

# THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEFENSE ACT (AEDA)

## Operationalizing the Article I Mandate

### THE PROBLEM:

- **Administrative Friction:** We have an opportunity to improve our Federal Government and our Agencies. The laws Congress passes must be effectively implemented to a high standard.
- **Infrastructure Decay:** We are borrowing from our grandchildren to build infrastructure that lasts 30 years.
- **Civic Illiteracy:** We are sending youth into the economy without the economic defense of legal literacy.

THE SOLUTION: A comprehensive, revenue positive reform that establishes a Statutory Interface between the Citizen and the State.

### I. THE CONSTITUTION CORPS - The Article I Corps.

MISSION: Administrative Defense.

- **What it does:** Deploys a civilian reserve of **Statutory Navigators** to the Critical Twelve high friction agencies (VA, IRS, SSA).
- **The Impact:** They expedite the constituent experience. They destroy backlogs, reducing wait times for citizens and saving billions in interest payments.

### II. THE REPUBLIC CORPS - The Article IV Corps

MISSION: Physical Defense.

- **What it does:** A vocational reserve dedicated to **Grid Hardening** and **Cyber Defense**.
- **The Standard:** Mandates the **Centennial Resilience Standard**, federal dollars must only fund infrastructure certified for a **100 Year Operational Life** (e.g., self healing materials), ending the cycle of planned obsolescence.

### III. THE EDUCATION MANDATE - Statutory Fluency

MISSION: Economic Self Defense.

- **What it does:** Mandates a high school curriculum in **Contractual Defense, AI Literacy, and Labor Sovereignty**.
- **The Goal:** Every graduate earns the **Model Statutory Fluency** credential, a license to navigate the modern economy safely.

### SUSTAINABLE FUNDING: REVENUE POSITIVE. Self-Funding Architecture.

1. **Accountability Revenue Model:** The Corps is funded by a transfer from the **DOJ Assets Forfeiture Fund** (criminal assets) and 5% of Federal Civil Penalties.
2. **The Justice Revenue Cycle:** We use the proceeds of crime and corporate malfeasance to fund the civic education of the next generation.

### KEY PROTECTIONS

- **Labor:** Explicit **Civil Service Fortification Clause** - Sec. 505. Fellows cannot replace federal employees.
- **Sovereignty: Berry Amendment Compliant** - Domestic sourcing for all uniforms/gear/materials/goods where reasonable and possible.
- **Privacy: Data Sovereignty Mandate** - All data must be stored on US soil.

**SPONSOR:** Representative \_\_\_\_\_, District \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE REFERRAL:**

Committee on Education and the Workforce  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

**PURPOSE:** To secure the economic and physical defense of the United States by operationalizing the **Article I Mandate**. This bill establishes the **National Center for Statutory Fluency** to modernize civic education and creates two civilian service reserves, the **Constitution Corps** (Administrative Defense) and the **Republic Corps** (Infrastructure Defense), to destroy administrative backlogs and harden the national grid.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT:**

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact this accompanying bill:

- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:** The Congress shall have Power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.
- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 9:** To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court. The power to create administrative capacity.
- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

**SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS:**

**TITLE I: THE EDUCATION CONTINUUM - Statutory Fluency**

- **Sec. 102 - Formula Grants:** Establishes a Formula Grant for states to implement **Statutory Fluency** curricula. Cultivates economic immunity to Economic Defense (contractual defense, how to navigate algorithmic bias, how to navigate the IRS).
- **Sec. 104 - The Federal Standard:** Creates a Model Standard for economic literacy. States that adopt it receive a 10% Bonus Allocation.

**TITLE II: THE CONSTITUTION CORPS - Article I Corps**

- **Sec. 201 - Establishment:** Creates a civilian reserve of **Statutory Navigators**.
- **Sec. 202 - The Critical Twelve:** Authorizes deployment to 12 specific high friction agencies (e.g., VA, SSA, IRS) to reduce backlogs.
- **Sec. 203 - Federal Service Academy:** Mandates a four week intensive training academy for all Fellows, focusing on administrative law and data ethics.

**TITLE III: THE REPUBLIC CORPS - Article IV Corps**

- **Sec. 302 - Divisions:** Establishes vocational divisions for Grid Hardening, Cyber Defense (CISA support), and Surface Transportation.
- **Sec. 302(f) - The Centennial Resilience Standard:** Mandates that all infrastructure projects funded under this Title utilize materials certified for a **100 year operational life** (e.g., self healing bio cement), ending the cycle of planned obsolescence in public works.

## **TITLE IV: AWARDS & INCENTIVES**

- **Sec. 401 - Hierarchy of Honor:** Establishes the **Madison Commission** and **Eisenhower Commission**, prestigious federal appointments for the top ranking Fellow in each Corps, creating a meritocratic pipeline from service to leadership.

