US Code
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TITLE 2 - THE CONGRESS
CHAPTER 19—CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM

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CHAPTER 19—CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER I—CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM
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SUBCHAPTER II—CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION
811 to 817c. Omitted.
There is established a board to be known as the Congressional Award Board (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the “Board”), which shall be responsible for administering the Congressional Award Program described under section 802 of this title. The Board shall not be an agency or instrumentality of the United States, and the United States is not liable for any obligation or liability incurred by the Board.


Amendments
Pub. L. 106–533, § 1(b)(3)(B), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 802 of this title.

Short Title of 2010 Amendment
Pub. L. 111–200, § 1, July 7, 2010, 124 Stat. 1368, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 802 to 804, 806, and 808 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 808 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2009’.”

Short Title of 1992 Amendment

Short Title of 1990 Amendment
Pub. L. 101–525, § 1, Nov. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 2305, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 802, 803, and 806 to 808 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 808 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Award Amendments of 1990’.”

Short Title of 1988 Amendment
Pub. L. 100–674, § 1, Nov. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 3996, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 802, 803, and 806 to 808 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 803 of this title] may be cited as the “Congressional Award Act Amendments of 1988”.

Short Title of 1985 Amendment
Pub. L. 99–161, § 1, Nov. 25, 1985, 99 Stat. 934, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 802, 803, and 806 to 808 of this title and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 803 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Award Amendments of 1985’.”

Short Title
Pub. L. 96–114, title II, § 201, as added by Pub. L. 106–533, § 1(a), Nov. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 2545, provided that: “This [amending subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act’.”

Section 1 of Pub. L. 96–114 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Award Act’.”

§ 802. Program
(a) Establishment, functions, and purposes; nature of awards
The Board shall establish and administer a program to be known as the Congressional Award Program, which shall be designed to promote initiative, achievement, and excellence among youths in the areas of public service, personal development, and physical and expedition fitness. Under the program medals shall be awarded to young people within the United States, aged fourteen through twenty-three (subject to such exceptions as the Board may prescribe), who have satisfied the standards of achievement established by the Board under subsection (b) of this section. Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze, rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f) of this section.

(b) Implementation requirements for Board

In carrying out the Congressional Award Program, the Board shall—

(1) establish the standards of achievement required for young people to qualify as recipients of the medals and establish such procedures as may be required to verify that individuals satisfy such qualifications;
(2) designate the recipients of the medals in accordance with the standards established under paragraph (1) of this subsection;
(3) delineate such roles as the Board considers to be appropriate for the Director and Regional Directors in administering the Congressional Award, and set forth in the bylaws of the Board the duties, salaries, and benefits of the Director and Regional Directors;
(4) raise funds for the operation of the program; and
(5) take such other actions as may be appropriate for the administration of the Congressional Award Program.

No salary established by the Board shall exceed $75,000 per annum, except that for calendar years after 1986, such limit shall be increased in proportion to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

(c) Presentation of awards

The Board shall arrange for the presentation of the awards to the recipients and shall provide for participation by Members of Congress in such presentation, when appropriate. To the extent possible, recipients shall be provided with opportunities to exchange information and views with Members of Congress in connection with the presentation of the awards.

(d) Scholarships for recipients of Congressional Award Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals

The Board may award scholarships in such amounts as the Board determines to be appropriate to any recipient of the Congressional Award Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals.

(e) Omitted

(f) Congressional Award Program medals

(1) Design and striking

The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the medals described in subsection (a) of this section and awarded by the Board under this chapter. Subject to subsection (a) of this section, the medals shall be of such quantity, design, and specifications as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, after consultation with the Board.

(2) National medals

The medals struck pursuant to this chapter are National medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31.

(3) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be charged against the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the cost of the medals struck pursuant to this chapter.

Codification

Subsection (e), which required the Board to submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the Congressional Award Program, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104–66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, page 199 of House Document No. 103–7.

Amendments


2000—Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 106–533, § 1(b)(4)(A), which directed technical amendment to reference in original act which would have appeared in text as reference to section 804 (g)(1) of this title could not be executed because that reference did not appear in the original. See Codification note above.


