

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2150

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2023

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, 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 “Unity through Service
5 Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON SERVICE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an
2 Interagency Council on Service (in this section re-
3 ferred to as the “Council”).

4 (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

5 (A) advise the President with respect to
6 promoting, strengthening, and expanding oppor-
7 tunities for military service, national service,
8 and public service for all people of the United
9 States; and

10 (B) review, assess, and coordinate holistic
11 recruitment strategies and initiatives of the ex-
12 ecutive branch to foster an increased sense of
13 service and civic responsibility among all people
14 of the United States and to explore ways of en-
15 hancing connectivity of interested applicants to
16 national service programs and opportunities.

17 (b) COMPOSITION.—

18 (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be com-
19 posed of members who are representatives of—

20 (A) the Secretary of State;

21 (B) the Secretary of Defense;

22 (C) the Attorney General;

23 (D) the Secretary of the Interior;

24 (E) the Secretary of Commerce;

25 (F) the Secretary of Labor;

1 (G) the Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services;

3 (H) the Secretary of Education;

4 (I) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

5 (J) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

6 (K) the Director of the Office of Manage-
7 ment and Budget;

8 (L) the Director of National Intelligence;

9 (M) the Director of the Office of Personnel
10 Management;

11 (N) the Director of the Peace Corps;

12 (O) the Director of Selective Service Sys-
13 tem;

14 (P) the Chief Executive Officer of the Cor-
15 poration for National and Community Service;
16 and

17 (Q) such other officers as the President
18 may designate.

19 (2) CHAIR.—From the members of the Council
20 under paragraph (1) who have been nominated by
21 the President for the position of the member de-
22 scribed in such paragraph, and appointed to such
23 position with the advice and consent of the Senate,
24 the President shall annually designate a Chair of the
25 Council.

1 (3) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet on a
2 quarterly basis or more frequently as the Chair of
3 the Council may direct.

4 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL.—The
5 Council shall—

6 (1) assist and advise the President in the estab-
7 lishment of strategies, goals, objectives, and prior-
8 ities to promote service and civic responsibility
9 among all people of the United States;

10 (2) develop and recommend to the President
11 common recruitment strategies and outreach oppor-
12 tunities for increasing the participation, and propen-
13 sity of people of the United States to participate, in
14 military service, national service, and public service
15 in order to address national security and domestic
16 investment;

17 (3) serve as a forum for Federal officials re-
18 sponsible for military service, national service, and
19 public service programs to, as feasible and prac-
20 ticable—

21 (A) coordinate and share best practices for
22 service recruitment; and

23 (B) develop common interagency, cross-
24 service initiatives and pilots for service recruit-
25 ment;

1 (4) lead a strategic, interagency coordinated ef-
2 fort on behalf of the Federal Government to develop
3 joint awareness and recruitment, retention, and mar-
4 keting initiatives involving military service, national
5 service, and public service, including the sharing of
6 marketing and recruiting research between and
7 among Council members;

8 (5) consider approaches for assessing impacts
9 of service on the needs of the United States and in-
10 dividuals participating in and benefitting from such
11 service;

12 (6) consult, as the Council considers advisable,
13 with representatives of non-Federal entities, includ-
14 ing State, local, and Tribal governments, State and
15 local educational agencies, State Service Commis-
16 sions, institutions of higher education, nonprofit or-
17 ganizations, philanthropic organizations, and the pri-
18 vate sector, in order to promote and develop initia-
19 tives to foster and reward military service, national
20 service, and public service;

21 (7) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
22 actment of this Act, and quadrennially thereafter,
23 prepare and submit to the President and Congress
24 a Service Strategy, which shall set forth—

1 (A) a review of programs and initiatives of
2 the Federal Government relating to the man-
3 date of the Council;

4 (B) a review of Federal Government online
5 content relating to the mandate of the Council,
6 including user experience with such content;

7 (C) current and foreseeable trends for
8 service to address the needs of the United
9 States;

10 (D) recommended service recruitment
11 strategies and branding opportunities to ad-
12 dress outreach and communication deficiencies
13 identified by the Council; and

14 (E) to the extent practical, a joint service
15 messaging strategy for military service, national
16 service, and public service;

17 (8) identify any notable initiatives by State,
18 local, and Tribal governments and by public and
19 nongovernmental entities to increase awareness of
20 and participation in national service programs; and

21 (9) perform such other functions as the Presi-
22 dent may direct.

1 **SEC. 3. JOINT MARKET RESEARCH TO ADVANCE MILITARY**
2 **AND NATIONAL SERVICE.**

3 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of De-
4 fense, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for
5 National and Community Service, and the Director of the
6 Peace Corps may carry out a joint market research, mar-
7 ket studies, recruiting, and advertising program to com-
8 plement the existing programs of the military depart-
9 ments, the national service programs administered by the
10 Corporation, and the Peace Corps.

11 (b) INFORMATION SHARING PERMITTED.—Section
12 503 of title 10, United States Code, shall not be construed
13 to prohibit sharing of information among, or joint mar-
14 keting efforts of, the Department of Defense, the Corpora-
15 tion for National and Community Service, and the Peace
16 Corps to carry out this section.

