

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 1403**

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Con-  
5 servation Service Corps Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 203 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
8 (16 U.S.C. 1722) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “under section  
10 204” and inserting “by section 204(a)(1)”;

1           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through  
2           (13) as paragraphs (9) through (14), respectively;

3           (3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘institution  
7           of higher education’ has the meaning given the  
8           term in section 102 of the Higher Education  
9           Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

10          “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘institution  
11          of higher education’ does not include—

12                 “(i) an institution described in section  
13                 101(b) of the Higher Education Act of  
14                 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(b)); or

15                 “(ii) an institution outside the United  
16                 States, as described in section  
17                 102(a)(1)(C) of the Higher Education Act  
18                 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)(C)).”;

19          (4) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated)—

20                 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
21                 (A), by striking “, as follows” and inserting  
22                 “and other conservation and restoration initia-  
23                 tives, as follows”; and

24                 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(E) To protect, restore, or enhance ma-  
2           rine, estuarine, riverine, and coastal habitat  
3           ecosystem components—

4                   “(i) to promote the recovery of threat-  
5                   ened species, endangered species, and man-  
6                   aged fisheries;

7                   “(ii) to restore fisheries, protected re-  
8                   sources, and habitats impacted by oil and  
9                   chemical spills and natural disasters; or

10                   “(iii) to enhance the resilience of  
11                   coastal ecosystems, communities, and  
12                   economies through habitat conservation.”;

13           (5) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (11) (as  
14           so redesignated), by striking “individuals between  
15           the ages of 16 and 30, inclusive,” and inserting “in-  
16           dividuals between the ages of 16 and 30, inclusive,  
17           or veterans age 35 or younger”;

18           (6) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated)—

19                   (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
20                   “and” at the end;

21                   (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
22                   period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

24                   “(C) with respect to the National Marine  
25                   Sanctuary System, coral reefs, and other coast-

1 al, estuarine, and marine habitats, and other  
2 land and facilities administered by the National  
3 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the  
4 Secretary of Commerce.”; and

5 (7) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(15) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the  
7 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,  
8 United States Code.”.

9 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC LANDS CORPS PROGRAM.**

10 Section 204 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
11 (16 U.S.C. 1723) is amended—

12 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
13 following:

14 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS CORPS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the  
16 Department of the Interior, the Department of Agri-  
17 culture, and the Department of Commerce a corps,  
18 to be known as the ‘Public Lands Corps’.

19 “(2) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AGENCIES.—Noth-  
20 ing in this subsection precludes the establishment of  
21 a public lands corps by the head of a Federal de-  
22 partment or agency other than a department de-  
23 scribed in paragraph (1), in accordance with this  
24 Act.”; and

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “indi-  
2 viduals between the ages of 16 and 30, inclu-  
3 sive,” and inserting “individuals between the  
4 ages of 16 and 30, inclusive, and veterans age  
5 35 or younger”; and

6 (B) in the second sentence, by striking  
7 “section 137(b) of the National and Community  
8 Service Act of 1990” and inserting “paragraphs  
9 (1), (2), (4), and (5) of section 137(a) of the  
10 National and Community Service Act of 1990  
11 (42 U.S.C. 12591(a))”.

12 **SEC. 4. TRANSPORTATION.**

13 Section 205 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
14 (16 U.S.C. 1724) is amended by adding at the end the  
15 following:

16 “(e) TRANSPORTATION.—The Secretary may provide  
17 to Corps participants who reside in their own homes trans-  
18 portation to and from appropriate conservation project  
19 sites.”.

20 **SEC. 5. RESOURCE ASSISTANTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 206(a) of the Public  
22 Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1725(a)) is amended  
23 by striking the first sentence and inserting the following:  
24 “The Secretary may provide individual placements of re-

1 source assistants to carry out research or resource protec-  
2 tion activities on behalf of the Secretary.”.

3 (b) **DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**—Section 121(a) of  
4 the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related  
5 Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (16 U.S.C. 1725a), is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “Secretary of the Interior”  
9 and inserting “Secretary (as defined in section  
10 203 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16  
11 U.S.C. 1722))”;

12 (B) by striking “paragraph (1)” and in-  
13 serting “paragraph (2)”; and

14 (C) by striking “with a land managing  
15 agency of the Department of the Interior”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “with a  
17 land managing agency” and inserting “with the Sec-  
18 retary (as so defined)”.

