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1ST SESSION

S. 1010

To establish a National Foreign Language Coordination Council.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2009

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a National Foreign Language Coordination Council.

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 “National Foreign Lan-
5 guage Coordination Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FOREIGN LAN-**
7 **GUAGE COORDINATION COUNCIL.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
9 Executive Office of the President a National Foreign Lan-
10 guage Coordination Council (in this Act referred to as the

1 “Council”), directed by a National Language Advisor (in
2 this Act referred to as the “Advisor”) appointed by the
3 President.

4 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall consist of the
5 following members or their designees:

6 (1) The Advisor, who shall serve as the chair-
7 person of the Council.

8 (2) The Secretary of Education.

9 (3) The Secretary of Defense.

10 (4) The Secretary of State.

11 (5) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

12 (6) The Attorney General.

13 (7) The Director of National Intelligence.

14 (8) The Secretary of Labor.

15 (9) The Secretary of Commerce.

16 (10) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
17 ices.

18 (11) The Director of the Office of Personnel
19 Management.

20 (12) The heads of such other Federal agencies
21 as the Council considers appropriate.

22 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be
24 charged with—

1 (A) overseeing, coordinating, and imple-
2 menting continuing national security and edu-
3 cation language initiatives;

4 (B) not later than 18 months after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, developing a na-
6 tional foreign language strategy, building upon
7 efforts such as the National Security Language
8 Initiative, the National Language Conference,
9 the National Defense Language Roadmap, the
10 Language Continuum of the Department of
11 State, and others, in consultation with—

12 (i) State and local government agen-
13 cies;

14 (ii) academic sector institutions;

15 (iii) foreign language-related interest
16 groups;

17 (iv) business associations, including
18 industry;

19 (v) heritage associations; and

20 (vi) other relevant stakeholders;

21 (C) conducting a survey of the status of
22 Federal agency foreign language and area ex-
23 pertise and agency needs for such expertise;
24 and

1 (D) monitoring the implementation of such
2 strategy through—

3 (i) application of current and recently
4 enacted laws; and

5 (ii) the promulgation and enforcement
6 of rules and regulations.

7 (2) STRATEGY CONTENT.—The strategy devel-
8 oped under paragraph (1) shall include—

9 (A) recommendations for amendments to
10 title 5, United States Code, in order to improve
11 the ability of the Federal Government to recruit
12 and retain individuals with foreign language
13 proficiency and provide foreign language train-
14 ing for Federal employees;

15 (B) the long-term goals, anticipated effect,
16 and needs of national security language initia-
17 tives;

18 (C) identification of crucial priorities
19 across all sectors;

20 (D) identification and evaluation of Fed-
21 eral foreign language programs and activities,
22 including—

23 (i) any duplicative or overlapping pro-
24 grams that may impede efficiency;

25 (ii) recommendations on coordination;

1 (iii) program enhancements; and

2 (iv) allocation of resources so as to
3 maximize use of resources;

4 (E) needed national policies and cor-
5 responding legislative and regulatory actions in
6 support of, and allocation of designated re-
7 sources to, promising programs and initiatives
8 at all levels (Federal, State, and local), espe-
9 cially in the less commonly taught languages
10 that are seen as critical for national security
11 and global competitiveness during the next 20
12 to 50 years;

13 (F) effective ways to increase public aware-
14 ness of the need for foreign language skills and
15 career paths in all sectors that can employ
16 those skills, with the objective of increasing
17 support for foreign language study among—

18 (i) Federal, State, and local leaders;

19 (ii) students;

20 (iii) parents;

21 (iv) elementary, secondary, and post-
22 secondary educational institutions; and

23 (v) employers;

1 (G) recommendations for incentives for re-
2 lated educational programs, including foreign
3 language teacher training;

4 (H) coordination of cross-sector efforts, in-
5 cluding public-private partnerships;

6 (I) coordination initiatives to develop a
7 strategic posture for language research and rec-
8 ommendations for funding for applied foreign
9 language research into issues of national con-
10 cern;

11 (J) identification of and means for repli-
12 cating best practices at all levels and in all sec-
13 tors, including best practices from the inter-
14 national community; and

15 (K) recommendations for overcoming bar-
16 riers in foreign language proficiency.

17 (d) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGY TO PRESIDENT AND
18 CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of
19 enactment of this Act, the Council shall prepare and sub-
20 mit to the President and the relevant committees of Con-
21 gress the strategy required under subsection (c).

22 (e) MEETINGS.—The Council may hold such meet-
23 ings, and sit and act at such times and places, as the
24 Council considers appropriate, but shall meet in formal
25 session not less than 2 times a year. State and local gov-

1 ernment agencies and other organizations (such as aca-
2 demic sector institutions, foreign language-related interest
3 groups, business associations, industry, and heritage com-
4 munity organizations) shall be invited, as appropriate, to
5 public meetings of the Council at least once a year.

