

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2358

To authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, 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 “21st Century Civilian
5 Conservation Corps Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CIVILIAN**
2 **CONSERVATION CORPS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—In order to re-
4 lieve the acute condition of widespread distress and unem-
5 ployment existing in the United States and to provide for
6 the restoration of depleted natural resources in the United
7 States and the advancement of an orderly program of use-
8 ful public works, the President may establish and operate
9 a Civilian Conservation Corps to employ citizens of the
10 United States, who are otherwise unemployed or under-
11 employed, in the construction, maintenance, and carrying
12 on of works of a public nature in connection with—

13 (1) the forestation of lands belonging to the
14 United States or a State;

15 (2) the prevention of forest fires, floods, and
16 soil erosion;

17 (3) plant pest and disease control;

18 (4) the construction, maintenance, or repair of
19 paths, trails, and fire-lanes in units of the National
20 Park System, public lands, and other lands under
21 the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and
22 units of the National Forest System; and

23 (5) such other work on Federal or State land
24 incidental to or necessary in connection with any
25 projects of the character enumerated in paragraphs

1 (1) through (4) that the President determines to be
2 desirable.

3 (b) ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—To operate the
4 Civilian Conservation Corps, the President may utilize ex-
5 isting Federal departments and agencies, including the
6 Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the
7 National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Interior,
8 the Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engi-
9 neers, the Department of Transportation, the Department
10 of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and
11 Federal governmental corporations.

12 (c) INCLUSION OF OTHER LANDS.—The President
13 may extend the activities of the Civilian Conservation
14 Corps to lands owned by a political subdivision of a State
15 and lands in private ownership, but only for the purpose
16 of conducting such kinds of cooperation work as are other-
17 wise authorized by law in preventing and controlling forest
18 fires and the attacks of forest tree pests and diseases and
19 such work as is necessary and in the public interest to
20 control floods.

21 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—For the purpose of car-
22 rying out this Act, the President may enter into such con-
23 tracts or agreements with States as may be necessary, in-
24 cluding provisions for utilization of existing State adminis-
25 trative agencies.

1 (e) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Presi-
2 dent, or the head of any department or agency authorized
3 by the President to construct any project or to carry on
4 any public works under this Act, may acquire real prop-
5 erty for such project or public work by purchase, donation,
6 condemnation, or otherwise.

7 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION**
8 **CORPS.**

9 (a) EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE.—If the President
10 determines that amounts appropriated to carry out a Civil-
11 ian Conservation Corps under this Act for a fiscal year
12 will be insufficient to employ all of the citizens of the
13 United States described in section 2(a) who are seeking
14 or likely to seek employment in the Civilian Conservation
15 Corps and continue the employment of current employees
16 who desire to remain in the Civilian Conservation Corps,
17 the President shall employ additional persons in the Civil-
18 ian Conservation Corps in the following order of pref-
19 erence:

20 (1) Unemployed veterans of the Armed Forces
21 and unemployed members of the reserve components
22 of the Armed Forces.

23 (2) Unemployed citizens who have exhausted
24 their entitlement to unemployment compensation.

1 (3) Unemployed citizens, who immediately be-
2 fore employment in the Civilian Conservation Corps,
3 are eligible for unemployment compensation payable
4 under any State law or Federal unemployment com-
5 pensation law, including any additional compensa-
6 tion or extended compensation under such laws.

7 (4) Other citizens described in section 2(a).

8 (b) HOUSING AND CARE OF EMPLOYEES.—The
9 President may provide housing for persons employed in
10 the Civilian Conservation Corps and furnish them with
11 such subsistence, clothing, medical attendance and hos-
12 pitalization, and cash allowance, as may be necessary, dur-
13 ing the period they are so employed.

14 (c) TRANSPORTATION.—The President may provide
15 for the transportation of persons employed in the Civilian
16 Conservation Corps to and from the places of employment.

17 (d) NON-DISCRIMINATION.—In employing citizens
18 for the Civilian Conservation Corps, no discrimination
19 shall occur in accordance with Federal employment law;
20 except that no individual under conviction for crime and
21 serving sentence therefore shall be employed under the
22 provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the President

1 \$16,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
2 2022 to establish and operate a Civilian Conservation
3 Corps under this Act.

4 (b) USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS APPROPRIATED
5 FOR PUBLIC WORKS.—

6 (1) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The President
7 may use any moneys previously appropriated for
8 public works and unobligated as of the date of the
9 enactment of this Act to establish and operate a Ci-
10 vilian Conservation Corps under this Act.

11 (2) USE TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.—Not
12 less than 80 percent of the funds utilized pursuant
13 to paragraph (1) must be used to provide for the
14 employment of individuals under this Act.

15 (3) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not
16 apply to—

17 (A) unobligated moneys appropriated for
18 public works on which actual construction has
19 been commenced as of the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act or may be commenced within
21 90 days after that date; and

22 (B) maintenance funds for river and har-
23 bor improvements already allocated as of the
24 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in
3 subsection (a) or made available under subsection (b) shall
4 remain available until expended.

5 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION.**

6 The authority of the President to establish and oper-
7 ate a Civilian Conservation Corps under this Act expires
8 on September 30, 2022.

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