

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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SENATE BILL 93

Short Title: Service Corps Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Gulley; Lee, Plexico, Lucas, Odom, Sands, Hartsell, Martin of Guilford, Marshall, and Albertson.

Referred to: Juveniles/Prevention.

February 15, 1994

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE CORPS AND TO
3 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
6 Human Resources the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal
7 year to implement the North Carolina Service Corps.

8 Sec. 2. A new Part is added to Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General
9 Statutes to read:

10 **"PART 4B. NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE CORPS.**

11 **"§ 143B-151. Creation of Corps; purpose; administration.**

12 (a) There is created in the Department of Human Resources the North Carolina
13 Service Corps. The purpose of the Corps is to provide an innovative program of
14 community service work and alternative education to youthful offenders and to young
15 adults, modeled on the Durham Service Corps.

16 (b) The Department of Human Resources shall administer the Corps. The
17 Governor's Council on Children, Youth, and Families, if established by the General
18 Assembly, shall advise the Secretary of Human Resources on the administration of the
19 Corps.

20 **"§ 143B-151.1. Corps services.**

21 (a) The Corps shall provide services to young adults from age 17 through 23 who
22 apply for the Corps and to nonviolent offenders, from age 15 through 17, as an
23 alternative to training school.

1 (b) Participants in the Corps program for young adults shall:

- 2 (1) Work for up to one year on community service projects for which the
3 Corps has entered into a contract with a State, federal, or local
4 government or a nonprofit corporation. New participants shall be paid
5 the minimum wage for this work and shall have the opportunity to earn
6 raises throughout the year.
- 7 (2) Serve as volunteers in self-initiated community-service activities and
8 in community-service activities sponsored by the Corps.
- 9 (3) Participate in at least 10 hours of education each week. All
10 participants shall attend an alternative education program structured to
11 fit their individual needs and a weekly life skills session on how to
12 manage money, maintain a family, and prepare for a job. The
13 education program shall be prepared by the Corps, in conjunction with
14 the community college system where feasible.
- 15 (4) Receive assistance from the Corps in locating a meaningful post-
16 program placement.
- 17 (5) Be eligible to receive a post-service benefit of up to a seven hundred
18 fifty dollar (\$750.00) bonus or up to a one thousand five hundred
19 dollar (\$1,500) scholarship for successful completion of the program.

20 (c) Participants in the Corps program for nonviolent offenders shall:

- 21 (1) Work for one year on a community service project for which the Corps
22 has entered into a contract with a State, federal, or local government or
23 a nonprofit corporation. New participants shall be paid the minimum
24 wage for this work and shall have the opportunity to earn raises
25 throughout the year.
- 26 (2) Work with Corps participants who are young adults in community
27 building activities such as crew meeting, community meeting, support
28 groups, and leadership meeting, and work with Corps participants who
29 are young adults in self-initiated community service projects.
- 30 (3) Participate in an alternative education program that follows service
31 learning models, provided by the Corps and approved, where feasible,
32 by the local school administrative unit in which the Corps is located.
33 The education program shall include individualized instruction, life
34 skills sessions, and integration of work and learning.
- 35 (4) Return to school after completion of the Corps program. The Corps
36 shall work with school personnel to ensure smooth transitions.
- 37 (5) Receive assistance with arranging after-school work.
- 38 (6) Be eligible for a post-program bonus.

39 **§ 143B-151.2. Establishment of Corps sites.**

40 (a) The Department shall, with the consent of the Durham Area Youth Corps,
41 Inc., which is doing business as the Durham Service Corporation, assume responsibility
42 for administering the Corps in Durham as soon as practicable after July 1, 1994.

43 (b) During the 1994-95 fiscal year, the Department shall establish four additional
44 Corps sites throughout the State. In selecting sites, the Department shall consider the

1 commitment that local governments and the local business community will make to the
2 Corps, the need for the Corps in the area, and the likelihood that a Corps will succeed.
3 The Department shall also require the board of commissioners of a county in which the
4 Corps is located to provide a local match of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the
5 operating expenses of the Corps.

6 **"§ 143B-151.3. Reporting requirements.**

7 The Department of Human Resources shall report annually to the General Assembly
8 on outcomes of the Corps, including average gains in verbal and mathematics skill
9 levels, high school diplomas or equivalences earned, employment for more than six
10 months following completion of the Corps program, and other measures of program
11 effectiveness."

12 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1994.