

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2164

To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 15, 2007

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs 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 “NOAA Scholarship Act  
5 of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-  
5 thorized to establish a Science and Technology  
6 Scholarship Program to award scholarships to indi-  
7 viduals to recruit and prepare students for careers  
8 in the National Weather Service and in Administra-  
9 tion marine research, atmospheric research, and sat-  
10 ellite programs.

11 (2) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—Individuals shall  
12 be selected to receive scholarships under the scholar-  
13 ship program through a competitive process pri-  
14 marily on the basis of academic merit, with consider-  
15 ation given to financial need and the goal of pro-  
16 moting the participation of individuals described in  
17 section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering  
18 Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or  
19 1885b) in the scholarship program.

20 (3) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the  
21 scholarship program, the Administrator shall enter  
22 into contractual agreements with individuals selected  
23 under paragraph (2) under which the individuals  
24 agree to serve as full-time employees of the Adminis-  
25 tration, for the period described in subsection (f)(1),  
26 in positions needed by the Administration in fields

1 described in paragraph (1) and for which the indi-  
2 viduals are qualified, in exchange for receiving a  
3 scholarship.

4 (b) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligi-  
5 ble to participate in the scholarship program, an individual  
6 shall—

7 (1) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a  
8 full-time student at an institution of higher edu-  
9 cation in an academic program or field of study de-  
10 scribed in the list made available under subsection  
11 (d);

12 (2) be a citizen or permanent resident of the  
13 United States; and

14 (3) at the time of the initial scholarship award,  
15 not be an employee (as that term is defined in sec-  
16 tion 2105 of title 5, United States Code) of the  
17 United States.

18 (c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—An individual seeking  
19 a scholarship under the scholarship program shall submit  
20 an application to the Administrator at such time, in such  
21 manner, and containing such information, agreements, or  
22 assurances as the Administrator may require to carry out  
23 this section.

24 (d) ELIGIBLE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-  
25 trator shall make publicly available a list of academic pro-

1 grams and fields of study for which scholarships may be  
2 utilized in fields described in subsection (a)(1), and shall  
3 update the list as necessary.

4 (e) SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may pro-  
6 vide a scholarship under the scholarship program for  
7 an academic year if the individual applying for the  
8 scholarship has submitted to the Administrator, as  
9 part of the application required under subsection (c),  
10 a proposed academic program leading to a degree in  
11 a program or field of study on the list made avail-  
12 able under subsection (d).

13 (2) DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—An individual  
14 may not receive a scholarship under the scholarship  
15 program for more than 4 academic years, unless the  
16 Administrator grants a waiver.

17 (3) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The dollar  
18 amount of a scholarship under the scholarship pro-  
19 gram for an academic year shall be determined  
20 under regulations issued by the Administrator, but  
21 may not exceed the cost of attendance, as described  
22 in paragraph (4).

23 (4) AUTHORIZED USES.—A scholarship pro-  
24 vided under the scholarship program may be ex-  
25 pended for tuition, fees, and other authorized ex-

1       penses as established by the Administrator by regu-  
2       lation.

3               (5) CONTRACTS REGARDING DIRECT PAYMENTS  
4       TO INSTITUTIONS.—The Administrator may enter  
5       into a contractual agreement with an institution of  
6       higher education under which the amounts provided  
7       for a scholarship under this section for tuition, fees,  
8       and other authorized expenses are paid directly to  
9       the institution with respect to which the scholarship  
10      is provided.

11      (f) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

12              (1) DURATION OF SERVICE.—Except as pro-  
13      vided in subsection (h)(2), the period of service for  
14      which an individual shall be obligated to serve as an  
15      employee of the Administration shall be 24 months  
16      for each academic year for which a scholarship  
17      under the scholarship program is provided.

18              (2) SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE.—

19                  (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
20      subparagraph (B), obligated service under para-  
21      graph (1) shall begin not later than 60 days  
22      after the individual obtains the educational de-  
23      gree for which the scholarship was provided.

24                  (B) DEFERRAL.—The Administrator may  
25      defer the obligation of an individual to provide

1 a period of service under paragraph (1) if the  
2 Administrator determines that such a deferral  
3 is appropriate. The Administrator shall pre-  
4 scribe the terms and conditions under which a  
5 service obligation may be deferred through reg-  
6 ulation.

7 (g) PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF SCHOLARSHIP  
8 AGREEMENT.—

9 (1) FAILURE TO COMPLETE ACADEMIC TRAIN-  
10 ING.—Scholarship recipients who fail to maintain a  
11 high level of academic standing, as defined by the  
12 Administrator by regulation, who are dismissed from  
13 their educational institutions for disciplinary rea-  
14 sons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training  
15 before graduation from the educational program for  
16 which the scholarship was awarded, shall be in  
17 breach of their contractual agreement and, in lieu of  
18 any service obligation arising under such agreement,  
19 shall be liable to the United States for repayment  
20 not later than 1 year after the date of default of all  
21 scholarship funds paid to them and to the institution  
22 of higher education on their behalf under the agree-  
23 ment, except as provided in subsection (h)(2). The  
24 repayment period may be extended by the Adminis-

1       trator when determined to be necessary, as estab-  
2       lished by regulation.

3               (2) FAILURE TO BEGIN OR COMPLETE THE  
4       SERVICE OBLIGATION OR MEET THE TERMS AND  
5       CONDITIONS OF DEFERMENT.—Except as provided  
6       in subsection (h), an individual who receives a schol-  
7       arship under the scholarship program and who, for  
8       any reason, fails to begin or complete a service obli-  
9       gation under this section after completion of aca-  
10      ademic training, or fails to comply with the terms and  
11      conditions of deferment established by the Adminis-  
12      trator pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(B), shall be in  
13      breach of the contractual agreement. Such an indi-  
14      vidual shall be liable to the United States for an  
15      amount equal to—

16               (A) the total amount received by the indi-  
17      vidual under the scholarship program; plus

18               (B) the amount of interest that would have  
19      been earned on such amount, at the maximum  
20      legal prevailing rate as determined by the  
21      Treasurer of the United States, during the pe-  
22      riod between the date the amount was awarded  
23      to the individual and the date of the breach of  
24      the agreement.

25      (h) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATION.—

1           (1) DEATH OF INDIVIDUAL.—Any obligation of  
2           an individual incurred under the scholarship pro-  
3           gram (or a contractual agreement thereunder) for  
4           service or payment shall be canceled upon the death  
5           of the individual.

6           (2) IMPOSSIBILITY OR EXTREME HARDSHIP.—  
7           The Administrator shall by regulation provide for  
8           the partial or total waiver or suspension of any obli-  
9           gation of service or payment incurred by an indi-  
10          vidual under the scholarship program (or a contrac-  
11          tual agreement thereunder) whenever compliance by  
12          the individual is impossible or would involve extreme  
13          hardship to the individual, or if enforcement of such  
14          obligation with respect to the individual would be  
15          contrary to the best interests of the United States.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17          In this Act:

18          (a) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration”  
19          means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
20          tion.

21          (b) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator”  
22          means the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
23          of the Department of Commerce.

1           (c) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of at-  
2 tendance” has the meaning given that term in section 472  
3 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

4           (d) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
5 term “institution of higher education” has the meaning  
6 given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education  
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

8           (e) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—The term “scholarship  
9 program” means the Science and Technology Scholarship  
10 Program established under section 2(a).

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