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SECRETARY OF THE STATE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER NINE

STATE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHEREAS, the growing importance of community service as a means of addressing many of the country's unmet social, environmental, educational and public safety needs has revealed new opportunities for improving the quality of life for Connecticut residents; and

WHEREAS, encouraging community service as an integral part of spurring the growth of our state and nation and requires cooperative efforts by and among the public, private and nonprofit sectors, its people and communities; and

WHEREAS, a State Commission is necessary to advise and assist in the development of a comprehensive, statewide service plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen participation in Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT

The State Commission on National and Community Service ("Commission") is hereby established to encourage community service and volunteer participation as a means of community and state problem-solving; to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the State; to develop a long-term, comprehensive vision and plan for action for community service initiatives in Connecticut; and to serve as the State's liaison to national and state organizations which support its mission.

Until such time as the Commission is appointed and operating, the Connecticut Department of Higher Education shall perform any and all duties prescribed herein in consultation with appropriate parties.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall consist of no fewer than fifteen (15) and no more than twenty-five (25) members who as individuals are representatives of certain interests or expertise as expressed in the National and Community Service Trust Act and its implementing regulations. Not more than (fifty) 50 percent of the Commission plus one member may be from the same political party. To the extent possible, it shall be balanced according to race, ethnicity, age, disability and gender characteristics. Not more than twenty-five (25) percent of the Commission members may be employees of state government, though additional state agency representatives may sit on the Commission as non-voting, ex-officio members.

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In establishing the Commission, the Governor shall appoint one-third of the initial members for a term of one year; one-third for a term of two years; and one-third for a term of three years. Following expiration of these initial terms, all appointments shall be for three-year terms. Vacancies among the members shall be filled by the Governor to serve for the remainder of the term.

Section 3. GOVERNANCE

As provided in the National and Community Service Trust Act, the Chair of the Commission shall be elected by the voting Commission members from among their ranks, with term of office to be established by the membership. The Commission shall establish bylaws to govern its procedures and shall elect additional officers and appoint such committees and advisory groups as may be convenient or necessary to the transaction of its business. The Commission shall meet quarterly or more frequently.

Section 4. DUTIES

In the performance of its tasks and functions, the Commission shall:

A. Ensure that its funding decisions meet all federal and state statutory requirements; and

B. Recommend innovative and creative statewide service programs to increase volunteer participation in all age groups and community-based problem-solving among diverse participants; and

C. Develop and implement a centralized and organized system for obtaining information and technical support concerning volunteerism and community service recruitment, programs, training methods, materials, and activities throughout Connecticut; and shall share such information and support upon request; and

D. Promote strong inter-agency and inter-organizational collaboration as an avenue for maximizing resources; and

E. Provide public recognition and support of individual volunteer efforts and successful or promising private sector initiatives and public/private partnerships which address community needs; and

F. Stimulate increased public awareness of the impact of volunteer services in Connecticut; and

G. Utilize local, state and federal resources to reinforce, expand and initiate quality service programs; and

H. Serve as the State's liaison and voice to appropriate national and state organizations which support its mission; and

I. Prepare a national three-year service plan for the state which follows state and federal guidelines; and

J. Prepare annual financial assistance applications of the State under regulations of the National and Community Service Trust Act; and

K. Assist in the preparation of the application of the State Department of Education for assistance under The National and Community Service Trust Act; and

L. Prepare the State's application under The National and Community Service Trust Act for the approval of service positions; and

M. Develop a state system for the recruitment and placement of participants in programs that receive assistance under the national service laws and disseminate information concerning national service programs that receive such assistance or approved national service positions; and

N. Administer the State's grant program in support of national service programs using assistance provided to the State under The National and Community Service Trust Act including selection, oversight and evaluation of grant recipients; and

O. Coordinate functions, including recruitment, public awareness and training activities, with any division of the Federal ACTION Program or the Corporation for National and Community Service outlined in The National and Community Service Trust Act; and

P. Perform other duties as shall be described in the National and Community Service Trust Act and its implementing regulations.

Section 5. ADMINISTRATION AND EXPENSES

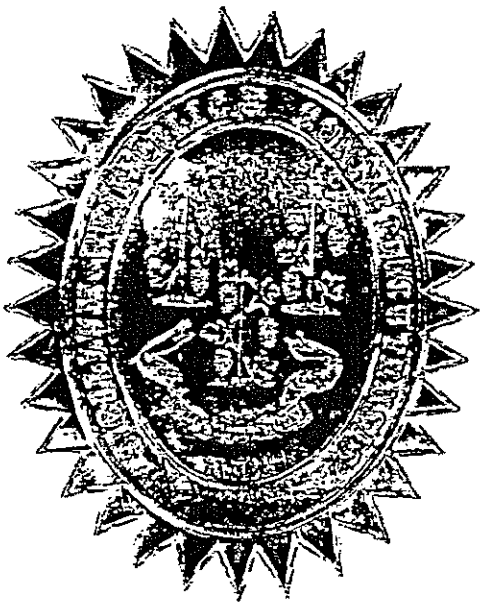
The Connecticut Department of Higher Education shall provide necessary administrative and staff support services to the Commission within the limitations imposed by available federal and state funds for this purpose. The Commission is authorized to accept funds and in-kind services from other state and federal entities. No per diem allowance shall be paid to members of the Commission. Members of the Commission and staff shall receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with state law.

THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

DATED at HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, this 3rd day of December, 1993.

LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.
GOVERNOR

Filed this Third day of December, 1993.

Pauline R. Kezer
Secretary of the State

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