

National Service Bill

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TO

Provide a system of national service for young persons; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 National service system

- (1) Every individual who has attained the age of 18 years, and who has not attained the age of 26 years, shall be liable to serve one year of national service at some point between these years unless exempt.
- (2) Exempt individuals are those with severe mental or physical disability. 5
- (3) National service shall be defined as participation in a full time scheme accredited by HM Government as meeting the requirements of national service and set out in regulations by the Secretary of State.
- (4) Non-exempt individuals who do not serve one year of national service before the age of 26 years shall be guilty of an offence. 10

2 Scope of the scheme

- (1) Regulations shall provide that the scheme must extend the scope of the National Citizen Service and include the following elements—
 - (a) educational assistance for those participants who have yet to attain basic educational requirements of reading and writing in English and mathematics; 15
 - (b) coaching and instruction to attain basic levels of physical fitness, personal discipline, smart appearance, self respect and respect for others;
 - (c) instruction in personal financial budgeting, household bills, nutrition, cooking, time keeping, life skills, tolerance towards others, treating elderly and disabled people with dignity and respect; and 20
 - (d) instruction in basic aspects of the law in relation to the most common offences involving young people.

- (2) Regulations shall also provide that the scheme shall include –
- (a) a residential element, requiring that participants live away from home; and
 - (b) an element of public service, comprising one or more of the following to be chosen by the individual –
 - (i) charitable work,
 - (ii) social action,
 - (iii) care for the elderly or disabled,
 - (iv) overseas development activity, or
 - (v) work connected with the National Health Service, the emergency services or the Armed Forces.
- 3 Pay and tax allowance for participants**
- (1) Participants in national service shall be paid the national adult minimum wage during their year of service with accommodation and travel funded by the Secretary of State.
- (2) Regulations shall provide that a person who has successfully completed their year of national service shall be presented with a national service certificate which shall entitle them to a lifetime income tax rate personal allowance 10 per cent above the personal allowance that would otherwise apply.
- 4 Interpretation**
- In this Act “national adult minimum wage” means the minimum wage as specified under section 2 of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 and exemptions and modifications set out in section 3 of that Act shall not apply.
- 5 Financial provision**
- There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*
- (a) *any expenditure of the Secretary of State in consequence of this Act, and*
 - (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which under any other Act are payable out of money so provided.*
- 6 Offence**
- Regulations shall provide for those guilty of an offence under section 1(4) to be subject to a penalty.
- 7 Regulations**
- Regulations under this Act shall be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the regulations have been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- 8 Short title, commencement and extent**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the National Service Act 2013.
- (2) This Act comes into force one year after Royal Assent.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

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*Presented by Mr Philip Hollobone,
supported by Mr Stewart Jackson.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 24 June 2013.*

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