## **TITLE V: FUNDING & PROVISIONS**

- **Sec. 501 - The Trust Fund:** Establishes the **Statutory Fluency Trust Fund**.
- **Sec. 502 Revenue Source:**
  1. **Constitution Corps:** Funded via the **DOJ Assets Forfeiture Fund** (using seized criminal assets to fund civil service).
  2. **Education Grants:** Funded by **5% of all Federal Civil Penalties**.
- **Sec. 505 - Status:** Grants Fellows **Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)** for federal hiring for three years post service, but explicitly excludes them from displacing current federal employees.

## **JUSTIFICATION:**

1. The Article I Imperative, Administrative Defense - The Constitution Corps provides the manpower to ensure that the laws Congress passes are executed.
2. The Centennial Imperative, Fiscal Prudence - Federal dollars must build 100 Year Assets. By mandating the **Centennial Resilience Standard**, we ensure that the Republic Corps builds infrastructure that are permanent intergenerational assets on the balance sheet.
3. Accountability Revenue Model. Revenue Positive - This bill requires zero new taxes. It is funded by a transfer from the DOJ Assets Forfeiture Fund and Federal Civil Penalties. We are taking the proceeds of crime and corporate malfeasance and investing them in the civic education of our children. It is a closed loop moral ecosystem.
4. The Statutory Interface - This bill creates a Human Interface of Statutory Navigators who stand between the Citizen and the Machine, maintaining the human touch in federal service.

## **FISCAL IMPACT: REVENUE POSITIVE.**

- **Direct Spending:** Offset by specific transfers from non-tax revenue sources (DOJ Assets / Civil Penalties).
- **Long Term Savings:** The Government Accountability Office is mandated in Sec. 405 to audit the **Fiscal Prevention Ratio**, quantifying the billions saved by preventing administrative errors, interest payments on delayed claims, and infrastructure rework.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment, to allow for the recruitment of the Inaugural Class.

**To Provide for our Common Economic, Physical, and Administrative Defense.**

119TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION

H. R. \_\_\_\_

US AEDA 2026

**A BILL To establish the National Center for Statutory Fluency, to create the Constitution Corps and the Republic Corps, and to secure the economic and physical defense of the United States.**

## **SPONSORSHIP**

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## **EXECUTIVE ABSTRACT: THE ARTICLE I MANDATE**

### **I. THE EDUCATION CONTINUUM - TITLE I**

Establishes the National Center for Statutory Fluency within the Department of Education. Mandates a Statutory Fluency curriculum (Phase II) for high schools, covering Contractual Defense, AI Literacy, and Labor Sovereignty, funded through a Formula Grant program.

### **II. THE TWO CORPS - TITLES II & III**

- **The Constitution Corps (Article I):** A civilian reserve of "Statutory Navigators" deployed to federal agencies (VA, IRS, SSA) to destroy administrative backlogs and reduce Friction.
- **The Republic Corps (Article IV):** A vocational reserve dedicated to grid hardening, cyber defense, and the **Centennial Resilience Standard**, 100 year infrastructure life.

### **III. SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE - TITLE V**

Establishes the Statutory Fluency Trust Fund.

- **Source:** 5% of all Federal Civil Penalties plus DOJ Asset Forfeiture Fund.
- **Impact: Revenue Positive.** Requires no new taxes and utilizes the Accountability Revenue Model to fund Good Citizen education.

## **LEGISLATIVE STATUS**

- **CONSTITUTIONALITY: ARTICLE I, SECTION 8** - Tribunals & General Welfare.
- **LABOR: CIVIL SERVICE FORTIFICATION** - Sec. 505 - **HATCH ACT COMPLIANT**.
- **FISCAL: FUNDING CONFIRMED** - DOJ Assets & Civil Penalties.
- **SECURITY: BERRY AMENDMENT COMPLIANT** - Domestic Sourcing.

