SEC. ___. AUTHORITY FOR SERVICE COMMITMENT FOR RESERVISTS WHO ACCEPT FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR GRANTS TO BE PERFORMED IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2603(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting "(or in the case of a member of the Selected Reserve, on active duty or in the Selected Reserve as specified in the agreement)" after "active duty".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to agreements entered into under section 2603(b) of title 10, United States Code, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This amendment clarifies service commitment requirements for Reservists who attend fellowship developmental education programs.

Current law requires individuals to complete their obligation on "active duty" for a period "three times the length of the period of the education or training." For the Reserve Components this is an issue as the components maintain a limited number of full-time active duty positions and these are managed as a career program. The intent of the fellowship program is not to create active-duty Reservists. Rather, the intent is to take Reservists with senior leader and/or command potential and provide them with experience in the legislative and budgeting process, inter-agency process, National Security Strategy, and enhance critical thinking skills and perspective through a rigorous academic program.

Fellowships are treated differently than other educational programs. In the Air Force, fellowships counts as in-residence developmental education (IDE/SDE). All other IDE/SDE programs permit a Reservist to continue service in their chosen status for a specified period (three years) following completion of the IDE/SDE program. Given the number of the days associated with service as a traditional Reservist or individual mobilization augmentee, the fellow has three-times the commitment. Continued service as a traditional Reservist or individual mobilization augmentee would permit the fellow/potential leader to take the experience back to the field.

This amendment would maintain the integrity of the program by ensuring an obligation for continued service in the Reserve Component. It would also ensure all categories of the Reserve Component have the same leadership and developmental education opportunities.

Budget Implications: The proposal has no budgetary impact. Current law requires an active-duty service commitment of three-times the length of the fellowship. There are substantial costs associated with those active-duty tours. This proposal gives the Reserve Components the flexibility of permitting the commitment to be fulfilled in an active-status (traditional reserve, IMA, etc.). A three-year active-status Reserve commitment is significantly less expensive than a three-year active-duty commitment.

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would amend section 2603 of title 10, United States Code, as follows:

§ 2603. Acceptance of fellowships, scholarships, or grants

(a) * * *

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(b) Each member of the Armed Forces who accepts a fellowship, scholarship, or grant in accordance with subsection (a) shall, before he is permitted to undertake the education or training contemplated by that fellowship, scholarship, or grant, agree in writing that, after he completes the education or training, he will serve on active duty **(or in the case of a member of the Selected Reserve, on active duty or in the Selected Reserve as specified in the agreement)** for a period at least three times the length of the period of the education or training.