, role,
9 and years of experience;

10 “(III) future career intentions,
11 including desired industry and role;
12 and

13 “(IV) any job, education, or ap-
14 prenticeship placements after partici-
15 pation in the program; and

16 “(v) defines the following terms as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(I) DIGITAL EQUITY.—The term
19 ‘digital equity’ means the condition in
20 which individuals and communities
21 have the information technology ca-
22 pacity that is needed for full partici-
23 pation in the society and economy of
24 the United States.

1 “(II) DIGITAL INCLUSION.—The
2 term ‘digital inclusion’—

3 “(aa) means the activities
4 that are necessary to ensure that
5 all individuals in the United
6 States have access to, and the
7 use of, affordable information
8 and communication technologies,
9 such as—

10 “(AA) reliable fixed and
11 wireless broadband internet
12 service;

13 “(BB) internet-enabled
14 devices that meet the needs
15 of the user; and

16 “(CC) applications and
17 online content designed to
18 enable and encourage self-
19 sufficiency, participation,
20 and collaboration; and

21 “(bb) includes access to dig-
22 ital literacy training, quality
23 technical support, and basic
24 awareness of measures to ensure
25 online privacy and cybersecurity.

1 “(III) DIGITAL LITERACY.—The
 2 term ‘digital literacy’ means the skills
 3 associated with using technology to
 4 enable users to find, evaluate, orga-
 5 nize, create, and communicate infor-
 6 mation.

7 “(IV) UNDERSERVED COMMU-
 8 NITY.—The term ‘underserved com-
 9 munity’ means a community with dig-
 10 ital equity, health, financial, edu-
 11 cation, or housing disparities.”.

12 (b) NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS.—Sec-
 13 tion 157(a)(1) of the National and Community Service Act
 14 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12617(a)(1)) is amended by inserting
 15 before the semicolon the following: “, which may include
 16 a program dedicated to digital equity described in section
 17 122(b)(2)(I)”.

18 (c) VISTA.—Section 103(a) of the Domestic Volun-
 19 teer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)) is amend-
 20 ed—

21 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the
 22 end;

23 (2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at
 24 the end and inserting “; and”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(14) in addressing digital equity, which meets
2 the requirements of a program described in section
3 122(b)(2)(I) of the National and Community Service
4 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(b)(2)(I)).”.

5 (d) AMERICORPS SENIOR PROGRAMS.—Section
6 225(b)(5) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973
7 (42 U.S.C. 5025(b)(5)) is amended by inserting before the
8 period the following: “, including a program dedicated to
9 digital equity described in section 122(b)(2)(I) of the Na-
10 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
11 12572(b)(2)(I))”.

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