Operationalizing the Article I mandate to **secure the domestic tranquility and the economic defense of the United States of America.**

SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**119th CONGRESS, 2D Session**  
**H. R. \_\_\_\_**

**A BILL To establish the National Center for Statutory Fluency, to create the Constitution Corps and the Republic Corps, and to secure the economic and physical defense of the United States.**

**Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,**

**SECTION 1. TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "American Economic Defense Act."**

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS. The Congress finds that:**

- (1) **The Kennedy Precedent:** Just as **Executive Order 11103** (1963) utilized the Peace Corps to strengthen the Federal Civil Service, this Act seeks to utilize the Constitution Corps to modernize the Federal Enterprise.
- (2) **The Fitzgerald Standard:** Building upon the **National Apprenticeship Act of 1937**, this Act extends the dignity of the "Registered Apprenticeship" to the digital and civic trades.
- (3) **The Readiness Gap:** True civic empowerment requires a continuum of education, from Legal Literacy (knowing the law) to Statutory Fluency (using the law).
- (4) **The Article I Mandate:** Congress has the power under Article I, Section 8 to "constitute Tribunals" and "provide for the general Welfare." This necessitates a workforce capable of administering the laws Congress passes.
- (5) **The Humanitarian Imperative:** Systemic backlogs in federal agencies constitute a direct failure of the social contract and perpetuate human suffering. Administrative friction is a moral failure.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

- (1) "Administrative Friction" means the procedural delay, opacity, or inefficiency that prevents a citizen from accessing statutory rights or benefits.
- (2) "Backlog" means any administrative delay exceeding 180 days.
- (3) "Corps" refers collectively to the Constitution Corps and Republic Corps.
- (4) "Director" means the Director of the National Center for Statutory Fluency.
- (5) "Fellow" means a sworn member of either Corps.
- (6) "State Educational Agency" and "Local Educational Agency" have the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).
- (7) "Tribal Educational Agency" means a school or educational agency funded by the Bureau of Indian Education or a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe.

## **TITLE I - THE EDUCATION CONTINUUM**

### **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

- (a) In General. There is established within the Department of Education the National Center for Statutory Fluency.
- (b) Director.
  - (1) Appointment. The Center shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education.
  - (2) Term. The Director shall serve for a term of five (5) years to ensure the operational stability and non-partisan continuity of the Center.
  - (3) Removal. The President may remove the Director only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.
- (c) The Clearinghouse. The Director shall establish a publicly accessible digital repository to aggregate and disseminate best practices, lesson plans, and curricular resources related to Statutory Fluency, facilitating resource sharing among State and Tribal Educational Agencies.

### **SEC. 102. FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM.**

- (a) Allocation.
  - (1) Formula. The Secretary shall award formula grants to State Educational Agencies and Tribal Educational Agencies based on the ratio of children aged 5 to 17 in the jurisdiction to the total number of such children in all jurisdictions.
  - (2) Small State Minimum. No State shall receive an allocation of less than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the total amount appropriated for this Title in any fiscal year.
- (b) Use of Funds. Grants shall be used to implement:
  - (1) Phase I - Middle School: Foundational Legal Literacy. Instruction on the Rule of Law, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the role of the citizen.
  - (2) Phase II - High School: Statutory Fluency. Instruction on Contractual Defense, including but not limited to:
    - (A) Housing Stability: Lease analysis, tenant rights, and eviction defense.
    - (B) Labor Sovereignty: W-2 vs. 1099 analysis, freelance contracts, and wage theft protection.
    - (C) Consumer Protection: Debt instrument structure, interest rate calculation, and credit hygiene.
    - (D) Digital Economic Defense: Algorithmic credit scoring, data privacy rights, and digital fraud prevention.
    - (E) Artificial Intelligence Literacy: Identification of algorithmic bias, deepfake detection, and the ethical use of automated systems in economic life.
    - (F) Emerging Technologies & AI Literacy: Identification of algorithmic bias, deepfake detection, and the ethical use of automated systems and future economic technologies.
- (c) Matching Requirement. An Agency receiving a grant under this section shall provide non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 20 percent of the amount of the grant.
  - (1) Waiver. The Secretary may waive the matching requirement for Tribal Educational Agencies or jurisdictions demonstrating severe economic hardship.
- (d) Local Educational Agency Eligibility. If a State Educational Agency does not submit an application for a grant under this section, a Local Educational Agency (LEA) within that State

may apply directly to the Secretary for a grant to implement the curricula described in subsection (b).

(e) Maintenance of Effort. Funds made available under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other State or local funds that would otherwise be required to be expended for civic or legal education.

(f) Data Reporting Condition. As a condition of receiving funds under this section, an Agency shall agree to provide the Director with anonymized, longitudinal student data necessary to conduct the impact study described in Section 407, subject to the privacy protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### **SEC. 103. INTEGRATION.**

Successful completion of the Phase II curriculum shall be deemed a qualifying component for the state's "Seal of Civic Readiness" or a comparable credential of economic competence established by the State Educational Agency.

### **SEC. 104. THE FEDERAL STANDARD.**

(a) Template. The Director shall publish a "Model Statutory Fluency Standard" encompassing the curricula described in Section 102.

(b) Bonus Allocation. States or Tribes that adopt this Model Standard in full shall receive a 10 percent increase in their formula allocation under this Title.

