

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2980

To provide for the establishment of the Entry Adjudication through General Legal Expertise Corps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Entry Adjudication through General Legal Expertise Corps, 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 “Eagle Corps Act of
5 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENTRY ADJUDICATION THROUGH GENERAL LEGAL**
7 **EXPERTISE CORPS.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION; PURPOSE.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—For the purpose of ame-
2 liorating delays in the adjudication of cases by the
3 immigration courts and other inefficiencies in the
4 administration of the immigration laws, there is es-
5 tablished, within the Executive Office of Immigra-
6 tion Review within the Department of Justice, the
7 Entry Adjudication through General Legal Expertise
8 Corps (or EAGLE Corps) (hereinafter in this Act
9 referred to as the “Corps”), which shall consist of—

10 (A) such civilian employees of the United
11 States as the Attorney General may appoint;
12 and

13 (B) such other individuals who are not em-
14 ployees of the United States.

15 (2) PURPOSE.—The Corps shall be utilized by
16 the Attorney General to provide legal services for the
17 United States before the immigration courts. The
18 Corps shall also include employees to provide admin-
19 istrative and support services.

20 (3) TERM.—Each member of the Corps shall
21 serve for a period not to exceed 24 months.

22 (b) RECRUITMENT AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—

23 (1) The Attorney General may conduct at law
24 schools the Loan Repayment Program. Such recruit-
25 ing programs shall include efforts to recruit individ-

1 uals who will serve in the Corps other than pursuant
2 to obligated service under the Loan Repayment Pro-
3 gram.

4 (2) In the case of attorneys who have an inter-
5 est and a commitment to providing legal services for
6 the United States before the immigration courts, the
7 Attorney General may establish fellowship programs
8 to enable such attorneys to gain exposure to and ex-
9 pertise in the provision of such legal services. To the
10 maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General
11 shall ensure that any such programs are established
12 in conjunction with other legal training programs.

13 (c) TRAVEL AND MOVING EXPENSES; PERSONS EN-
14 TITLED; REIMBURSEMENT; LIMITATION.—

15 (1) The Attorney General may reimburse an ap-
16 plicant for a position in the Corps for the actual and
17 reasonable expenses incurred in traveling to and
18 from the applicant's place of residence to an eligible
19 site to which the applicant may be assigned. The At-
20 torney General may establish a maximum total
21 amount that may be paid to an individual as reim-
22 bursement for such expenses.

23 (2) The Attorney General may also reimburse
24 the applicant for the actual and reasonable expenses
25 incurred for the travel of 1 family member to accom-

1 pany the applicant to such site. The Attorney Gen-
2 eral may establish a maximum total amount that
3 may be paid to an individual as reimbursement for
4 such expenses.

5 (3) In the case of an individual who has entered
6 into a contract for obligated service under the Schol-
7 arship Program or under the Loan Repayment Pro-
8 gram, the Attorney General may reimburse such in-
9 dividual for all or part of the actual and reasonable
10 expenses incurred in transporting the individual, the
11 individual's family, and the family's possessions to
12 the site of the individual's assignment. The Attorney
13 General may establish a maximum total amount that
14 may be paid to an individual as reimbursement for
15 such expenses.

16 (d) MONTHLY PAY ADJUSTMENTS.—The Attorney
17 General may, under regulations promulgated by the Attor-
18 ney General, adjust the monthly pay of each member of
19 the Corps. During the 24 months in which such a member
20 is so engaged in the delivery of legal services, the monthly
21 pay of that member may be increased by an amount which
22 when added to the member's monthly pay and allowances
23 will provide a monthly income competitive with the aver-
24 age monthly income from a practice of an individual who
25 is a member of the profession of the Corps member, who

1 has equivalent training, and who has been in practice for
2 a period equivalent to the period during which the Corps
3 member has been in practice.

4 (e) EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

5 The Attorney General shall ensure that adequate staff is
6 provided to the Service with respect to effectively admin-
7 istering the program for the Corps.

8 (f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

9 (1) The term “Department” means the Depart-
10 ment of Justice.

11 (2) The term “Loan Repayment Program”
12 means the Loan Repayment Program established
13 under section 4.

14 (3) The term “State” includes, in addition to
15 the several States, only the District of Columbia, the
16 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth
17 of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands,
18 Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of
19 the Pacific Islands.

20 (4) The term “Corps” means the Entry Adju-
21 dication through General Legal Expertise Corps.

22 (5) The term “Corps member” means each of
23 the officers, employees, and individuals of which the
24 Corps consists pursuant to paragraph (1).

1 (6) The term “legal services” means legal rep-
2 resentation in any proceeding before an immigration
3 court.

4 **SEC. 3. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

5 The Secretary of Education shall, subject to such
6 terms and conditions as the Secretary, in consultation
7 with the Attorney General, may by rule establish, repay
8 or cancel the outstanding balance of principal and interest
9 due on the Federal loans and private education loans of
10 a borrower. The term “Federal loan” means a loan made,
11 insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Edu-
12 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.). The term
13 “private education loan” has the meaning given the term
14 in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act.

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