19 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS.**

20 Section 207 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
21 (16 U.S.C. 1726) is amended—

22 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
23 ing “**COMPENSATION AND TERMS OF SERVICE**”;

24 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
25 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(b) EDUCATIONAL CREDIT.—The Secretary may  
4           provide a Corps participant with an educational credit that  
5           may be applied towards a program of postsecondary edu-  
6           cation at an institution of higher education that agrees  
7           to award the credit for participation in the Corps.”;

8           (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

9                   (A) by striking “Each participant” and in-  
10                  serting the following:

11                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participant”; and

12                   (B) by adding at the end the following:

13                   “(2) INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.—With re-  
14                  spect to the Indian Youth Service Corps established  
15                  under section 210, the Secretary shall establish the  
16                  term of service of participants in consultation with  
17                  the affected Indian tribe.”;

18           (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

19                   (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and  
20                  (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,  
21                  and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

22                   (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
23                  (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Sec-  
24                  retary” and inserting the following:

25                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(2) TIME-LIMITED APPOINTMENT.—For pur-  
3 poses of section 9602 of title 5, United States Code,  
4 a former member of the Corps hired by the Sec-  
5 retary under paragraph (1)(B) for a time-limited ap-  
6 pointment shall be considered to be appointed ini-  
7 tially under open, competitive examination.”; and

8 (6) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) APPLICABILITY TO QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CON-  
10 SERVATION CORPS.—The hiring and compensation stand-  
11 ards described in this section shall apply to any individual  
12 participating in an appropriate conservation project  
13 through a qualified youth or conservation corps, including  
14 an individual placed through a contract or cooperative  
15 agreement, as approved by the Secretary.”.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION.**

17 Title II of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16  
18 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating sections 209 through 211  
20 as sections 211 through 213, respectively;

21 (2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

22 **“SEC. 209. REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION.**

23 “(a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
24 of enactment of the 21st Century Conservation Service  
25 Corps Act, and annually thereafter, the Chief Executive



1 Officer of the Corporation for National and Community  
2 Service, in coordination with the Secretaries, shall submit  
3 to Congress a report that includes data on the Corps, in-  
4 cluding—

5           “(1) the number of participants enrolled in the  
6 Corps and the length of the term of service for each  
7 participant;

8           “(2) the projects carried out by Corps partici-  
9 pants, categorized by type of project and Federal  
10 agency;

11           “(3) the total amount and sources of funding  
12 provided for the service of participants;

13           “(4) the type of service performed by partici-  
14 pants and the impact and accomplishments of the  
15 service; and

16           “(5) any other similar data determined to be  
17 appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer of the  
18 Corporation for National and Community Service or  
19 the Secretaries.

20           “(b) DATA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
21 enactment of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps  
22 Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall submit  
23 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for Na-  
24 tional and Community Service the data described in sub-  
25 section (a).

1       “(c) DATA COLLECTION.—The Chief Executive Offi-  
2 cer of the Corporation for National and Community Serv-  
3 ice may coordinate with qualified youth or conservation  
4 corps to improve the collection of the required data de-  
5 scribed in subsection (a).

6       “(d) COORDINATION.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, to  
8 the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with  
9 each other to carry out activities authorized under  
10 this Act, including—

11               “(A) the data collection and reporting re-  
12 quirements of this section; and

13               “(B) implementing and issuing guidance  
14 on eligibility for noncompetitive hiring status  
15 under section 207(d).

16           “(2) DESIGNATION OF COORDINATORS.—The  
17 Secretary shall designate a coordinator to coordinate  
18 and serve as the primary point of contact for any ac-  
19 tivity of the Corps carried out by the Secretary.”;  
20 and

21           (3) in subsection (c) of section 212 (as so re-  
22 designated), by striking “211” and inserting “213”.

1 **SEC. 8. INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.**

2 Title II of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16  
3 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) (as amended by section 7) is amend-  
4 ed by inserting after section 209 the following:

5 **“SEC. 210. INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the  
7 Public Lands Corps a program to be known as the ‘Indian  
8 Youth Service Corps’ that—

9 “(1) enrolls participants between the ages of 16  
10 and 30, inclusive, and veterans age 35 or younger,  
11 a majority of whom are Indians;

12 “(2) is established pursuant to an agreement  
13 between an Indian tribe and a qualified youth or  
14 conservation corps for the benefit of the members of  
15 the Indian tribe; and

16 “(3) carries out appropriate conservation  
17 projects on eligible service land.

18 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
19 MENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-  
20 ments with Indian tribes and qualified youth or conserva-  
21 tion corps for the establishment and administration of the  
22 Indian Youth Service Corps.

23 “(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 18 months after  
24 the date of enactment of the 21st Century Conservation  
25 Service Corps Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in con-  
26 sultation with Indian tribes, shall issue guidelines for the

1 management of the Indian Youth Service Corps, in accord-  
2 ance with this Act and any other applicable Federal  
3 laws.”.