

Legislative Bulletin.....March 18, 2009

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Amendments to H.R. 1388— Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act

NOTE: The CBO Report for H.R. 1388 is now available [here](#). The bill authorizes \$9.3 billion over the FY2010-FY2014 period. This is \$3.1 billion more than last year’s bill. Please note the subheading on page 3 of the report entitled, “Indefinite Authorizations.”

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. **Miller (D-CA).** MANAGER’S AMENDMENT. Among other things, the amendment would:
 - Make technical changes and non-substantive clarifications in the bill language;
 - Add an entirely new section to the AmeriCorps portion of the bill. The section would create “Program Models for Service Corps” which would make grants eligible to programs that carry out the following program models: “a community corps program that meets unmet human, educational, health, veteran, environmental, or public safety needs...”, a service program that “recruits individuals with special skills...”, a campus based program designed to provide service during a school term, and others;
 - Add language within the Opportunity Corps (Opportunity Corps is a program within AmeriCorps) which would, among other things, provide financial literacy education to economically disadvantaged individuals; facilitate enrollment in job training for economically disadvantaged individuals, and create a “musician and artist corps program that trains and deploys skilled musicians and artists to promote greater community unity through the use of music and arts education...”;
 - Add a new definition of “severely economically distressed community” as an area that “has a mortgage foreclosure rate, home price decline, and unemployment rate greater than the national mortgage foreclosure rate, home price decline, and unemployment rate for the last 12 months...”;
 - Limit the ability for a project to receive multiple grants.

2. **Pingree (D-ME).** Would add the development of clean energy programs that meet the needs of rural communities to the list of Clean Energy Corps activities in Section 122 of the bill. The Clean Energy Corps is one of the four new Corps in the underlying bill created within the AmeriCorps program, each with a particular focus.
3. **Hunter (R-CA).** Would remove veteran's educational benefits from being taken into account when calculating the maximum award an individual can receive for participating in one of the national service programs in this bill. Currently, veteran's educational benefits are factored into the formula establishing how much a veteran gets awarded for participating in a service program. According to the sponsor, "because veterans earn benefits from military service, they may qualify for lower benefits if they choose to participate in national service."
4. **Loebsack (D-IA).** The amendment would authorize a new grant program entitled, the "Volunteer Generation Fund." The amendment is added as a new Subtitle K and would operate with the goal of increasing the number of volunteers within the United States and strengthening volunteer organizations. Among other things, the Fund would award grants to States and nonprofits that would recruit volunteers, address priorities in education, the environment, and disaster response, and provide technical assistance to local volunteer infrastructure organizations.

The Fund is authorized under this amendment at \$50 million in FY2010, \$60 million in FY2011, \$70 million in FY2012, \$80 million in FY2013, and \$100 million in FY2014.

5. **Roe (R-TN).** Would cap the FY2010 authorization level for AmeriCorps at its FY2008 appropriation level of \$405 million. Currently, the bill funds AmeriCorps in FY2010 (and for the following four years) with "such sums as may be necessary."
6. **Kilroy (D-OH).** Would provide volunteers, through the new "Healthy Futures Corps" within AmeriCorps, to supervise physical education classes at elementary and secondary schools; provide nutrition education to students; and supervise, organize, and manage after school physical activity/education programs.
7. **Roskam (R-IL).** Would require all authorized programs to be reviewed by OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool. The amendment would require GAO to do a study on the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program with specific emphasis on the cost effectiveness of the program in relation to other AmeriCorps program and whether the program has data and quantifiable measures to assess the program's effectiveness. The amendment would also require an annual evaluation for the NCCC, not the single evaluation by 2014 required in the underlying bill.
8. **Markey, Betsy (D-CO).** Would increase the support for the individuals who are enrolled in a national service position from \$600 to \$800 and from \$800 to \$1000 if the program supports at least 50 percent disadvantaged youth. This amendment pertains to the Education Award Only program within AmeriCorps in which the

Corporation pays a small amount to the sponsor organization for operational support. The current bill allows a program to receive up to \$600 per participant (\$800 with 50 percent disadvantaged youth).

- 9. Hill (D-IN).** Would denote that sending care packages to soldiers deployed in combat zones overseas is an eligible service program under the AmeriCorps' Opportunity Corps program. In the underlying bill, any national service program within AmeriCorps that is not funded within the four new service corps (Education, Healthy Futures, Clean Energy, and Veterans), could be funded as an Opportunity Corps.
- 10. Teague (D-NM).** Would denote that volunteers may carry out such activities that would aid veterans in their pursuit of education and professional opportunities, help veterans with the claims process, and assist rural, disabled, and unemployed veterans with transportation needs within the new "Veterans Corps" program.
- 11. Perriello (D-VA).** Would create a new National Service Reserve Corps within the Innovative and Model Program Support which will operate much like the military reserves. A member of the Corps would be someone who has completed a term of national service and fulfilled training requirements (outlined below), and has indicated interest in responding to disasters through the Reserve Corps.

This Corps would be called upon if the Corporation and FEMA determine that the Corps is needed for a national disaster. The Corporation would be able to deploy the members for 30-day assignments. They will be provided with "housing, living stipends, and insurance for those deployed members." The amendment would also create an online database of alumni volunteers who can be called up quickly in case of an emergency. These alumni volunteers must complete an annual service requirement of at least 10 hours and/or annual training.