(c) Public Domain. All standards, curricula, and educational materials produced by the Center shall be released into the public domain and made available free of charge and copyright restrictions.

### **SEC. 105. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) Curriculum Independence. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize any Federal officer to mandate specific instructional content, curricula, or standards of instruction.

(b) Non-Interference. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to, or exercise control over, any private school or home school instruction, nor shall any State be required to mandate the curricula described in Section 102 for such schools as a condition of receiving funds.

### **SEC. 106. THE BOARD OF REGENTS.**

(a) Establishment. There is established a "Board of Regents" to provide non-partisan oversight and governance of the Center.

(b) Composition. The Board shall be composed of five (5) members appointed by the Secretary, of whom not more than three (3) may be members of the same political party.

(c) Staggered Terms. Members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of four (4) years, as designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment, to prevent total turnover during a single administration.

(d) Continuous Evolution. The Director shall conduct a biennial "Sovereign Tech Audit" to ensure the Model Standard incorporates the peak of human innovation. The Law must evolve.

(e) Explicit Grant of Authority. Congress hereby finds that the administration of federal statutes is a core Article I function. The Center is explicitly authorized to define Statutory Fluency as a technical competency necessary for the execution of federal law, and its standards shall be afforded the highest level of judicial deference as a matter of congressional administrative procedure.

(f) Service Without Pay. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

(g) Duties. The Board shall review and approve the "Model Statutory Fluency Standard" prior to its publication to ensure strict political neutrality and academic rigor.

(h) Private Right of Action. Any student or guardian of a student residing in a jurisdiction receiving funds under this Title shall have a private right of action in the appropriate United States District Court to compel the Agency to implement the curricula described in subsection (b), provided that administrative remedies through the Center have been exhausted.

(i) Foreign Agent Prohibition. No individual may serve on the Board who is registered as an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.).

## **TITLE II - THE CONSTITUTION CORPS (ARTICLE I)**

### **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

(a) Establishment. There is established the "Constitution Corps" (also known as the "Article I Corps"), a civilian service reserve authorized by Congress to operationalize the Federal Enterprise.

(b) Non-Delegable Sworn Status. A Fellow is a sworn officer of the Republic. No Fellow may be directed by any host agency to perform duties that are inherently political, or to engage in the drafting of partisan policy. The Fellow's primary allegiance is to the statutory text they are tasked to navigate.

### **SEC. 202. STRUCTURE AND DEPLOYMENT.**

(a) Commission. A selective, 1,700 hour service term dedicated to administrative excellence.

(b) The Interagency Deployment Force.

(1) Broad Authority. The Director is authorized to deploy Fellows as "Warranted Statutory Navigators" to any Federal Agency to reduce administrative friction. Fellows shall operate under a "Federal Warrant of Statutory Navigation." In the exercise of these duties, Fellows are granted Qualified Immunity to the same extent as federal law enforcement officers, provided their actions are taken in good faith to reduce administrative friction and adhere to the "Model Statutory Fluency Standard."

(2) The Critical Twelve: Deployment shall prioritize, but is not limited to, the following critical functions:

(A) Dept of Justice (EOIR): Immigration file readiness.

(B) Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA): Benefits claim compilation.

(C) Social Security Administration (SSA): Disability adjudication.

(D) Internal Revenue Service (IRS): Taxpayer intake assistance.

(E) Department of Education (ED): Student loan and FAFSA processing.

- (F) National Archives (NARA): Veterans' records retrieval.
- (G) FEMA: Disaster insurance claim organization.
- (H) Food and Drug Administration (FDA): Drug application readiness.
- (I) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Superfund permit organization.
- (J) Department of State (DOS): Passport application readiness.
- (K) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Trust land record auditing.
- (L) Small Business Administration (SBA): Disaster loan processing.
- (3) Duty to Cooperate. The head of any agency hosting a deployment under this section shall provide Fellows with appropriate workspace, data access, and administrative support necessary to execute their mission. Refusal to cooperate shall be reported by the Director to the relevant Congressional Oversight Committees.
- (4) Universal Access Clause. Any Federal Agency or Federally Recognized Tribal Government not listed herein may petition the Director for deployment upon demonstration of a "Critical Administrative Backlog."
- (c) Incentive:
  - (1) Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) for federal employment (3 Years).
  - (2) The "Article I Medal": Awarded to Fellows who demonstrate exceptional merit.
- (d) Telework Authority. The Director may authorize Fellows to perform their duties via secure telework arrangements, provided that such arrangements comply with agency security standards and expand recruitment opportunities to rural and underserved geographic areas.
- (e) Geographic Mandate. The Director shall ensure that, through physical deployment or secure telework, the Corps maintains an operational footprint in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories.
- (f) State Corps Designation.
  - (1) Affiliate Status. The Director is authorized to designate a State chartered service corps (such as the New Jersey Governor's Guard) as an "Affiliate Unit" of the Constitution Corps, provided the State corps adheres to the meritocratic and operational standards established by this Act.
  - (2) Federal Benefits. Fellows serving in a designated Affiliate Unit shall be eligible for:
    - (A) The Service Passport and National Industrial Service Credential described in Title III;
    - (B) Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) for federal employment upon completion of service, and
    - (C) Education Awards funded through the Trust Fund, subject to the availability of appropriations.
  - (3) Direct Funding. Affiliate Units are eligible to apply for direct operational grants under Title V to support recruitment, uniform procurement, and management.

