

AMENDMENT NO. 1678

Purpose: To establish a National Commission on Volunteerism.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—96th Cong., 2d Sess.

— S. 1843

To provide for Federal support and stimulation of State, local, and community activities to prevent domestic violence and provide immediate shelter and other assistance for victims of domestic violence, for coordination of Federal programs and activities pertaining to domestic violence, and for other purposes.

February 28 (legislative day, January 3), 1980

Referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources and ordered to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURENBERGER

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

1 TITLE III—THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON

2 VOLUNTEERISM

3 FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

4 SEC. 301. The Congress finds and declares that:

5 (1) Individual citizens, acting voluntarily, have played a
6 unique, irreplaceable role in the growth and development of
7 the United States, by identifying and defining human serv-
8 ices, advocating on behalf of causes and in behalf of those
9 unable to speak for themselves, and by governing and direct-
10 ing both private and public organizations and agencies.

1 (2) This tradition of involvement has resulted in the par-
2 ticipation of the voluntary sector as a partner with the Gov-
3 ernment and with other social and economic sectors of our
4 Nation in charting the future course of the country. Howev-
5 er, the tradition is being challenged by changing employment
6 preferences, the persistence of inflation, and other socioeco-
7 nomic factors. Conversely, other socioeconomic trends, such
8 as the preference for earlier retirement, offer opportunities to
9 continue the tradition of volunteering. The implications of
10 these trends on the ability and willingness of individuals to
11 volunteer has not been examined.

12 (3) Volunteer organizations and the Government share
13 many common goals, and often work together to achieve
14 these goals. However, there are numerous examples of Gov-
15 ernment policies and programs that work at cross-purposes
16 to the goals of volunteer organizations, present obstacles to
17 individual volunteering, or do not recognize the potential of
18 including volunteers. The Government should seek, when-
19 ever possible, to preserve and expand the cooperation and
20 partnership with volunteer organizations. The Government
21 should, with assistance from volunteer organizations, formu-
22 late a policy regarding its partnership with volunteer organi-
23 zations and the involvement of individual volunteers in
24 achieving common goals and program objectives. This policy

1 should recognize the independence but mutual concerns of
2 volunteer organizations and the Government.

3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION

4 SEC. 302. (a) There is authorized to be established a
5 National Commission on Volunteerism.

6 (b) The Commission shall be composed of twenty-five
7 members who shall be appointed by the President. The mem-
8 bers shall be representative of private volunteer-involving or-
9 ganizations, private volunteer-supporting organizations, mi-
10 nority, women, and ethnic organizations, employee and em-
11 ployer organizations, the Federal Government, and State and
12 local government. A majority of the appointees shall repre-
13 sent private voluntary organizations. No more than four
14 members of the Commission shall be members of the United
15 States Congress.

16 (c) The President shall appoint one member of the Com-
17 mission to be the Chairman.

18 (d) Any vacancy on the Commission shall not affect its
19 powers and shall be filled in the same manner provided in
20 this section for the original appointment.

21 (e) The President shall appoint the members of the
22 Commission within one hundred and eighty days after the
23 effective date of this title.

1 (f) Thirteen members shall constitute a quorum, but a
2 lesser number may conduct hearings as may be authorized by
3 the total membership of the Commission.

4 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

5 SEC. 303. (a) The Commission shall identify the signifi-
6 cant socioeconomic factors expected to affect volunteers over
7 the next ten years, and shall make a comprehensive study of
8 the relationship of these factors to volunteering. The socio-
9 economic factors to be studied shall include, but shall not be
10 limited to—

11 (1) The age distribution of the United States pop-
12 ulation and longer life expectancy.

13 (2) Changes in the composition of the labor force,
14 including the increase in the number of women in the
15 full-time work force.

16 (3) Changes in attitudes toward careers, the pref-
17 erence for most flexible career patterns, the preference
18 for early retirement, and the need for income security.

19 (4) The higher educational attainments of the
20 labor force and the subsequent demand for challenging
21 jobs, and the decline in the number of fulfilling jobs
22 being created.

23 (5) The persistence of inflation and its influence
24 on the ability and willingness of individuals to
25 volunteer.

1 (6) The scarcity and increased cost of energy.

2 (b) The Commission shall identify the significant public
3 policies of mutual interest to volunteer organizations and
4 Government, and the programs carried out pursuant to these
5 policies, except that the Commission shall not examine poli-
6 cies and programs set forth in or developed pursuant to title
7 20 of the United States Code. Such policies and programs
8 shall include but shall not be limited to—

9 (1) those pertaining to the utilization of volunteers
10 or volunteer organizations in the delivery of public
11 services through grants or contracts, as stipend or un-
12 stipended volunteers, and through other means;

13 (2) those providing for offering public technical as-
14 sistance or support services to volunteers and volunteer
15 organizations.

