

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9165

To establish the Diplomatic Reserve Corps Pilot Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2026

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. BAUMGARTNER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Diplomatic Reserve Corps Pilot Program.

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 “Diplomatic Reserve
5 Corps Pilot Program Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DIPLOMATIC RESERVE CORPS PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than nine months
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 of State shall establish a Diplomatic Reserve Corps Pilot
10 Program (in this section referred to as the “Pilot Pro-
11 gram”) in the Department of State to assess the feasibility
12 and effectiveness of maintaining a reserve cadre of trained

1 personnel available for temporary active service in support
2 of foreign affairs contingencies.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The Pilot Program shall—

4 (1) provide a surge workforce to support diplo-
5 matic operations during crises, evacuations, armed
6 conflicts, natural disasters, and other contingencies
7 affecting United States interests abroad;

8 (2) assess recruitment, training, readiness, de-
9 ployment, and retention requirements for a perma-
10 nent Diplomatic Reserve Corps; and

11 (3) identify authorities, resources, and organi-
12 zational structures necessary to sustain such a
13 corps.

14 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of State may ap-
15 point to the Pilot Program retired members of the Foreign
16 Service.

17 (d) INITIAL STRENGTH.—The Secretary of State
18 shall recruit and maintain not fewer than 250 members
19 in the Pilot Program during the first year of the Pilot
20 Program and may increase membership by up to 250 addi-
21 tional members annually for the following three fiscal
22 years.

23 (e) RESERVE CORPS STRUCTURE.—Of the members
24 of the Pilot Program appointed by the Secretary of State
25 pursuant to subsection (c)—

1 (1) not more than 30 percent shall be appointed
2 at ranks equivalent to salary class 1 and salary class
3 2 of the Foreign Service schedule; and

4 (2) those not appointed at ranks equivalent to
5 salary class 1 and salary class 2 of the Foreign
6 Service schedule shall be appointed at ranks equivalent to salary class 3 and salary class 4 of the Foreign Service schedule.

9 (f) TRAINING.—Members of the Pilot Program shall
10 complete such orientation, security, medical, and readiness
11 training as the Secretary of State determines appropriate,
12 including training conducted through the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center, and other Department of State facilities.

15 (g) ACTIVATION.—The Secretary of State may activate members of the Pilot Program for temporary service in support of diplomatic operations, crisis response, evacuation efforts, disaster response, consular surge requirements, or other foreign affairs contingencies.

20 (h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of State shall establish readiness standards and conduct annual evaluations of the training status and availability for deployment of each member of the Pilot Program.

24 (i) INITIAL PLAN TO CONGRESS.—Not later than six
25 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

1 Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on For-
2 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report detail-
4 ing the Secretary's plans and timeline to establish, struc-
5 ture, and implement the Pilot Program.

6 (j) FINAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years
8 after the establishment of the Pilot Program, the
9 Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on
10 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
12 a report evaluating the Pilot Program and providing
13 recommendations regarding establishment of a per-
14 manent Diplomatic Reserve Corps.

15 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
16 required by paragraph (1) shall additionally include
17 an assessment on expanding eligible appointment to
18 the Diplomatic Reserve Corps to—

19 (A) retired Civil Service employees of the
20 Department of State;

21 (B) retired employees of other Federal
22 agencies possessing relevant skills and experi-
23 ence; and

24 (C) qualified individuals from outside the
25 Federal Government possessing critical lan-

1 guage, regional, technical, medical, security,
2 consular, management, or diplomatic expertise.

3 (k) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall termi-
4 nate on the date that is three years after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act, unless reauthorized by Congress.

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