### **SEC. 203. THE FEDERAL SERVICE ACADEMY.**

- (a) Mandatory Training. Prior to deployment, all Fellows shall complete a four (4) week intensive orientation program (The "Federal Service Academy") focused on:
  - (1) The Constitution and Administrative Law
  - (2) Federal Ethics and Data Privacy
  - (3) Agency specific operational systems.
- (b) Contracting Authority. The Director is authorized to enter into contracts with accredited institutions of higher education or non-profit organizations to facilitate this training.

(c) Academic Accreditation. The Director shall coordinate with the American Council on Education (ACE) to recommend college credit equivalencies for the training and service performed under this Act.

(d) State Access. The Director shall make the curriculum and digital training modules of the Federal Service Academy available to designated Affiliate Units at no cost. Fellows from Affiliate Units may attend the Academy, subject to capacity, to ensure a unified national standard of administrative competence.

### **TITLE III - THE REPUBLIC CORPS**

#### **SEC. 301. ESTABLISHMENT.**

There is established the "Republic Corps" (also known as the "Article IV Corps"), a vocational service reserve dedicated to the physical integrity of the nation.

#### **SEC. 302. DIVISIONS.**

(a) The Infrastructure Division: Apprenticeships in water treatment, grid hardening, and broadband deployment.

(b) The Surface Transportation Division: Support for Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, and State Transit Authorities (Signal repair, bridge inspection, and logistics).

(c) The Aerospace Readiness Detachment: Support for FAA (Airfield Operations Assistants).

(d) The STEM Sovereign Division: Support for National Labs (Data hygiene and logistics).

(e) The Cyber Defense Detachment: Support for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in network monitoring, data hygiene, artificial intelligence readiness, and digital asset protection, including "Cognitive Defense," defined as the technical and educational resilience against foreign disinformation campaigns targeting the physical and economic integrity of the United States.

(f) THE CENTENNIAL RESILIENCE STANDARD. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no federal funds authorized under this Title or reprogrammed from Public Law 117-58 (IIJA) shall be disbursed for surface transportation, housing, or grid infrastructure to any Agency that fails to certify a Centennial Resilience Plan. Such plan must mandate the use of materials with proven carbon negative and self healing properties, ensuring a minimum operational life of 100 years.

#### **SEC. 303. CREDENTIALING.**

(a) National Credential. Fellows shall receive the "National Industrial Service Credential," a federal designation recognized by Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and the Department of Labor.

(b) Service Passport. The Director shall establish a digital, portable "Service Passport" for each Fellow, verifying specific technical skills and certifications acquired during service, to facilitate transition into the private sector.

## **SEC. 304. THE INDUSTRIAL OFFICER TRACK.**

The Director shall establish an "Executive Preparation" track within the Republic Corps for Fellows demonstrating aptitude in Logistics, Systems Architecture, and Public Works Management, creating a pipeline for future leadership in Federal and State infrastructure agencies.

## **TITLE IV - AWARDS, INCENTIVES & REPORTING**

### **SEC. 401. THE HIERARCHY OF HONOR.**

(a) Agency Laureates. The Director shall designate the highest ranking Fellow at each deployment agency as the "Agency Laureate" (e.g., The IRS Laureate).

(b) Distinguished Service Commendations. The Director may award Commendations to Fellows who display outstanding leadership, regardless of rank.

(c) National Valedictorians.

(1) The Madison Commission (Article I): Selected from the pool of Agency Laureates, the highest ranking Fellow of the Constitution Corps shall be designated the "National Policy Valedictorian" and awarded a one year paid appointment as a Policy Analyst in the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

(2) The Eisenhower Commission (Article IV): Selected from the pool of Agency Laureates, the highest ranking Fellow of the Republic Corps shall be designated the "National Industrial Valedictorian" and awarded a one year paid appointment as a Special Assistant in the Department, Transportation or Energy, or the relevant Department.

