AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2857, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. MCDERMOTT OF WASHINGTON

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE VI—CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON CIVIC SERVICE

SEC. 6101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Congressional Commission on Civic Service Act".

SEC. 6102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The social fabric of the United States is stronger if individuals in the United States are committed to protecting and serving our Nation by utilizing national service and volunteerism to overcome our civic challenges.

(2) A more engaged civic society will strengthen the Nation by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and experiences to work on solutions to some of our Nation's major challenges.

(3) Despite declines in civic health in the past 30 years, national service and volunteerism among the Nation's youth are increasing, and existing national service and volunteer programs greatly en-

1 hance opportunities for youth to engage in civic ac-
2 tivity.
3 (4) In addition to the benefits received by non-
4 profit organizations and society as a whole, volun-
5 teering and national service provide a variety of per-
6 sonal benefits and satisfaction and can lead to new
7 paths of civic engagement, responsibility, and up-
8 ward mobility.

9 **SEC. 6103. ESTABLISHMENT.**

10 There is established in the legislative branch a com-
11 mission to be known as the "Congressional Commission
12 on Civic Service" (in this title referred to as the "Commis-
13 sion").

14 **SEC. 6104. DUTIES.**

15 (a) GENERAL PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Com-
16 mission is to gather and analyze information in order to
17 make recommendations to Congress to—
18 (1) improve the ability of individuals in the
19 United States to serve others and, by doing so, to
20 enhance our Nation and the global community;
21 (2) train leaders in public service organizations
22 to better utilize individuals committed to national
23 service and volunteerism as they manage human and
24 fiscal resources;

1 (3) identify and offer solutions to the barriers
2 that make it difficult for some individuals in the
3 United States to volunteer or perform national serv-
4 ice; and
5 (4) build on the foundation of service and vol-
6 unteer opportunities that are currently available.
7 (b) SPECIFIC TOPICS.—In carrying out its general
8 purpose under subsection (a), the Commission shall ad-
9 dress and analyze the following specific topics:
10 (1) The level of understanding about the cur-
11 rent Federal, State, and local volunteer programs
12 and opportunities for service among individuals in
13 the United States.
14 (2) The issues that deter volunteerism and na-
15 tional service, particularly among young people, and
16 how the identified issues can be overcome.
17 (3) Whether there is an appropriate role for
18 Federal, State, and local governments in overcoming
19 the issues that deter volunteerism and national serv-
20 ice and, if appropriate, how to expand the relation-
21 ships and partnerships between different levels of
22 government in promoting volunteerism and national
23 service.

1 (4) Whether existing databases are effective in
2 matching community needs to would-be volunteers
3 and service providers.
4 (5) The effect on the Nation, on those who
5 serve, and on the families of those who serve, if all
6 individuals in the United States were expected to
7 perform national service or were required to perform
8 a certain amount of national service.
9 (6) Whether a workable, fair, and reasonable
10 mandatory service requirement for all able young
11 people could be developed, and how such a require-
12 ment could be implemented in a manner that would
13 strengthen the social fabric of the Nation and over-
14 come civic challenges by bringing together people
15 from diverse economic, ethnic, and educational back-
16 grounds.
17 (7) The need for a public service academy, a 4-
18 year institution that offers a federally funded under-
19 graduate education with a focus on training future
20 public sector leaders.
21 (8) The means to develop awareness of national
22 service and volunteer opportunities at a young age
23 by creating, expanding, and promoting service op-
24 tions for primary and secondary school students and
25 by raising awareness of existing incentives.

1 (9) The effectiveness of establishing a training
2 program on college campuses to recruit and educate
3 college students for national service.
4 (10) The effect on United States diplomacy and
5 foreign policy interests of expanding service opportu-
6 nities abroad, such as the Peace Corps, and the de-
7 gree of need and capacity abroad for an expansion.
8 (11) The constraints that service providers,
9 nonprofit organizations, and State and local agencies
10 face in utilizing federally funded volunteer programs,
11 and how these constraints can be overcome.
12 (12) Whether current Federal volunteer pro-
13 grams are suited to address the special skills and
14 needs of senior volunteers, and if not, how these pro-
15 grams can be improved such that the Federal gov-
16 ernment can effectively promote service among the
17 "baby boomer" generation.
18 (c) METHODOLOGY.—
19 (1) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Commission shall
20 conduct public hearings in various locations around
21 the United States.
22 (2) REGULAR AND FREQUENT CONSULTA-
23 TION.—The Commission shall regularly and fre-
24 quently consult with an advisory panel of Members
25 of Congress appointed for such purpose by the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
2 Majority Leader of the Senate.

3 **SEC. 6105. MEMBERSHIP.**

4 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
6 composed of 8 members appointed as follows:

7 (A) 2 members appointed by the Speaker
8 of the House of Representatives.

