

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7189

To establish a youth study abroad program in the Department of State for United States secondary school students to study in Normandy, France, to learn about the relationship between the United States and France, the World War II military operation known as Operation Overlord, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2020

Mr. TIPTON (for himself and Ms. SHERRILL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a youth study abroad program in the Department of State for United States secondary school students to study in Normandy, France, to learn about the relationship between the United States and France, the World War II military operation known as Operation Overlord, 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 “Operation Overlord
5 Study Abroad Program Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The United States and France have shared
4 close cultural, economic, social, and diplomatic rela-
5 tions since 1776 when French forces supported the
6 American Colonies during the Revolutionary War to
7 gain freedom from Great Britain.

8 (2) World War II cemented this positive rela-
9 tionship between the United States and France.

10 (3) On June 6, 1944, the United States, as a
11 member of the Allied Forces, led the military oper-
12 ation known as Operation Overlord.

13 (4) Operation Overlord consisted of a series of
14 prolonged parachute and glider landings, large naval
15 bombardments, massive air attacks, and amphibious
16 landings on the beaches of Normandy known as
17 Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.

18 (5) Over 2,000,000 military service members of
19 the Allied Forces landed in France during Operation
20 Overlord, which resulted in approximately 226,000
21 casualties. Of those casualties, approximately
22 153,000 were injured, and 72,000 were either killed
23 or declared missing in action.

24 (6) Operation Overlord resulted in a victory for
25 the Allied Forces as they forced Nazi Germany to

1 withdraw from Normandy and move eastward to-
2 ward Paris.

3 (7) June 6, 2020, is the 76th anniversary of
4 the start of Operation Overlord.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the United States owes to the generation of
8 Americans known as the Greatest Generation an im-
9 mense level of respect and gratitude for risking their
10 lives by serving in the Allied Forces to defeat Nazi
11 Germany;

12 (2) it is vital that the stories of the men and
13 women who fought in Operation Overlord are not
14 forgotten, allowing our youth to remember some of
15 the greatest acts of heroism recorded in human his-
16 tory; and

17 (3) the United States hopes to maintain strong
18 ties with the Government of France and ensure the
19 lessons learned from Operation Overlord are not for-
20 gotten.

21 **SEC. 4. OPERATION OVERLORD ACADEMIC STUDY ABROAD**
22 **PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in co-
24 operation with the Government of France, may establish
25 in the Department of State a 2-week academic study

1 abroad program (referred to in this section as the “study
2 abroad program”), during either the month of July or Au-
3 gust, in Normandy, France, for eligible individuals to
4 learn about the historical relationship between the United
5 States and France by—

6 (1) attending a secondary school or post-sec-
7 ondary school in France for the duration of the
8 study abroad program with academic course work
9 emphasizing—

10 (A) the history, constitution, and political
11 development of France; and

12 (B) the relationship between the United
13 States and France during World War II, focus-
14 ing on the military operation known as Oper-
15 ation Overlord; and

16 (2) visiting historical sites.

17 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate
19 in this study abroad program, an individual shall—

20 (A) be a citizen of the United States be-
21 tween 16 to 18 years of age;

22 (B) be a freshman, sophomore, or junior at
23 the time such individual submits an application
24 for participation in the study abroad program;

1 (C) have an overall grade point average of
2 at least 2.8 on a 4.0 scale at the time of the
3 submission of the application;

4 (D) provide at least 1 letter of rec-
5 ommendation from a secondary school teacher
6 who knows the individual;

7 (E) agree to participate in the presentation
8 under subsection (f);

9 (F) either be enrolled in, or have com-
10 pleted, at least one college preparatory history
11 course; and

12 (G) satisfy any other qualifications the
13 Secretary of State determines appropriate.

14 (2) PREFERENCE.—Preference for participation
15 in the study abroad program shall be given to indi-
16 viduals who speak the French language conversa-
17 tionally.

18 (c) SELECTION.—

19 (1) NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The
20 Secretary shall select not more than 100 eligible in-
21 dividuals for participation in the study abroad pro-
22 gram from a compiled list of eligible individuals
23 nominated by United States Senators pursuant to
24 paragraph (2).

1 (2) NOMINATION BY SENATORS.—Each United
2 States Senator shall nominate and submit to the
3 Secretary the name of one eligible individual from
4 their State to participate in the study abroad pro-
5 gram.

6 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds donated pursuant to
7 subsection (h) and appropriated under subsection (i) to
8 carry out the study abroad program shall be used for the
9 following purposes:

10 (1) Room and board.

11 (2) Round trip international airfare, including
12 airport transfers.

13 (3) Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and
14 historic attractions.

15 (4) Transportation while outside of the United
16 States.

17 (5) Any tuition and academic materials re-
18 quired by the host secondary school or post-sec-
19 ondary school in France.

20 (6) Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and
21 servers.

22 (7) Backpack, luggage tags, and customized
23 name badge.

24 (8) Pre-tour required readings and books.

1 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to participate in
2 the study abroad program, an eligible individual shall sub-
3 mit to the Secretary of State an application at such time,
4 in such manner, and containing such information as the
5 Secretary of State may require.

6 (f) PRESENTATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on participa-
8 tion in the study abroad program, not later than 2
9 months after the study abroad program has con-
10 cluded, each individual participating in the study
11 abroad program under this section shall present to
12 one history teacher from their school a 30-minute
13 presentation on their study abroad experience.

14 (2) VERIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
15 30 days after the completion of the presentation re-
16 quired under paragraph (1), each individual partici-
17 pating in the study abroad program under this sec-
18 tion shall submit to the Secretary—

19 (A) a digital copy of all presentation mate-
20 rials used by the individual for purposes of the
21 presentation; and

22 (B) a letter signed by a history teacher
23 who witnessed the presentation.

24 (g) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the conclusion of the scholarship program each year,
3 the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee
4 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
6 ate a report on the study abroad program.

7 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—Each report re-
8 quired under paragraph (1) shall include informa-
9 tion relating to the following:

10 (A) The implementation of the study
11 abroad program.

12 (B) A financial report, including—

13 (i) the number and amount of chari-
14 table contributions to the study abroad
15 program; and

16 (ii) a comparison of such contribu-
17 tions from the preceding year of the study
18 abroad program.

19 (C) The number of participants.

20 (D) The names and locations of the sec-
21 ondary schools and post-secondary schools in
22 France attended by the participants.

23 (E) A description of the academic cur-
24 ricula.

1 (F) A description of any other activities
2 the participants carried out during their partici-
3 pation.

4 (h) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The
5 Secretary of State may accept and use donations to carry
6 out the study abroad program. Amounts received by the
7 Secretary of State in the form of donations shall be ex-
8 pended prior to the use of funds appropriated under sub-
9 section (i). The Secretary of State may reject a gift under
10 this section when the rejection is in the interest of the
11 Government.

12 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
14 necessary to carry out the study abroad program for each
15 of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

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