1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103–329, § 637(1), struck out “gold, silver, and bronze” after “Under the program” and substituted last sentence for former last sentence which read as follows: “The medals shall be of such design and materials as the Board may determine.”


1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101–525 substituted “March 1” for “April 1”.

1988—Subsec. (e)(6) to (8). Pub. L. 100–674 added pars. (6) and (7) and redesignated former par. (6) as (8).

1985—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99–161, § 4(a), inserted provision limiting salaries established by Board under par. (3) to $75,000 per annum, such limit after 1986 being increased in proportion to Consumer Price Index.


Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 99–161, § 4(c), inserted “for each member, officer, employee, and consultant of the Board (or of the Corporation established pursuant to section 806 (g)(1) of this title)”.

§ 803. Board organization

(a) Membership; composition; appointment criteria; derivation of appointment

(1) The Board shall consist of 25 members, as follows:

(A) Six members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be a recipient of the Congressional Award.

(B) Six members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be a local Congressional Award program volunteer.

(C) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 of whom shall be a local Congressional Award program volunteer.

(D) Six members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, 1 of whom shall be a recipient of the Congressional Award.

(E) The Director of the Board, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

(2) In making appointments to the Board, the congressional leadership shall consider recommendations submitted by any interested party, including any member of the Board. One of the members appointed under each of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) shall be a member of the Congress.
(3) Individuals appointed to the Board shall have an interest in one or more of the fields of concern of the Congressional Award Program.

(4) For the purpose of determining the derivation of the appointment of any person appointed to the Board under this section, if there is a change in the status of majority and minority between the parties of the House or the Senate, each person appointed under this section shall be deemed to have been appointed by the leadership position set out in subsection (a)(1) of this section of the party of the individual who made the initial appointment of such person.

(b) Terms of appointed members; reappointment

(1) Appointed members of the Board shall continue to serve at the pleasure of the officer by whom they are appointed, and (unless reappointed under paragraph (2)) shall serve for a term of 4 years.

(2) (A) Subject to the limitations in subparagraph (B), members of the Board may be reappointed, except that no member may serve more than 2 full consecutive terms. Members may be reappointed to 2 full consecutive terms after being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board.

(B) Members of the Board shall not be subject to the limitation on reappointment in subparagraph (A) during their period of service as Chairman of the Board and may be reappointed to an additional full term after termination of such Chairmanship.

(3) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or (2), the term of each member of the Board shall begin on October 1 of the even numbered year which would otherwise apply with one-half of the Board positions having terms which begin in each even numbered year.

(B) Subparagraph (A) shall apply to appointments made to the Board on or after July 7, 2010.

(c) Vacancies in membership

(1) Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(2) Any appointed member of the Board may continue to serve after the expiration of his term until his successor has taken office.

(3) Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall not affect its power to function if there remain sufficient members to constitute a quorum under subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Notice; quorum

(1) A meeting of the Board may be convened only if—

(A) notice of the meeting was provided to each member in accordance with the bylaws; and

(B) not less than 11 members are present for the meeting at the time given in the notice.

(2) A majority of the members present when a meeting is convened shall constitute a quorum for the remainder of the meeting.

(e) Compensation for travel expenses of members

Members of the Board shall serve without pay but may be compensated for reasonable travel expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the Board.

(f) Meetings

The Board shall meet at least twice a year at the call of the Chairman (with at least one meeting in the District of Columbia) and at such other times as the Chairman may determine to be appropriate. The Chairman shall call a meeting of the Board whenever one-third of the members of the Board submit written requests for such a meeting.

(g) Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board shall be elected from among the members of the Board by a majority vote of the Board for such terms as the Board determines. The Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman in his absence.

(h) Appointment, functions, etc., of committees; membership
(1) The Board may appoint such committees, and assign to the committees such functions, as may be appropriate to assist the Board in carrying out its duties under this chapter. Members of such committees may include the members of the Board or such other qualified individuals as the Board may select.

(2) Any employee or officer of the Federal Government may serve as a member of a committee created by the Board, but may not receive compensation for services performed for such a committee.