(d) Standard of Excellence. No award, commission, or medal under this Title shall be conferred absent a finding of exemplary and extraordinary contribution to the national interest. Awards shall not be conferred for satisfactory performance or mere completion of service.

(e) Presentation. The National Valedictorians shall receive their commissions in a joint ceremony presided over by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, symbolizing the unity of the Article I and Article IV mandates.

### **SEC. 402. QUARTERLY DISTINCTIONS.**

(a) The Director's Citation. The Director may award a "Quarterly Citation of Merit" (represented by a Merit Star) to any Fellow who demonstrates a tangible, quantifiable acceleration of the agency mission during the quarter.

(b) Limitation. This distinction is reserved for the top one (1) percent of the Corps. If no Fellow meets this threshold in a given quarter, the Citation shall be withheld.

### **SEC. 403. MEDALS OF SERVICE.**

(a) The Speaker's Medal (Article I): A Bronze Medallion bearing the Quill of Article I.

\* Ribbon: Navy Blue (The Law) and Gold.

(b) The Republic Medal (Article IV): An Iron Medallion bearing the Shield of Article IV (A Shield protecting the Map of the Union). Ribbon: Iron Grey for Industry and Green for The Land.

#### **SEC. 404. THE ALUMNI RESERVE.**

- (a) Designation. Upon successful completion of the service term, Fellows shall be inducted into the "Alumni Reserve."
- (b) The Roll of the Corps. The Director shall transmit the service records of all Alumni to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for permanent preservation. These records shall be maintained as a distinct collection, accessible to the public for historical and genealogical research, ensuring the enduring legacy of those who served.
- (c) Reactivation. In the event of a "National Administrative Emergency" declared by the President, the Director is authorized to voluntarily reactivate Alumni for temporary deployment to assist in surge operations.
- (d) Compensation. Alumni reactivated under this section shall be compensated at a rate equivalent to Grade GS-7, Step 1 of the General Schedule, including applicable locality adjustments.
- (e) Definition. For purposes of this section, a "National Administrative Emergency" means a condition declared by the Director, President, or Congress, whether upon recommendation of the Director, involving a rapid accumulation of agency backlogs exceeding twenty (20) percent year over year, or a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act.

#### **SEC. 405. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.**

Not later than three years after the date of enactment, and every three years thereafter, the General Accountability Office shall submit to Congress an audit of the Corps, certifying the accuracy of the "Fiscal Prevention Ratio" and assessing the programmatic impact on agency backlogs.

#### **SEC. 406. ANNUAL REPORTING.**

- (a) Fiscal Prevention Ratio. The Director shall submit an annual report detailing the Fiscal Prevention Ratio (FPR) of all deployments, quantifying the taxpayer savings generated by administrative readiness.
- (b) Customer Service Index. The report shall include data regarding citizen satisfaction with services provided by Fellows, gathered through a standardized, anonymized feedback mechanism at the point of service.

#### **SEC. 407. LONGITUDINAL IMPACT STUDY.**

- (a) Study Required. The Director shall conduct a longitudinal study to assess the long term economic and civic outcomes of students who complete curricula funded under Title I, including metrics related to credit health, housing stability, and civic participation.
- (b) Reporting. The Director shall submit interim reports to Congress every two (2) years and a final report ten (10) years after the date of enactment.
- (c) Data Destruction Protocol. The Director shall establish strict protocols for the anonymization and ultimate destruction of all personally identifiable information (PII) collected under this section. All PII shall be destroyed no later than ten (10) years after collection or upon the

conclusion of the study, whichever occurs first, in strict compliance with NIST Special Publication 800-88 Revision 1 (Guidelines for Media Sanitization) or its successor standards.

## **TITLE V - FUNDING & GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **SEC. 501. THE STATUTORY FLUENCY TRUST FUND.**

(a) Establishment. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the "Statutory Fluency Trust Fund," consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated, to facilitate the grants under Title I.

(b) Availability. Amounts in the Trust Fund shall remain available until expended.

### **SEC. 502. SERVICE FUNDING.**

(a) Constitution Corps: There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 from the DOJ Assets Forfeiture Fund. For each succeeding fiscal year, this amount shall be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to ensure the purchasing power of the Corps remains constant in perpetuity.

(b) Republic Corps: Reprogramming of unobligated balances from Public Law 117-58 (The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

(c) Education Grants (Title I): There is authorized to be appropriated to the Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year an amount equal to five (5) percent of all civil penalties collected by the United States Government in the preceding fiscal year.

(d) Mandatory Expenditure. Funds authorized under this section are mandatory and not subject to rescission or sequestration. Any funds not expended in a fiscal year shall remain in the Statutory Fluency Trust Fund and shall not revert to the General Fund of the Treasury.

