

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2901

To improve the acquisition workforce through the establishment of an acquisition management fellows program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BENNETT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To improve the acquisition workforce through the establishment of an acquisition management fellows program, 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 “Acquisition Workforce
5 Improvement Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENT-WIDE ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**
7 **FELLOWS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Federal Pro-
2 curement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403 et seq.) is
3 amended by adding at the end the following new sec-
4 tion:

5 **“SEC. 45. GOVERNMENT-WIDE ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**
6 **FELLOWS PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than
8 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Acquisi-
9 tion Workforce Improvement Act of 2009, the Adminis-
10 trator shall establish a government-wide acquisition man-
11 agement fellows program (in this section referred to as
12 the ‘program’) for the purpose of investing in the long-
13 term improvement and sustained excellence of the Federal
14 acquisition workforce.

15 “(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the program
16 shall be as follows:

17 “(1) To develop a new generation of acquisition
18 leaders with government-wide perspective, skills, and
19 experience.

20 “(2) To recruit individuals with the outstanding
21 academic merit, ethical value, business acumen, and
22 leadership skills to meet the acquisition needs of the
23 Federal Government.

24 “(3) To offer, upon completion of the program,
25 opportunities for advancement, competitive com-

1 pensation, and leadership opportunities at various
2 executive agencies.

3 “(c) STRUCTURE.—

4 “(1) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND COOPERATIVE
5 AGREEMENTS.—The Office of Federal Procurement
6 Policy shall enter into contracts, grants, or coopera-
7 tive agreements with one or more qualified univer-
8 sities with demonstrated expertise in Federal Gov-
9 ernment acquisition.

10 “(2) TRAINING.—The program shall consist of
11 one academic year of full-time, on-campus training
12 followed by two years of on-the-job and part-time
13 training toward a Masters or equivalent graduate
14 degree in related fields.

15 “(3) CURRICULUM.—The curriculum of the pro-
16 gram shall include the following elements:

17 “(A) Rotational assignments at three or
18 more executive agencies covering, among other
19 issues, acquisition planning, cost estimation,
20 formation and post-award administration of
21 cost-reimbursement contracts, time-and-mate-
22 rials contracts, indefinite delivery indefinite
23 quantity contracts, and interagency contracts,
24 terminations, and contract close-out.

1 “(B) All required non-agency-specific
2 training courses necessary for basic contracting
3 officer warrant as established by the Office of
4 Federal Procurement Policy.

5 “(C) Emphasis on transparency, account-
6 ability, and integrity in the public contracting
7 process.

8 “(D) Other necessary courses and edu-
9 cation as required by participating universities.

10 “(4) PRIORITY FOR EMPLOYMENT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each ex-
12 ecutive agency shall give priority to graduates
13 of the program for purposes of hiring employees
14 in the acquisition field, based on performance
15 during the program and other qualifications,
16 and shall initially appoint such graduates to po-
17 sitions at the GS–12, 13, or 14 levels of the
18 General Schedule, or equivalents.

19 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
20 in this paragraph shall be construed to author-
21 ize any hiring that violates any merit system
22 principle under section 2301 of title 5, United
23 States Code, or conflicts with any right of a
24 preference eligible (as defined under section
25 2108 of such title).

1 “(d) SIZE.—The total number of individuals entering
2 the program each year may not exceed 200. There shall
3 be at least 50 participants in the first year of the program,
4 100 participants in the second year, and 150 participants
5 thereafter.

6 “(e) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the
7 Administrator shall—

8 “(1) enter into one or more contracts, grants,
9 or cooperative agreements with qualified universities
10 having an expertise in Federal Government acquisi-
11 tion and the resources to administer the program
12 independently;

13 “(2) be responsible for the management and
14 oversight of the overall program and for placement
15 of individuals upon graduation;

16 “(3) allow participating universities to select
17 and to remove program participants in accordance
18 with the established academic process for such grad-
19 uate degree programs; and

20 “(4) periodically review the career development
21 of the program participants upon placement and
22 make necessary adjustments to the program to en-
23 sure the objectives are met.

24 “(f) SERVICE AGREEMENT.—

1 “(1) COMMITMENT FOR FEDERAL SERVICE.—A
2 person selected for participation in the program
3 shall commit to employment with the Federal Gov-
4 ernment in the field of acquisition, following comple-
5 tion of the program, under such terms and condi-
6 tions as the Administrator considers appropriate to
7 ensure the Federal Government receives proper re-
8 turn on investment. Such employment shall be for a
9 term of not less than one year for each year in the
10 program.

11 “(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—In cases of
12 candidates who do not successfully complete the pro-
13 gram or do not fulfill the minimum service require-
14 ments, the candidates shall be required to reimburse
15 the Federal Government for funds received under
16 the program.

17 “(g) OFPP ACQUISITION FELLOWS PROGRAM
18 FUND.—

19 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-
20 lished in the Treasury of the United States a fund
21 to be known as the ‘OFPP Acquisition Fellows De-
22 velopment Fund’ (in this section referred to as the
23 ‘Fund’).

24 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund
25 shall be used for—

1 “(A) the establishment and operations of
2 the program;

3 “(B) the award of contracts, grants, or co-
4 operative agreements to cover expenses includ-
5 ing—

6 “(i) tuition, books, materials, and
7 other academic expenses;

8 “(ii) room and board of students dur-
9 ing the time students are enrolled in the
10 program;

11 “(iii) expenses for travel as required
12 by the program;

13 “(iv) stipends;

14 “(v) planning and administration of
15 the program; and

16 “(vi) other necessary expenses the Ad-
17 ministrator considers necessary.

18 “(3) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—The Fund shall con-
19 sist of amounts appropriated or otherwise made
20 available to the Fund.”.

21 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
22 tents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by add-
23 ing at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 45. Government-wide acquisition management fellows program.”.

24 (b) REPORTS.—

1 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
3 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate congress-
4 sional committees a preliminary report on the pro-
5 gram, including a description of the program and
6 the five-year budget needed to carry out the govern-
7 ment-wide acquisition management fellows program
8 established under section 45 of the Office of Federal
9 Procurement Policy Act, as added by subsection (a).

10 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
11 after the commencement of the program and annu-
12 ally thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the
13 appropriate congressional committees a report on
14 the program. The report shall include—

15 (A) a description of the activities under the
16 program, including the number of individuals
17 who participated in the program and the train-
18 ing provided such individuals under the pro-
19 gram;

20 (B) an assessment of the effectiveness of
21 the program in meeting the objectives of the
22 program, including the performance of each
23 university administering the program; and

24 (C) any recommendations for additional
25 legislative or administrative action that the Ad-

1 administrator considers appropriate in light of the
2 program.

3 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs and the Committee
8 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

9 (B) the Committee on Oversight and Gov-
10 ernment Reform and the Committee on Appro-
11 priations of the House of Representatives.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated for the OFPP Acquisi-
14 tion Fellows Development Fund the following amounts:

15 (1) For fiscal year 2011, \$16,000,000.

16 (2) For fiscal year 2012, \$32,000,000.

17 (3) For fiscal year 2013, \$48,000,000.

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