(i) Bylaws and regulations; contents; transmittal to Congress

The Board shall establish such bylaws and other regulations as may be appropriate to enable the Board to carry out its functions under this chapter. Such bylaws and other regulations shall include provisions to prevent any conflict of interest, or the appearance of any conflict of interest, in the procurement and employment actions taken by the Board or by any officer or employee of the Board. Such bylaws shall include appropriate fiscal control, funds accountability, and operating principles to ensure compliance with the provisions of section 806 of this title. A copy of such bylaws shall be transmitted to each House of Congress not later than 90 days after November 25, 1985, and not later than 10 days after any subsequent amendment or revision of such bylaws.

(j) Removal from Board

Any member of the Board who fails to attend 4 consecutive Board meetings scheduled pursuant to the bylaws of the Board and for which proper notice has been given under such bylaws, or to send a designee of such member (approved in advance by the Board under provisions of its bylaws), is, by operation of this subsection, removed, for cause, from the Board as of the date of the last meeting from which they are absent. The Chairman of the Board shall take such steps as are necessary to inform members who have 3 absences of this subsection. The Chairman shall notify the House and the Senate, including the appropriate committees of each body, whenever there is a vacancy created by the operation of this subsection.


Amendments

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111–200 added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which related to terms of appointed members and reappointment of members.

2005—Subsec. (a)(1)(B), (C). Pub. L. 109–143, § 1(c)(1)(A), substituted “a local” for “a a local”.


Subsec. (a)(1)(B), (C). Pub. L. 106–63, § 1(b)(2), substituted “a local Congressional Award program volunteer” for “representative of a local Congressional Award Council”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 106–63, § 1(b)(1), substituted “recipient of the Congressional Award” for “member of the Congressional Award Association”.

§ 804. Administration

(a) Director; status; appointment and term; removal

In the administration of the Congressional Award Program, the Board shall be assisted by a Director, who shall be the principal executive of the program and who shall supervise the affairs of the Board. The Director shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board, and shall serve for such term as the Board may determine. The Director may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.

(b) Functions of Director
The Director shall, in consultation with the Board—

(1) formulate programs to carry out the policies of the Congressional Award Program;
(2) establish such divisions within the Congressional Award Program as may be appropriate; and
(3) employ and provide for the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the Congressional Award Program, subject to such policies as the Board shall prescribe under its bylaws.

(c) Requirements regarding financial operations; noncompliance with requirements

(1) The Director shall, in consultation with the Board, ensure that appropriate procedures for fiscal control and fund accounting are established for the financial operations of the Congressional Award Program, and that such operations are administered by personnel with expertise in accounting and financial management. Such personnel may be retained under contract. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall ensure that the liabilities of the Board do not in any fiscal year exceed the assets of the Board.

(2) (A) The Comptroller General of the United States shall determine for each fiscal year whether the Director has substantially complied with paragraph (1). The findings made by the Comptroller General under the preceding sentence shall be included in the reports submitted under section 807 (b) of this title.

(B) If the Director fails to substantially comply with paragraph (1), the Board shall instruct the Director to take such actions as may be necessary to correct such deficiencies, and shall remove and replace the Director if such deficiencies are not promptly corrected.


Amendments

2010—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(c)(1), which directed substitution of “in any fiscal year” for “in any calendar year,” in third sentence, was executed by making the substitution for “for any calendar year,” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(c)(2), added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows:


“(B) If the Director fails to substantially comply with paragraph (1), the Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to correct such deficiencies, and shall remove and replace the Director if such deficiencies are not promptly corrected.


§ 805. Regional award directors of program; appointment criteria

Regional award directors may be appointed by the Board, upon recommendation of the Director, for any State or other appropriate geographic area of the United States. The Director shall make such recommendations with respect to a State or geographic area only after soliciting recommendations
regarding such appointments from public and private youth organizations within such State or geographic area.


§ 806. Powers, functions, and limitations

(a) General operating and expenditure authority

Subject to such limitations as may be provided for under this section, the Board may take such actions and make such expenditures as may be necessary to carry out the Congressional Award Program, except that—

(1) the Board shall carry out its functions and make expenditures with—

(A) such resources as are available to the Board from sources other than the Federal Government; and

(B) funds awarded in any grant program administered by a Federal agency in accordance with the law establishing that grant program.