6 (f) STAFF.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisor may—

8 (A) appoint, without regard to the provi-
9 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing
10 the competitive service, such personnel as the
11 Advisor considers necessary; and

12 (B) compensate such personnel without re-
13 gard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
14 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title.

15 (2) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

16 Upon request of the Council, any Federal Govern-
17 ment employee may be detailed to the Council with-
18 out reimbursement, and such detail shall be without
19 interruption or loss of civil service status or privi-
20 lege.

21 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
22 approval of the Council, the Advisor may procure
23 temporary and intermittent services under section
24 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

1 (4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Council members and
2 staff shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
3 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
4 employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter
5 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from
6 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
7 formance of services for the Council.

8 (5) SECURITY CLEARANCE.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
10 graph (B), the appropriate Federal agencies or
11 departments shall cooperate with the Council in
12 expeditiously providing to the Council members
13 and staff appropriate security clearances to the
14 extent possible pursuant to existing procedures
15 and requirements.

16 (B) EXCEPTION.—No person shall be pro-
17 vided with access to classified information
18 under this section without the appropriate re-
19 quired security clearance access.

20 (6) COMPENSATION.—The rate of pay for any
21 employee of the Council (including the Advisor) may
22 not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Execu-
23 tive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United
24 States Code.

25 (g) POWERS.—

1 (1) DELEGATION.—Any member or employee of
2 the Council may, if authorized by the Council, take
3 any action that the Council is authorized to take in
4 this Act.

5 (2) INFORMATION.—

6 (A) COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO SECURE.—

7 The Council may secure directly from any Fed-
8 eral agency such information, consistent with
9 Federal privacy laws, including The Family
10 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.
11 1232g) and Department of Education’s General
12 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(h)),
13 the Council considers necessary to carry out its
14 responsibilities.

15 (B) REQUIREMENT TO FURNISH RE-

16 QUESTED INFORMATION.—Upon request of the
17 Advisor, the head of such agency shall furnish
18 such information to the Council.

19 (3) DONATIONS.—The Council may accept, use,
20 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-
21 erty.

22 (4) MAIL.—The Council may use the United
23 States mail in the same manner and under the same
24 conditions as other Federal agencies.

1 (h) CONFERENCES, NEWSLETTER, AND WEBSITE.—

2 In carrying out this Act, the Council—

3 (1) may arrange Federal, regional, State, and
4 local conferences for the purpose of developing and
5 coordinating effective programs and activities to im-
6 prove foreign language education;

7 (2) may publish a newsletter concerning Fed-
8 eral, State, and local programs that are effectively
9 meeting the foreign language needs of the Nation;
10 and

11 (3) shall create and maintain a website con-
12 taining information on the Council and its activities,
13 best practices on language education, and other rel-
14 evant information.

15 (i) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
17 after, the Council shall prepare and transmit to the Presi-
18 dent and the relevant committees of Congress a report
19 that describes—

20 (1) the activities of the Council;

21 (2) the efforts of the Council to improve foreign
22 language education and training; and

23 (3) impediments to the use of a National For-
24 eign Language program, including any statutory and
25 regulatory restrictions.

1 (j) ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL LANGUAGE AD-
2 VISOR.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Language Ad-
4 visor appointed by the President shall be a nation-
5 ally recognized individual with credentials and abili-
6 ties across the sectors to be involved with creating
7 and implementing long-term solutions to achieving
8 national foreign language and cultural competency.

9 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Advisor shall—

10 (A) develop and monitor the implementa-
11 tion of a national foreign language strategy,
12 built upon the efforts of the National Security
13 Language Initiative, across all sectors;

14 (B) establish formal relationships among
15 the major stakeholders in meeting the needs of
16 the Nation for improved capabilities in foreign
17 languages and cultural understanding, including
18 Federal, State, and local government agencies,
19 academia, industry, labor, and heritage commu-
20 nities; and

21 (C) coordinate and lead a public informa-
22 tion campaign that raises awareness of public
23 and private sector careers requiring foreign lan-
24 guage skills and cultural understanding, with
25 the objective of increasing interest in and sup-

1 port for the study of foreign languages among
2 national leaders, the business community, local
3 officials, parents, and individuals.

4 (k) ENCOURAGEMENT OF STATE INVOLVEMENT.—

5 (1) STATE CONTACT PERSONS.—The Council
6 shall consult with each State to provide for the des-
7 ignation by each State of an individual to serve as
8 a State contact person for the purpose of receiving
9 and disseminating information and communications
10 received from the Council.

11 (2) STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCILS AND LEAD
12 AGENCIES.—Each State is encouraged to establish a
13 State interagency council on foreign language co-
14 ordination or designate a lead agency for the State
15 for the purpose of assuming primary responsibility
16 for coordinating and interacting with the Council
17 and State and local government agencies as nec-
18 essary.

19 (l) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Council
20 shall provide to Congress such information as may be re-
21 quested by Congress, through reports, briefings, and other
22 appropriate means.

1 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary
3 to carry out this Act.

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