

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5829

To require in-State tuition for certain Americorps volunteers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require in-State tuition for certain Americorps volunteers, 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 “The National Service
5 GI Bill Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IN-STATE TUITION FOR CERTAIN AMERICORPS VOL-**
2 **UNTEERS.**

3 Part C of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 138. IN-STATE TUITION FOR AMERICORPS VOLUN-**
6 **TEERS.**

7 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—For a period of 7 years begin-
8 ning on the date of enactment of the National Service GI
9 Bill Act, in the case of an individual who has served in
10 an approved national service position (as defined in section
11 101 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990
12 (42 U.S.C. 12511)) for not less than 1,700 hours during
13 a period of not more than 1 year, who meets the require-
14 ments of subsection (b), and whose domicile is in a State
15 that receives assistance under this Act, such State shall
16 not charge such individual (or the spouse or dependent
17 child of such member) tuition for attendance at a public
18 institution of higher education in the State at a rate that
19 is greater than the rate charged for residents of the State.

20 “(b) STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS.—Notwith-
21 standing State laws with respect to residency, to benefit
22 from the provisions of this section, an individual shall
23 meet the enrollment and financial-aid requirements under
24 applicable State law and regulations.

25 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take ef-
26 fect at each public institution of higher education in a

1 State that receives assistance under this Act for the first
2 period of enrollment at such institution that begins on or
3 after July 1, 2021.”.

4 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY**
5 **SERVICE ACT OF 1990.**

6 (a) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES AND
7 SUBDIVISIONS OF STATES.—Section 121(a) of the Na-
8 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
9 12571(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES
11 AND SUBDIVISIONS OF STATES.—A State or subdivi-
12 sion of a State desiring to receive assistance under
13 this subsection shall submit a plan to the Corpora-
14 tion—

15 “(A) to ensure that beginning not later
16 than middle school, students in such State or
17 subdivision—

18 “(i) are notified of and encouraged to
19 commit to a term of service in the military,
20 a national service program, or a public
21 service job as an employee of a local, State,
22 or Federal Government, or faith-based al-
23 ternative program; and

1 “(ii) provided information relating to
2 the various terms and benefits of such op-
3 tions; and

4 “(B) that includes assurances that in high
5 school, each student would be requested to—

6 “(i) indicate the preference of the stu-
7 dent for military, a national service pro-
8 gram, or public service, or a faith-based al-
9 ternative program; and

10 “(ii) register the intent of the student
11 to serve in such a program upon gradua-
12 tion from high school, or defer until com-
13 pletion of a program of study at an institu-
14 tion of higher education.”.

15 (b) EDUCATIONAL AWARD AMOUNT FOR FULL-TIME
16 NATIONAL SERVICE.—Section 147(a) of the National and
17 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603) is
18 amended by inserting “2 times the amount of the national
19 average of the annual tuition and fees (as described in
20 section 472(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
21 U.S.C. 1087ll(1))) at 2-year institutions of higher edu-
22 cation, except that such value shall be not less than” after
23 “value equal to”.

24 (c) NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING AUTHORITY.—Part III
25 of subtitle C of title I of the National and Community

1 Service Act of 1990 is amended by adding at the end the
 2 following:

3 **“SEC. 142. NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING AUTHORITY.**

4 “Upon completion of a term of service in a national
 5 service position, an individual shall be eligible for appoint-
 6 ment in the competitive service in the same manner as
 7 a Peace Corps volunteer as prescribed in Executive Order
 8 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504 note, relating to Providing for the
 9 Appointment of Former Peace Corps Volunteers to the Ci-
 10 vilian Career Services).”.

11 **SEC. 4. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF AMERICORPS**
 12 **EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 117(c)
 14 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-
 15 ing “or” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the
 16 period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “,
 17 or”, and by adding at the end the following new subpara-
 18 graph:

19 “(D) a national service educational award
 20 under subtitle D of title I of the National and
 21 Community Service Act of 1990.”.

22 (b) EXCLUSION OF DISCHARGE OF STUDENT LOAN
 23 DEBT.—Subsection (f) of section 108 of such Code is
 24 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 25 graph:

1 “(6) PAYMENTS UNDER NATIONAL SERVICE
 2 EDUCATIONAL AWARD PROGRAMS.—In the case of
 3 an individual, gross income shall not include any
 4 amount received under a national service educational
 5 award under subtitle D of title I of the National and
 6 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
 7 et seq.).”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 9 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
 10 date of the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

12 Section 2233(b) of the Elementary and Secondary
 13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6663(b)) is amended
 14 by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(1) shall—

17 “(A) show potential to improve the quality
 18 of student achievement in, and teaching of,
 19 American history, civics and government, or ge-
 20 ography, in elementary schools and secondary
 21 schools;

22 “(B) demonstrate innovation, scalability,
 23 accountability, and a focus on underserved pop-
 24 ulations; and

1 “(C) include programs that educate stu-
2 dents about the history and principles of the
3 Constitution of the United States, including the
4 Bill of Rights; and
5 “(2) may include hands-on civic engagement ac-
6 tivities for teachers and students.”.

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