(2) the Board shall not take any actions which would disqualify the Board from treatment (for tax purposes) as an organization described in section 501 (c)(3) of title 26.

(b) Mandatory functions

(1) The Board shall establish such functions and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The functions established by the Board under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) communication with local Congressional Award Councils concerning the Congressional Award Program;

(B) provision, upon the request of any local Congressional Award Council, of such technical assistance as may be necessary to assist such council with its responsibilities, including the provision of medals, the preparation and provision of applications, guidance on disposition of applications, arrangements with respect to local award ceremonies, and other responsibilities of such council;

(C) conduct of outreach activities to establish new local Congressional Award Councils, particularly in inner-city areas and rural areas;

(D) in addition to those activities authorized under subparagraph (C), conduct of outreach activities to encourage, where appropriate, the establishment and development of Statewide Congressional Award Councils;

(E) fundraising;

(F) conduct of an annual Gold Medal Awards ceremony in the District of Columbia;

(G) consideration of implementation of the provisions of this chapter relating to scholarships; and

(H) carrying out of duties relating to management of the national office of the Congressional Award Program, including supervision of office personnel and of the office budget.

(c) Statewide Congressional Award Councils; establishment, purposes, duties, etc.

(1) In carrying out its functions with respect to Statewide Congressional Award Councils (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as Statewide Councils) under subsection (b) of this section, the Board shall develop guidelines, criteria, and standards for the formation of Statewide Councils. In order to create a Statewide Council, Members of Congress and Senators from each respective State are encouraged to work jointly with the Board.

(2) The establishment of Statewide Councils is intended to—
(A) facilitate expanded public participation and involvement in the program; and
(B) promote greater opportunities for involvement by members of the State congressional delegation.

(3) The duties and responsibilities of each Statewide Council established pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
   (A) promoting State and local awareness of the Congressional Award Program;
   (B) review of participant records and activities;
   (C) review and verification of information on, and recommendation of, candidates to the national board for approval;
   (D) planning and organization of bronze and silver award ceremonies;
   (E) assisting gold award recipients with travel to and from the national gold award ceremony; and
   (F) designation of a Statewide coordinator to serve as a liaison between the State and local boards and the national board.

(4) Each Statewide Council established under this section may receive contributions, and use such contributions for the purposes of the Program. The Board shall adopt appropriate financial management methods in order to ensure the proper accounting of these funds. Each Statewide Council shall comply with subsections (a), (d), (e), and (h) governing the Board.

(5) Each Statewide Council established pursuant to this section shall comply with the standard charter requirements of the national board of directors.

(d) Contracting authority

The Board may enter into and perform such contracts as may be appropriate to carry out its business, but the Board may not enter into any contract which would obligate the Board to expend an amount greater than the amount available to the Board for the purpose of such contract during the fiscal year in which the expenditure is to be made.

(e) Obtaining and acceptance of non-Federal funds and resources; indirect resources

(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), the Board may seek and accept funds and other resources to carry out its activities. The Board may not accept any funds or other resources which are—
   (A) donated with a restriction on their use unless such restriction merely provides that such funds or other resources be used in furtherance of the Congressional Award Program or a specific regional or local program or for scholarships; and
   (B) donated subject to the condition that the identity of the donor of the funds or resources shall remain anonymous.

The Board may permit donors to use the name of the Board or the name “Congressional Award Program” in advertising.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the Board may not receive any Federal funds or resources. The Board may benefit from in-kind and indirect resources provided by Offices of Members of Congress or the Congress. Further, the Board is not prohibited from receiving indirect benefits from efforts or activities undertaken in collaboration with entities which receive Federal funds or resources.

(f) Acceptance and utilization of services of voluntary, uncompensated personnel

The Board may accept and utilize the services of voluntary, uncompensated personnel.

(g) Lease, etc., of real or personal property

The Board may lease (or otherwise hold), acquire, or dispose of real or personal property necessary for, or relating to, the duties of the Board.

