

H.R. 1966, “The 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act of 2015”

Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-09)

Section-by-Section

Section 1: Short Title

Section 1 contains the short title—“21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act”

Section 2: Establishment and Operation of Civilian Conservation Corps.

Section 2 established the purpose and operation of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Among the findings stated in H.R. 1966 are:

- a. Establishments and Purpose: The president of the United States may establish a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to employ U.S. citizens, unemployed or underemployed, in the construction and maintenance of works of a public nature in connection with:
 - Forestation of lands
 - The prevention of forest fires, floods, and erosion
 - Plant and pest disease control
 - The construction, maintenance, or repairs of paths, trails, and fire-lanes in lands within the Secretary of Interior’s jurisdiction and the National Forest System
 - Other work on Federal or State land in connection with enumerated projects that the President determines desirable
- b. Role of Federal Agencies: a range of federal departments and agencies can be utilized to carry out CCC goals
- c. Inclusion of Other Lands: CCC activities may be extended to lands owned by a state or in private ownership in qualifying circumstances: fire management, flora pest/disease control, flood control
- d. Contract Authority: the president may enter into agreements with states as well as utilize state administrative agencies
- e. Acquisition: Property may be acquired by purchase, donation, condemnation, etc.

Section 3: Administration of Civilian Conservation Corps.

Section 3 establishes an order of preferences for determining who the CCC employs if there is insufficient funding for employment of all eligible civilians.

- a. Order of preference: unemployed veterans and reserve members, long-term unemployed, unemployed but still eligible for unemployment compensation, other unemployed citizens.
- b. Housing and Care of Employees: the CCC may provide housing, subsistence, clothing, medical attention, and cash allowance for employed persons
- c. Transportation: transportation to and from the places of employment may be provided
- d. Non-Discrimination: no discrimination shall occur in accordance with Federal employment law except for those convicted and currently serving a sentence

Section 4: Authorization of Appropriations

Section 4 authorizes the appropriation of funds and provides guidance regarding the use of unobligated funds appropriated for public works.

- a. Authorization of Appropriations: authorizes \$16 billion for the CCC annually for FY 2016-2019
- b. Use of Unobligated Funds Appropriated for Public Works: the president may use existing funds previously appropriated for public works but that remain unobligated; not less than 80 percent of funds must be used to provide for the employment of individuals
 - Exceptions: Unobligated moneys on which actual construction has started or may be commenced within 90 days of the enactment of the Act are unavailable for use, as are maintenance funds for river and harbor improvements already allocated
- c. Duration of Availability: Amounts appropriated or made available shall remain available until expended

Section 5: Termination

Section 5 establishes that the authority to establish and operate a CCC under this Act expires on September 30, 2019.