

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 235

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to establish an online service platform for volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to establish an online service platform for volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps.

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 “Senior Corps Distance
5 Volunteering Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.**

7 Title IV of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of
8 1973 is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 421 (42 U.S.C.
2 5061) as section 401;

3 (2) by moving that section 401 so as to follow
4 the title heading for title IV; and

5 (3) by inserting after section 420 (42 U.S.C.
6 5059) the following:

7 **“SEC. 421. ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term
9 ‘COVID–19 public health emergency period’ means the
10 period of the public health emergency declared by the Sec-
11 retary of Health and Human Services under section 319
12 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on Jan-
13 uary 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19.

14 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
15 the date of enactment of the Senior Corps Distance Volun-
16 teering Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation
17 shall establish an online service platform to connect volun-
18 teers in the National Senior Service Corps with service
19 projects, and enable the volunteers to carry out distance
20 volunteering on an online network. The platform shall be
21 linked to and placed prominently on the website of the
22 Corporation. The Corporation may enter into a contract
23 with a public entity to create the platform.

24 “(c) INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE.—

1 “(1) INFORMATION.—The Corporation shall
2 provide information to regional offices of the Cor-
3 poration about how to get volunteers in the National
4 Senior Service Corps connected to the platform.

5 “(2) GUIDANCE.—The Corporation shall issue
6 guidance for the regional offices about how to trans-
7 fer the programs of the National Senior Service
8 Corps to the platform.

9 “(d) OUTREACH.—The Corporation shall provide out-
10 reach services to promote the platform, including outreach
11 to institutions of higher education, the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs for mentorship projects, and State and local
13 governments for community engagement projects.

14 “(e) REPORT ON IMPACT OF ONLINE SERVICE PLAT-
15 FORM.—

16 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
17 ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

18 “(A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
19 merce of the House of Representatives;

20 “(B) the Special Committee on Aging of
21 the Senate;

22 “(C) the Committee on Health, Education,
23 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

24 “(D) the Committee on Commerce,
25 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 “(2) REPORT.—

2 “(A) PREPARATION.—The Corporation
3 shall prepare a report that—

4 “(i) describes the use of funds appro-
5 priated to carry out this section, con-
6 cerning the online service platform de-
7 scribed in subsection (b);

8 “(ii) describes the ways in which the
9 platform has enabled volunteers in the Na-
10 tional Senior Service Corps, many of whom
11 are at higher risk for severe illness from
12 COVID–19, to apply their skills, knowl-
13 edge, and expertise to directly serve the
14 community through distance volunteering
15 by providing assistance during the
16 COVID–19 public health emergency pe-
17 riod;

18 “(iii) measures the number of volun-
19 teers in the National Senior Service Corps
20 volunteers who do, and the number of such
21 volunteers who do not, serve through the
22 online service platform, during the
23 COVID–19 public health emergency pe-
24 riod; and

1 “(iv) assesses the impact of volunteers
2 in the National Senior Service Corps who
3 do, and the number of such volunteers who
4 do not, serve through the online service
5 platform, during the COVID–19 public
6 health emergency period.

7 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the end of the COVID–19 public health
9 emergency period, the Corporation shall submit
10 the report to the appropriate committees of
11 Congress.

12 “(f) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 6 months
13 after the end of the COVID–19 public health emergency
14 period, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation
15 shall submit a recommendation to Congress regarding
16 whether the Corporation should continue to use the plat-
17 form as a main resource for connecting volunteers in the
18 National Senior Service Corps with service projects and
19 enabling the volunteers to carry out distance volun-
20 teering.”.

21 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION.**

22 The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of
23 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
24 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for
25 other purposes, namely:

1 CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
2 OPERATING EXPENSES

3 For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”,
4 for necessary expenses for the Corporation for National
5 and Community Service to carry out section 421 of the
6 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, \$5,000,000: *Pro-*
7 *vided*, That the amount appropriated under this heading
8 is designated by Congress as being for an emergency re-
9 quirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-
10 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985
11 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

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