(h) Fiscal authority
The Board shall have no power—

(1) to issue bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations creating long-term indebtedness;
(2) to issue any share of stock or to declare or pay any dividends; or
(3) to provide for any part of the income or assets of the Board to inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or employee of the Board except as reasonable compensation for services or reimbursement for expenses.

(i) Congressional Award Foundation

(1) The Board shall provide for the incorporation of a nonprofit corporation to be known as the Congressional Award Foundation (together with any subsidiary nonprofit corporations determined desirable by the Board, collectively referred to in this subchapter as the “Corporation”) for the sole purpose of assisting the Board to carry out the Congressional Award Program, and shall delegate to the Corporation such duties as it considers appropriate, including the employment of personnel, expenditure of funds, and the incurrence of financial or other contractual obligations.

(2) The articles of incorporation of the Congressional Award Foundation shall provide that—

(A) the members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation shall be the members of the Board, with up to 24 additional voting members appointed by the Board, and the Director who shall serve as a nonvoting member; and

(B) the extent of the authority of the Foundation shall be the same as that of the Board.

(3) No director, officer, or employee of any corporation established under this subsection may receive compensation, travel expenses, or benefits from both the Corporation and the Board.


Amendments

2010—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(d), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “the Board shall carry out its functions and make expenditures with only such resources as are available to the Board from sources other than the Federal Government; and”.

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(e), added par. (4) and struck out former par. (4) which read as follows: “Each Statewide Council established pursuant to this section is authorized to receive public monetary and in-kind contributions, which may be made available to local boards to supplement or defray operating expenses. The Board shall adopt appropriate financial management methods in order to ensure the proper accounting of these funds.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(f)(1), inserted “to be” after “expenditure is”.


Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 111–200, § 2(g), added subsec. (i) and struck out former subsec. (i) which read as follows:

“(1) The Board shall provide for the establishment of a private nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of assisting the Board to carry out the Congressional Award Program, and shall delegate to the corporation such duties as it considers appropriate.

“(2) The articles of incorporation of the corporation established under this subsection shall provide that—

“(A) the members of the Board of Directors of the corporation shall be the members of the Board, and the Director of the corporation shall be the Director of the Board; and

“(B) the extent of the authority of the corporation shall be the same as that of the Board.

“(3) No director, officer, or employee of any corporation established under this subsection may receive compensation, travel expenses, or benefits from both the corporation and the Board.”

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101–525, § 7(a), which directed the insertion of “(a)” after the section designation, was not executed in view of existing subsec. (a) designation.
§ 807. Audits and evaluation

(a) Annual audits by Comptroller General; access to books, documents, papers, and records

The financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 806 (i) of this title shall be audited annually by the Comptroller General of the United States (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”). The Comptroller General, or any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access for the purpose of audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, may be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

(b) Annual report to Congress on audit results

The Comptroller General shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of the Congress, by May 15th of each calendar year, a report on the results of the audit of the financial records and on any such additional areas as the Comptroller General determines deserve or require evaluation.

Footnotes

1 See References in Text note below.
§ 808. Termination

The Board shall terminate October 1, 2013.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment


Savings Provision

Pub. L. 109–143, § 1(b)(2), Dec. 22, 2005, 119 Stat. 2659, provided that: “During the period of October 1, 2004, through the date of the enactment of this section [Dec. 22, 2005], all actions and functions of the Congressional Award Board under the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) shall have the same effect as though no lapse or termination of the Board ever occurred.”

Section 5401(c) of div. A of Pub. L. 104–208 provided that: “During the period of October 1, 1995, through the date of the enactment of this section [Sept. 30, 1996], all actions and functions of the Congressional Award Board under the Congressional Award Act [2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.] shall have the same effect as though no lapse or termination of the Congressional Award Board ever occurred.”

Section 2(b) of Pub. L. 101–525 provided that: “During the period of October 1, 1990, through the date of the enactment of this section [Nov. 6, 1990], all actions and functions of the Congressional Award Board under the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) shall have the same effect as though no lapse or termination of the Board ever occurred.”
SUBCHAPTER II—CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION

§§ 811 to 817c. Omitted

Codification

Sections were omitted pursuant to section 817b of this title which provided that the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Board terminated 6 years after November 22, 2000.


