

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 11, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 706

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Dodd, Eduardo Garcia,
Rodriguez, and Salas)*

February 25, 2015

An act to add Chapter 5.6 (commencing with Section 8400) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to ~~California AmeriCorps—STEM~~. *California Volunteers.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 706, as amended, Bonilla. ~~California AmeriCorps—STEM~~. *California Volunteers.*

Under existing law, by executive order, California Volunteers is established in the office of the Governor and is charged with overseeing programs and initiatives for service and volunteerism.

This bill would authorize California Volunteers, for so long as it is authorized to exist, to form a tax-exempt public benefit nonprofit corporation, or other tax-exempt entity, qualified under federal and state law to raise revenues and receive grants or other financial support from private or public sources, for the purposes of undertaking or funding any lawful activity authorized to be undertaken by California Volunteers. This bill would require the nonprofit corporation or other tax-exempt entity to use the financial support it seeks to be used solely for the governmental purposes approved by California Volunteers for activities within the scope of authority of California Volunteers.

This bill would *also* establish California AmeriCorps – STEM in state government, to be administered by California Volunteers and operate under existing federal AmeriCorps program guidelines. This bill would require that California AmeriCorps – STEM members be determined through an application process for eligible college graduates ~~with student loan debt~~, or *students*, as specified. This bill would allow a nonprofit corporation, as specified, or a public entity to apply, individually or in partnership with a corporation or individual interested in the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, to California Volunteers, through a competitive request for proposal process, to host one or more California AmeriCorps – STEM members. This bill would provide that the purpose of California ~~AmeriCorp~~ *AmeriCorps – STEM* is to increase STEM education programs to prepare the next generation for jobs in the STEM fields. This bill would authorize California Volunteers to solicit and accept private funding to help supplement the costs of California AmeriCorps – STEM.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5.6 (commencing with Section 8400) is
 2 added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

3
 4 CHAPTER 5.6. ~~CALIFORNIA AMERICORPS – STEM~~ CALIFORNIA
 5 VOLUNTEERS
 6

7 8400. (a) *California Volunteers, as established by Executive*
 8 *Order S-24-06, is authorized to form a tax-exempt public benefit*
 9 *nonprofit corporation, or other tax-exempt entity, qualified under*
 10 *federal and state law to raise revenues and receive grants or other*
 11 *financial support from private or public sources, for the purposes*
 12 *of undertaking or funding any lawful activity authorized to be*
 13 *undertaken by California Volunteers. Financial support sought*
 14 *by the nonprofit corporation or other tax-exempt entity shall be*
 15 *used solely for the governmental purposes approved by California*
 16 *Volunteers for activities within the scope of authority of California*
 17 *Volunteers.*

1 (b) The authority granted in subdivision (a) shall expire if the
2 governor rescinds Executive Order S-24-06 or otherwise rescinds
3 the establishment of California Volunteers.

4 ~~8400.~~

5 8405. (a) California AmeriCorps – STEM is hereby established
6 to be administered by California Volunteers, as established by
7 Executive Order S-24-06. California AmeriCorps – STEM shall
8 operate under the existing federal AmeriCorps program guidelines.

9 (b) California AmeriCorps – STEM members shall be selected
10 through an application process. Eligibility ~~will~~ shall be based on
11 the qualifications required for the federal AmeriCorps members,
12 as of January 1, 2015, and all of the following:

13 (1) The applicant shall have an associate or a baccalaureate
14 ~~degree. degree or be enrolled in a two-year or four-year~~
15 ~~postsecondary institution.~~

16 ~~(2) The applicant shall provide proof of incurred student loan~~
17 ~~debt.~~

18 ~~(3)~~

19 (2) The applicant shall be ~~21~~ 18 years of age or older.

20 ~~(4)~~

21 (3) The applicant shall provide proof that he or she lives in
22 California.

23 (c) A nonprofit corporation that is exempt from federal income
24 taxation as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the
25 Internal Revenue Code or a public entity may apply, individually
26 or in partnership with a corporation or individual interested in the
27 promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
28 education, to California Volunteers, through a competitive request
29 for proposal process, to host one or more California AmeriCorps
30 – STEM members. The purpose of California AmeriCorps – STEM
31 is to bring more STEM education programs into California schools,
32 *expanded learning programs*, after school programs, and
33 neighborhood and regional centers for children *in order* to prepare
34 the next generation for jobs in the STEM fields.

35 (d) California Volunteers is authorized to solicit and accept
36 private funding to help supplement the costs of California
37 AmeriCorps – STEM. These private funding sources may include,
38 but are not limited to, foundations, corporate funding,

- 1 crowdfunding, donation drives, or any other sources of private
- 2 investment that may be available.

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