9 (B) 2 members appointed by the Minority
10 Leader of the House of Representatives.

11 (C) 2 members appointed by the Majority
12 Leader of the Senate.

13 (D) 2 members appointed by the Minority
14 Leader of the Senate.

15 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the
16 Commission shall consist of individuals who are of
17 recognized standing and distinction in the areas of
18 international public service, national public service,
19 service-learning, local service, business, or academia.

20 (3) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The mem-
21 bers of the Commission shall be appointed not later
22 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
23 title.

24 (4) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
25 Commission shall be designated by the Speaker of

1 the House of Representatives at the time of the ap-
2 pointment.
3 (b) TERMS.—
4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Com-
5 mission shall serve for the life of the Commission.
6 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
7 shall not affect the power of the remaining members
8 to execute the duties of the Commission but any
9 such vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in
10 which the original appointment was made.
11 (c) COMPENSATION.—
12 (1) RATES OF PAY; TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each
13 member shall serve without pay, except that each
14 member shall receive travel expenses, including per
15 diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with appli-
16 cable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of
17 title 5, United States Code.
18 (2) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF FED-
19 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1),
20 any member of the Commission who is a full-time of-
21 ficer or employee of the United States may not re-
22 ceive additional pay, allowances, or benefits because
23 of service on the Commission.
24 (d) MEETING REQUIREMENTS.—
25 (1) FREQUENCY.—

1 (A) QUARTERLY MEETINGS.—The Com-
2 mission shall meet at least quarterly.
3 (B) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—In addition
4 to quarterly meetings, the Commission shall
5 meet at the call of the Chairperson or a major-
6 ity of its members.
7 (2) QUORUM.—5 members of the Commission
8 shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may
9 hold hearings.
10 (3) MEETING BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER AP-
11 PROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY.—Members of the Com-
12 mission are permitted to meet using telephones or
13 other suitable telecommunications technologies pro-
14 vided that all members of the Commission can fully
15 communicate with all other members simultaneously.
16 **SEC. 6106. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION; EX-**
17 **PERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**
18 (a) DIRECTOR.—
19 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall
20 have a Director who shall be appointed by the Chair-
21 person with the approval of the Commission.
22 (2) CREDENTIALS.—The Director shall have
23 credentials related to international public service,
24 national public service, service-learning, or local
25 service.

1 (3) SALARY.—The Director shall be paid at a
2 rate determined by the Chairperson with the ap-
3 proval of the Commission, except that the rate may
4 not exceed the rate of basic pay for GS–15 of the
5 General Schedule.
6 (b) STAFF.—With the approval of the Chairperson,
7 the Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional
8 qualified personnel as the Director considers appropriate.
9 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
10 proval of the Commission, the Director may procure tem-
11 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
12 title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals
13 not to exceed the daily equivalent of the maximum annual
14 rate of basic pay for GS–15 of the General Schedule.
15 (d) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
16 of the Commission, Chairperson, or Director, the head of
17 any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reim-
18 bursable basis, any of the personnel of that department
19 or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out
20 its duties under this title.
21 **SEC. 6107. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**
22 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
23 may, for the purpose of carrying out this title, hold public
24 hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony,

1 and receive evidence as the Commission considers appro-
2 priate.

3 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
4 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
5 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
6 thorized to take by this section.

7 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Upon request of
8 the Chairperson, the head of any department or agency
9 shall furnish information to the Commission that the Com-
10 mission deems necessary to enable it to carry out this title.

11 (d) PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—The
12 Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the appro-
13 priate entities in the legislative branch, shall locate and
14 provide suitable facilities and equipment for the operation
15 of the Commission on a nonreimbursable basis.

16 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
17 the request of the Commission, the Architect of the Cap-
18 itol and the Administrator of General Services shall pro-
19 vide to the Commission on a nonreimbursable basis such
20 administrative support services as the Commission may re-
21 quest in order for the Commission to carry out its respon-
22 sibilities under this title.

23 **SEC. 6108. REPORTS.**

24 (a) INTERIM REPORT.—The Commission shall sub-
25 mit an interim report on its activities to Congress not later

1 than 20 months after the date of the enactment of this
2 title.

3 (b) FINAL REPORT.—

4 (1) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall submit
5 a final report on its activities to Congress not later
6 than 120 days after the submission of the interim
7 report under subsection (a).

8 (2) CONTENTS.—The final report shall contain
9 a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions
10 of the Commission, together with its recommenda-
11 tions for proposed legislation.

12 **SEC. 6109. TERMINATION.**

13 The Commission shall terminate not later than 30
14 days after submitting its final report under section
15 6108(b)(1).