### **SEC. 503. ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.**

Not more than five (5) percent of the funds authorized under this Act may be used for administrative expenses.

### **SEC. 504. THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.**

(a) Establishment. There is established the "Interagency Council on Administrative Defense" to coordinate deployment priorities.

(b) Membership. The Council shall be composed of the Deputy Secretaries (or equivalent) of the "Critical Twelve" and any other qualifying agencies not limited to the list in Section 202.

(c) Duties. The Council shall meet quarterly to identify critical backlog targets and assist the Director in the allocation of Fellows.

### **SEC. 505. STATUS OF FELLOWS.**

(a) Federal Status. Fellows under this Act shall be considered employees of the United States for purposes of:

(1) chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (Federal Tort Claims Act), and

- (2) subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (compensation for work injuries).
- (b) Civil Service Fortification. Service positions under this Act shall not be used to displace existing Federal employees or to reduce the hours of non-overtime work for such employees.
- (c) Displacement Limitation. Fellows deployed to any specific agency office or unit shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the total full time equivalent (FTE) workforce of that office or unit.
- (d) Unemployment Exclusion. Service performed as a Fellow shall not be considered employment for purposes of chapter 23 of title 26, United States Code (Federal Unemployment Tax Act).

#### **SEC. 506. UNIFORM & IDENTITY.**

- (a) Standard Service Insignia. The Director shall prescribe a standardized service insignia, lapel pin, and dress code to ensure the visual identity, discipline, and Esprit of the Corps.
- (b) Functional Adaptation. The Agency Laureate at each deployment site is authorized to adapt the daily service attire to meet the functional safety and operational requirements of the host agency, provided the Service Insignia remains visible.
- (c) Domestic Sourcing. All uniforms, insignia, medals, and related service items procured for the Corps shall be grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States, consistent with the requirements of section 2533a of title 10, United States Code (the Berry Amendment).

#### **SEC. 507. OATH OF SERVICE.**

Prior to the commencement of service, every Fellow shall take and subscribe to the following oath:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and that I will well and faithfully advance the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."

#### **SEC. 508. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

Fellows shall be treated as employees for purposes of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8)). No punitive action may be taken against a Fellow for disclosing waste, fraud, or abuse within a host agency.

#### **SEC. 509. POLITICAL NEUTRALITY.**

- (a) Hatch Act. Fellows shall be subject to the provisions of subchapter III of chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code (known as the Hatch Act), regarding political activities of Federal employees.
- (b) Non-Partisanship. The Corps shall operate as a non-partisan entity dedicated solely to administrative efficiency and industrial readiness.

## **SEC. 510. SECURITY & DATA PRIVACY.**

- (a) Background Investigation. All Fellows must undergo a suitability background investigation appropriate to the sensitivity of the agency data they will access, consistent with the standards for Public Trust positions.
- (b) Privacy Act. Fellows shall be subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and all agency specific confidentiality statutes (including section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code regarding tax return information).
- (c) Data Sovereignty. All digital data generated, processed, or stored by the Center, including the Digital Service Portal and Service Passports, shall be stored on servers physically located within the United States.

## **SEC. 511. RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION.**

- (a) Merit Based Selection. Recruitment for the Corps shall be conducted on a strictly meritocratic basis, blind to political affiliation, utilizing a centralized Digital Service Portal.
- (b) Technical Standards. The Digital Service Portal shall be engineered in consultation with the United States Digital Service (USDS) to ensure accessibility, security, and user experience.
- (c) Anti-Nepotism. No individual may be selected for the Corps in violation of section 3110 of title 5, United States Code (relating to employment of relatives).
- (d) Veterans Preference. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede the preference for veterans in Federal hiring as established by section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.
- (e) Geographic Diversity. The Director shall ensure recruitment efforts reach every congressional district to maintain a Corps that reflects the nation.
- (f) Pipeline Priority. In the selection of Fellows, the Director shall give priority consideration to applicants who have successfully earned the state Seal of Civic Readiness or the Model Statutory Fluency Standard credential described in Title I.
- (g) Accessibility. The Director shall ensure that the recruitment process and service opportunities are accessible to individuals with disabilities, in compliance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- (h) Public Awareness. The Director is authorized to carry out a national public awareness campaign to recruit the Inaugural Class and subsequent cohorts, with a particular focus on underserved communities and military spouses.
- (i) Military Spouses. The Director shall implement specific recruitment strategies to engage spouses of members of the Armed Forces, utilizing the telework authority described in Section 202 to facilitate service during active duty relocations.

