

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6956

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out grant programs to encourage student participation in local government and volunteer service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out grant programs to encourage student participation in local government and volunteer service, 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 “Service Starts At
5 Home Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT INTERNSHIPS IN LOCAL GOV-**
7 **ERNMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education

1 shall carry out a program under which the Secretary
2 makes allocations to States, in accordance with subsection
3 (b), to support paid internships for secondary school stu-
4 dents within local government agencies.

5 (b) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—Of the amount ap-
6 propriated to carry out this section for each fiscal year,
7 each State that has an application approved by the Sec-
8 retary under subsection (c) shall be allocated an amount
9 in proportion to number of students enrolled in the public
10 elementary and secondary schools in the State for the pre-
11 vious school year relative to the total number of students
12 enrolled in the public elementary and secondary schools
13 for such school year in every State that has an application
14 approved by the Secretary under such subsection.

15 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive an alloca-
16 tion under subsection (b) a State shall submit an applica-
17 tion to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such
18 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary
19 may require.

20 (d) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—
21 Each State that receives an allocation under subsection
22 (b) shall use such allocation to carry out a program under
23 which the State—

24 (1) in consultation with local government offi-
25 cials—

1 (A) identifies appropriate paid internship
2 opportunities for secondary school students
3 within local government agencies;

4 (B) establishes a process for the selection
5 of students to fill such internships; and

6 (C) determines hourly rates of pay and
7 other terms and conditions applicable to such
8 internships; and

9 (2) provides funds to local government agencies
10 to reimburse such agencies for costs incurred in pro-
11 viding such internships.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fis-
15 cal year.

16 **SEC. 3. SCHOLARSHIP FOR SERVICE PROGRAM.**

17 (a) FUNDING FOR STATES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
20 Education shall carry out a program under which
21 the Secretary makes allocations to States, in accord-
22 ance with paragraph (2), to carry out the scholar-
23 ship program under subsection (b).

24 (2) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—Of the amount
25 appropriated to carry out this section for each fiscal

1 year, each State that has an application approved by
2 the Secretary under paragraph (3) shall be allocated
3 an amount in proportion to number of students en-
4 rolled in the public elementary and secondary
5 schools in the State for the previous school year rel-
6 ative to the total number of students enrolled in the
7 public elementary and secondary schools for such
8 school year in every State that has an application
9 approved by the Secretary under such paragraph.

10 (3) STATE APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-
11 ceive an allocation under paragraph (2) a State shall
12 submit an application to the Secretary of Education
13 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
14 information as the Secretary may require.

15 (b) STATE ADMINISTERED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
16 GRAM.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives an
18 allocation under subsection (a) shall use such alloca-
19 tion to carry out a program under which the State
20 awards scholarships, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
21 ble students who demonstrate a commitment to vol-
22 unteer service work.

23 (2) APPLICATION.—A student who seeks a
24 scholarship under this subsection shall submit an ap-
25 plication to the State at such time, in such manner,

1 and containing such information as the State may
2 require.

3 (3) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
4 receive a scholarship under this subsection a student
5 shall meet the following criteria:

6 (A) FIRST-TIME APPLICANT.—In the case
7 of a first-time applicant for a scholarship under
8 this subsection, the student shall—

9 (i) be enrolled in public secondary
10 school;

11 (ii) be in the final year of a program
12 of study leading to a regular high school
13 diploma; and

14 (iii) have completed at least 100 hours
15 of volunteer service work in the preceding
16 school year (or another one-year period de-
17 termined by the Secretary of Education).

18 (B) RENEWAL APPLICANT.—In the case of
19 a student who previously received a scholarship
20 under this subsection and who is seeking a
21 scholarship for a subsequent academic year, the
22 student shall—

23 (i) be enrolled in an institution of
24 higher education;

- 1 (ii) be in good academic standing (as
2 determined by the institution); and
3 (iii) have completed at least 100 hours
4 of volunteer service work in the preceding
5 school year (or another one-year period de-
6 termined by the Secretary of Education).

7 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding scholarships under
8 this subsection, a State shall—

9 (A) first award scholarships to renewal ap-
10 plicants described in paragraph (3)(B); and

11 (B) from any funds remaining after award-
12 ing such scholarships, award scholarships to
13 first-time applicants described in paragraph
14 (3)(A).

15 (5) USE OF FUNDS.—A scholarship received by
16 a student under this subsection may be used by such
17 student only to pay the student's costs of attendance
18 at an institution of higher education.

19 (6) DURATION.—Each scholarship under this
20 subsection shall be awarded for a period of one aca-
21 demic year. A student may receive a scholarship
22 under this subsection for a total period of not more
23 than four academic years.

24 (7) AMOUNT.—The amount of each scholarship
25 under this subsection shall be—

1 (A) \$1000, for a student who completed at
2 least 100 hours, but less than 175 hours, of vol-
3 unteer service work in the preceding school year
4 (or another one-year period determined by the
5 Secretary of Education);

6 (B) \$2000, for a student who completed at
7 least 175 hours, but less than 250 hours, of vol-
8 unteer service work in such period; and

9 (C) \$3000, for a student who completed at
10 least 250 hours of volunteer service work in
11 such period.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding
15 fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) The term “cost of attendance” has the
19 meaning given that term in section 472 of the High-
20 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

21 (2) The terms “elementary school”, “regular
22 high school diploma”, “secondary school”, and
23 “State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
24 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (3) The term “institution of higher education”
2 has the meaning given that term in section 101 of
3 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
4 1001).

5 (4)(A) The term “volunteer service work”
6 means unpaid acts of volunteer service conducted for
7 or on behalf of a government or other nonprofit or-
8 ganization, which may include a community-based
9 organization, faith-based organization, school, na-
10 tional service program, civic or fraternal service or-
11 ganization, local government agency, or other such
12 organization.

13 (B) Such term does not include acts of proselyt-
14 izing, conducting worship services, religious instruc-
15 tion, political lobbying, court ordered service, or
16 service conducted primarily for the benefit of the
17 family of a student described in section 3(c).

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