16 (c) The Commission shall examine the affect of these
17 policies and programs on the willingness and ability of indi-
18 vidual volunteers and volunteer organizations to participate
19 in the delivery of public services. The Commission shall pro-
20 pose changes in these policies and programs that are de-
21 signed to increase the opportunities for volunteer participa-
22 tion, strengthen the partnership between Government and
23 volunteer organizations, and provide flexibility and diversity
24 in the delivery of public services.

1 (d) Within eighteen months of its effective date, the
2 Commission shall issue an initial report of its findings. The
3 initial report shall contain proposed recommendations for
4 Federal and State government action to encourage individual
5 volunteering and to reinforce the work of organizations of
6 volunteers.

7 PUBLIC HEARINGS

8 SEC. 304. (a) The Commission shall conduct at least
9 five regional public hearings in diverse geographical sections
10 of the country to disseminate the initial report and the pro-
11 posed recommendations. Notice of the hearings shall be pub-
12 lished in the Federal Register, and the notice shall be distrib-
13 uted widely to volunteer organizations, interested businesses,
14 interested labor organizations, and appropriate State and
15 local government officials. The Commission shall take the
16 public comments into account when preparing the final report
17 and recommendations.

18 (b) At appropriate intervals, but at least one each six
19 months during the first eighteen months, the Commission
20 shall hold a public hearing to report on the progress of its
21 work and to solicit public comments. Notice of the hearing
22 shall be published in the Federal Register, and the notice
23 shall be distributed widely to volunteer organizations, minor-
24 ity and ethnic organizations, interested businesses, interested
25 labor organizations, and appropriate State and local govern-

1 ment officials. The Commission shall take the public com-
2 ments into account when proceeding with its research, in
3 preparing the initial report and the proposed recommenda-
4 tions.

5 (c) No later than twenty-four months after its effective
6 date, the Commission shall report to Congress and the Presi-
7 dent its research findings, its recommendations, and sum-
8 maries of the comments received during the public hearings.

9 POWERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

10 SEC. 305. (a) The Commission may, in carrying out the
11 provisions of this title, sit and act at such times and places,
12 hold such hearings, take such testimony, request the attend-
13 ance of such witnesses and the production of such books,
14 papers, and documents and have such printing and binding
15 done, as the Commission deems advisable.

16 (b) The Commissioner may acquire directly from the
17 head of any department, agency, instrumentality, or other
18 authority of the executive branch of the Government availa-
19 ble information which the Commission determines useful in
20 the discharge of its functions. Each department, agency, in-
21 strumentality, or other authority of the executive branch of
22 the Government shall cooperate with the Commission and, to
23 the extent permitted by law, furnish all information requested
24 by the Commission.

1 (c) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be
2 adopted by the Commission, the Chairman is authorized to—

3 (1) appoint and fix the compensation of an execu-
4 tive director, and such additional staff personnel as
5 may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of
6 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
7 the competitive service, and without regard to chapter
8 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relat-
9 ing to classification and General Schedule pay rates,
10 but at rates not in excess of the maximum rate for
11 GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of
12 such title;

13 (2) procure temporary and intermittent services to
14 the same extent as is authorized by section 3109 of
15 title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed
16 the comparable daily rate for a GS-18 under section
17 5332 of such title;

18 (3) accept and utilize the services of voluntary
19 and uncompensated personnel and reimburse them for
20 travel expenses, including per diem as authorized by
21 section 5703 of title 5, United States Code;

22 (4) receive money and other property donated, be-
23 queathed, or devised, without condition or restriction
24 other than that it will be used for the purposes of the
25 Commission, and to use, sell, and otherwise dispose of

1 such property for the purpose of carrying out the func-
2 tions of the Commission under this title;

3 (5) enter into agreements with the General Serv-
4 ices Administration for procurement of necessary finan-
5 cial and administrative services, for which payment
6 shall be made by reimbursement from the funds of the
7 Commission in such amounts as may be agreed upon
8 by the Chairman of the Commission and the Adminis-
9 trator of General Services; and

10 (6) enter into contracts with Federal, State, and
11 local public agencies, private business concerns, institu-
12 tions, and other volunteer organizations for the conduct
13 of research, surveys, the preparation of reports, and
14 any other activity which the Commission determines to
15 be necessary.

16 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS

17 SEC. 306. (a) Members of the Commission who are oth-
18 erwise employed by the Federal Government shall serve
19 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel, sub-
20 sistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in
21 carrying out the duties of the Commission.

22 (b) Members of the Commission not otherwise employed
23 by the Federal Government shall receive \$100 per day when
24 they are engaged in the performance of their duties as mem-
25 bers of the Commission and shall be entitled to reim-

1 bursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary
2 expenses incurred by them in carrying out the duties of the
3 Commission.

4 TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION

5 SEC. 307. The Commission shall terminate one hundred
6 and twenty days after the submission of the final report under
7 this title.

8 EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION

9 SEC. 308. There are authorized to be appropriated such
10 sums, not to exceed \$200,000 as may be necessary to carry
11 out the provisions of this title.