## **SEC. 512. COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS.**

- (a) Living Allowance. Fellows shall receive a living allowance during their term of service equivalent to the annual rate of basic pay for Grade GS-3, Step 1 of the General Schedule, including applicable locality based comparability payments.
- (b) Health Insurance. The Director shall provide a policy of health insurance coverage for each Fellow during their term of service, which shall include comprehensive mental health counseling and crisis support services.

(c) Transition Assistance. The Director is authorized to provide career counseling, resume preparation, and job placement assistance to Fellows during the final ninety (30) days of their service term.

(d) Education Award. Upon successful completion of a term of service, a Fellow shall be eligible for a Statutory Fluency Education Award in the amount of \$10,000, adjusted annually for inflation, which shall be exempt from Federal taxation and restricted for use toward the repayment of qualified student loans or future educational expenses.

(e) Interest Forbearance. During a term of service, the government shall pay any interest that accrues on a Fellow's qualified student loans.

(f) Financial Aid Exclusion. The Living Allowance and Education Award provided under this section shall not be considered income for the purpose of calculating an applicant's expected family contribution or eligibility for Federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(g) Agency Housing Authority. The head of any Federal agency hosting a deployment is authorized to provide Fellows with available on site housing, barracks, or dormitory accommodations at no cost to the Fellow, to facilitate deployment in high cost or remote geographic areas or elsewhere.

#### **SEC. 513. CAREER RETENTION AND CONVERSION.**

(a) Direct Hire Authority. The head of any Federal agency may non-competitively appoint a Fellow who has successfully completed a term of service to a permanent position in the competitive service.

(b) Creditable Service. Upon appointment to a permanent position, the Fellow's time served in the Corps shall be credited as service performed as an employee of the United States for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code (relating to retirement).

(c) Advanced Step. A Fellow appointed under this section shall be appointed at not less than Step 3 of the appropriate General Schedule grade, in recognition of their prior service and statutory fluency.

(d) Military Enlistment Benefit. A Fellow who enlists in the Armed Forces upon successful completion of a term of service shall be advanced to a pay grade of not less than E-3, subject to the regulations of the respective military department.

#### **SEC. 514. GIFT AUTHORITY.**

(a) In General. The Director may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Center.

(b) Foreign Prohibition. The Director is prohibited from accepting any gift, donation, or service from:

(1) Any foreign government,

(2) Any foreign owned corporation, or

(3) Any entity in which a foreign principal holds beneficial ownership or effective control.

## **SEC. 515. PATRIOT PARTNERSHIPS.**

- (a) Establishment. The Director shall establish a program to recognize and partner with private and non-profit organizations to maximize the value of the service experience.
- (b) Patriot Employers. Employers who commit to granting interview preferences to Fellows who have successfully completed their service and possess a Service Passport shall be designated as "Patriot Employers."
- (c) Service Scholar Program. The Director is authorized to enter into partnerships with institutions of higher education that agree to match the Education Award described in Section 512 or provide academic credit for service.
- (d) The Founder's Waiver. A Fellow who has successfully completed a term of service and possesses a Service Passport shall be exempt from the payment of guarantee fees for loans guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) for a period of five (5) years following the completion of service.

## **SEC. 516. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.**

The Director shall establish a Code of Conduct for Fellows. The Director maintains the authority to summarily release any Fellow from service for misconduct, negligence, or failure to uphold the Oath of Service, without regard to the procedural requirements of chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code.

## **SEC. 517. OVERSIGHT AND ADVOCACY.**

- (a) Inspector General. The Inspector General of the Department of Education shall have the authority to audit, investigate, and review the operations and financial accounts of the Center to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- (b) The Ombudsman. There is established within the Center the "Office of the Ombudsman," independent of the operational directorate, to receive, investigate, and resolve complaints from Fellows regarding harassment, retaliation, or unsafe working conditions within host agencies.

## **SEC. 518. INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.**

Upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education is authorized to designate an Acting Director and to utilize up to ten (10) percent of the funds authorized under Section 521 to initiate administrative planning, rule making, and recruitment activities prior to the Effective Date.

## **SEC. 519. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment, except for Section 519, which shall take effect immediately.

## **SEC. 520. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal years 2026 through 2036.

**SEC. 521. ADMINISTRATIVE FINALITY AND SEVERABILITY.**

(a) Plenary Authority. Congress finds that this Act is a core exercise of its Article I power to determine the efficiency of its own statutory implementation.

(b) Non-Delegable Right. The Warrant of Navigation is a non-delegable statutory right granted to the citizenry; it is not an agency "interpretation" and is therefore not subject to agency level reversal.

(c) Severability. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Act and its application to other persons or circumstances shall remain in full and immediate force. The stay of one Title shall never constitute a stay of the Ascent of the United States of America.