



Legislative Bulletin.....March 6, 2008

Contents:

H.R. 2857—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act

H.R. 2857 is scheduled to be considered Thursday, March 6, 2008, subject to a structured rule ([H.Res. 1015](#)) that allows for ten minutes of debate on 11 amendments made in order. The rule would waive all points of order against consideration of the bill—except those for PAYGO and earmarks—and would waive all points of order against the bill itself—except that for earmarks. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, now printed in the bill, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule would make in order one motion to recommit (with or without instructions).

Note: The summaries below are based on RSC staff review of actual amendment text and thus differ from what's on the Rules Committee website. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released yesterday.

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AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER

McCarthy (D-NY): Manager's Amendment. The amendment makes technical changes and clarifications to H.R. 2857. The amendment includes the following key changes: Makes various technical changes to Learn and Serve America (Subtitle B); Clarifies matching requirements of AmeriCorps State/National (Subtitle C); Strengthens Senior Corps by phasing in competition for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) by 2013 and creating incentive grants to encourage high performance among the Senior Corps programs with a priority for RSVP programs; and Provides New Service Initiatives including a **new national service pilot program** to support individuals seeking to do service for small, eligible entities and a Silver Scholarship program for individuals 55 years of age and older who perform 600 hours of service. The amendment would also expand the scope to include community colleges serving predominantly minority student populations. The amendment gives priority to areas which the President has declared to be major disaster areas.

McKeon (R-CA): This amendment would require the CNCS to establish priorities for programs funded under the national service laws for programs that recruit veterans into service opportunities, promote community-based efforts to meet the needs of military families while a family member is deployed, and promote community-based efforts to meet the needs of military families when a

member of the family returns from a deployment. The amendment also would require the Corporation to annually report to Congress on the number and percentage of national service positions eligible for the education award that are filled by veterans, and to establish annual goals for increasing those numbers and percentages.

Matsui (D-CA)/Shays (R-CT): This amendment would integrate two competitive funding streams and in order to improve the collaboration between state and national entities.

McDermott (D-WA)/Farr (D-CA)/Shays (R-CT): This amendment would establish a temporary Congressional Commission on Civic Service within the Legislative Branch. The Commission would be tasked with making recommendations to Congress about how to improve opportunities for public service, and studying how such service is encouraged. **Some conservatives may be concerned that this amendment specifies that the Commission must look into “the need for a public service academy, a 4-year institution that offers a federally funded undergraduate education with a focus on training future public sector leaders.”** Furthermore, this Commission would be granted space and the necessary funds for an office by the AOC, provided administrative staff, etc.—all at the cost to the American taxpayer.

English (R-PA): This amendment would add a Sense of Congress that the Corporation for National and Community Service should make the maximum effort possible to coordinate the recruiting and assignment procedures of their various programs to allow senior citizens and their grandchildren to share volunteer opportunities and/or be assigned to the same geographic areas during their period of service.

English (R-PA): This amendment would add a Sense of Congress that the Corporation for National and Community Service (NACS) should make the maximum effort possible to coordinate with the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide opportunities for young people enrolled in NACS programs to collect oral histories from senior citizens in the communities where they serve.

English (R-PA): This amendment would require the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service (NACS) to coordinate with veterans’ organizations serving veterans with disabilities to provide opportunities for young people enrolled in existing NACS programs to serve as drivers in the DAV Transportation Network on a full-time, part-time, or as-needed basis.

Sutton (D-OH): This amendment would require the Corporation for National and Community Service to consider whether an area has a mortgage foreclosure rate greater than the national average when considering applications from States and other eligible entities.

Sutton (D-OH): This amendment would require the Corporation for National and Community Service to conduct a **new pilot program planning study** to identify specific areas of need for displaced workers and how existing programs and activities carried out under the national service laws can better serve displaced workers and communities affected by plant closings and job losses. The amendment also would require the Corporation to develop and carry out a pilot program based on the findings of the study. Furthermore, the amendment **authorizes “such sums”** as may be necessary to carry out this new pilot program.

Flake (R-AZ): Amendment would strike the “summer of service” grant program and reduce the authorized amount designated for the program. **NOTE:** Americans for Tax Reform are supporting the amendment, as well as National Taxpayers Union, who will also be scoring the vote on the amendment. The following information was provided by the sponsor’s office:

The amendment would simply strike the “summer of service” grant program and reduce the authorized amount by \$20 million, which is the amount designated for the program.

H.R. 2857 would create a new grant program that awards \$20 million annually for education awards for “summer of service” positions, where school-aged participants (Grades 6-12) would earn up to two awards of \$500 (or \$1000 for a youth who is economically disadvantaged) for completion of a 100 hour community-based service learning project.

The new “summer of service” grant program that the underlying legislation would create would have the ill-advised consequence of providing a financial incentive to community-service work by attaching financial benefits. Individuals would be compensated by the federal Treasury to "volunteer" for government-approved community service programs.

Inslee (D-WA)/Sarbanes (D-MD): This amendment would add an Energy Conservation Corps, which would seek to address the nation’s energy and transportation infrastructure needs and provide work and service opportunities. The amendment includes the following:

- “Disadvantaged youth—to acknowledge the focused enrollment of disadvantaged youth and young adults in the Energy Conservation Corps (ECC), the Corporation shall allow a higher cost-per-member to enable ECC programs to provide the necessary supportive services to ensure the success of the participants.”
- Includes in the focus of the program building energy-efficient “green” housing for elderly and low-income people, environmental education and energy conservation education for elementary and secondary school students and the public, transportation enhancements, transformation of military bases affected by the Base Realignment and Closing process to green the space, tree planting and reforestation, renewable resource enhancement, and to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to be trained for careers related to the emerging field of “green collar” jobs.
- Sets the goals of the ECC to be the promotion of clean energy, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of energy conservation and mitigation of threats to the environment.
- The federal share for the ECC will be **76 percent** of the total cost of the programs.
- **Authorizes “such sums”** as may be necessary for FY 2008 – 2010.
- **Authorizes \$10 million** for FY 2009 for the Learn and Serve America program, to further the goals of the ECC through the Learn and Service program.
- **Authorizes \$10 million** for FY 2009 for the National Senior Service Corps, to provide for the improvement of the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and low-income people.

Some conservatives may be concerned that this amendment authorizes over \$20 million for energy conservation programs, and creates a new Energy Conservation Corps to encourage the “greening” of elderly and low-income houses with federal tax dollars. Furthermore, this amendment would

expand currently existing programs to include the goals and purposes of the Energy Conservation Corps.