17 **SEC. 4. TRANSITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY**
18 **SERVICEMEMBERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE**
19 **PARTICIPANTS.**

20 (a) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 1143(c)(1)
21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting
22 “the Corporation for National and Community Service,”
23 after “State employment agencies,”.

24 (b) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, JOB TRAINING AS-
25 SISTANCE, AND OTHER TRANSITIONAL SERVICES: DE-

1 PARTMENT OF LABOR.—Section 1144 of title 10, United
2 States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(11) Provide information on public service op-
6 portunities, training on public service job recruiting,
7 and the advantages of careers with the Federal Gov-
8 ernment.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (f)(1)(D)—

10 (A) by redesignating clause (v) as clause
11 (vi); and

12 (B) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-
13 lowing new clause:

14 “(v) National and community service,
15 taught in conjunction with the Chief Executive
16 Officer of the Corporation for National and
17 Community Service.”.

18 (c) AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF EXEC-
19 UTIVE OFFICER.—Section 193A(b) of the National and
20 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651d(b))
21 is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (24), by striking “and” at the
23 end;

24 (2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at
25 the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(26) ensure that individuals completing a par-
4 tial or full term of service in a program under sub-
5 title C or E or part A of title I of the Domestic Vol-
6 unteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.)
7 receive information about military and public service
8 opportunities for which they may qualify or in which
9 they may be interested.”.

10 **SEC. 5. JOINT REPORT TO CONGRESS ON INITIATIVES TO**
11 **INTEGRATE MILITARY AND NATIONAL SERV-**
12 **ICE.**

13 (a) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 4
14 years after the date of enactment of this Act and quadren-
15 nially thereafter, the Chair of the Interagency Council on
16 Service, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the
17 Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National
18 and Community Service, and the Director of the Peace
19 Corps, shall submit to Congress a joint report on cross-
20 service marketing, research, and promotion, including rec-
21 ommendations for increasing joint advertising and recruit-
22 ment initiatives for the Armed Forces, programs adminis-
23 tered by the Corporation for National and Community
24 Service, and the Peace Corps.

1 (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under sub-
2 section (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) The number of Peace Corps volunteers and
4 participants in national service programs adminis-
5 tered by the Corporation for National and Commu-
6 nity Service, who previously served as a member of
7 the Armed Forces.

8 (2) The number of members of the Armed
9 Forces who previously served in the Peace Corps or
10 in a program administered by the Corporation for
11 National and Community Service.

12 (3) An assessment of existing (as of the date of
13 the report submission) joint recruitment and adver-
14 tising initiatives undertaken by the Department of
15 Defense, the Peace Corps, or the Corporation for
16 National and Community Service.

17 (4) An assessment of the feasibility and cost of
18 expanding such existing initiatives.

19 (5) An assessment of ways to improve the abil-
20 ity of the reporting agencies to recruit individuals
21 from the other reporting agencies.

22 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Chair of the Interagency
23 Council on Service, the Secretary of Defense, the Chief
24 Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and
25 Community Service, and the Director of the Peace Corps

1 shall undertake studies of recruiting efforts that are nec-
2 essary to carry out the provisions of this section. Such
3 studies may be conducted using any funds appropriated
4 to those entities under Federal law other than this Act.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON SERVICE.—The
8 term “Interagency Council on Service” means the
9 Interagency Council on Service established under
10 section 2.

11 (2) MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—The term “mili-
12 tary department” means each of the military depart-
13 ments listed in section 102 of title 5, United States
14 Code.

15 (3) MILITARY SERVICE.—The term “military
16 service” means active service (as defined in sub-
17 section (d)(3) of section 101 of title 10, United
18 States Code) or active status (as defined in sub-
19 section (d)(4) of such section) in one of the Armed
20 Forces (as defined in subsection (a)(4) of such sec-
21 tion).

22 (4) NATIONAL SERVICE.—The term “national
23 service” means participation, other than military
24 service or public service, in a program that—

1 (A) is designed to enhance the common
2 good and meet the needs of communities, the
3 States, or the United States;

4 (B) is funded or facilitated by—

5 (i) an institution of higher education
6 as defined in section 101 of the Higher
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

8 or

9 (ii) the Federal Government or a
10 State, Tribal, or local government; and

11 (C) is a program authorized in—

12 (i) the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
13 2501 et seq.);

14 (ii) section 171 of the Workforce In-
15 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
16 3226) relating to the YouthBuild Program;

17 (iii) the Domestic Volunteer Service
18 Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.); or

19 (iv) the National and Community
20 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et
21 seq.).

22 (5) PUBLIC SERVICE.—The term “public serv-
23 ice” means civilian employment in the Federal Gov-
24 ernment or a State, Tribal, or local government.

1 (6) SERVICE.—The term “service” means a
2 personal commitment of time, energy, and talent to
3 a mission that contributes to the public good by pro-
4 tecting the Nation and the citizens of the United
5 States, strengthening communities, States, or the
6 United States, or promoting the general social wel-
7 fare.

8 (7) STATE SERVICE COMMISSION.—The term
9 “State Service Commission” means a State Commis-
10 sion on National and Community Service maintained
11 by a State pursuant to section 178 of the National
12 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
13 12638).

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