

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 374

To establish a National Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2001

Mr. ROYCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To establish a National Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government.

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 Commission
5 to Eliminate Waste in Government Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission known as the Na-
8 tional Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government (in
9 this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the
3 Commission—

4 (1) to conduct a private sector survey on man-
5 agement and cost control in the Federal Govern-
6 ment;

7 (2) to conduct in-depth reviews of the oper-
8 ations of the executive agencies;

9 (3) to review existing Government Accounting
10 Office, Congressional Budget Office, and Inspector
11 General reports and other existing governmental and
12 nongovernmental recommendations for reducing
13 waste, including recommendations from the Presi-
14 dent's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, and,
15 based on this review, to periodically submit reports
16 to the President and Congress including a list of
17 such recommendations that the Commission deter-
18 mines are most significant, the estimated savings of
19 the recommendations, and determinations of whether
20 the recommendations can be implemented by Execu-
21 tive order or require legislative action; and

22 (4) to submit to the President and the Congress
23 recommendations for improving the budget process
24 and management and for reducing waste and costs
25 in the Federal Government.

1 (b) PARTICULAR AREAS TO BE EXAMINED.—In ful-
2 filling the duties described in subsection (a), the Commis-
3 sion shall identify and address—

4 (1) opportunities for increased efficiency and
5 reduced costs in the Federal Government that can
6 be realized by Executive action or legislation;

7 (2) areas in the Federal Government where
8 managerial accountability can be enhanced and ad-
9 ministrative control can be improved;

10 (3) specific Federal programs that have accom-
11 plished their objectives and ought to be terminated;

12 (4) specific Federal program services that could
13 be provided at a lower cost by the private sector;

14 (5) specific reforms of the budget process that
15 would yield savings, increase accountability and effi-
16 ciency, and enhance public confidence in the budget
17 process; and

18 (6) specific areas in the Federal Government
19 where further study can be justified by potential sav-
20 ings.

21 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

22 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
23 shall be composed of 12 members who are not officers or
24 employees of any government and who are especially quali-
25 fied to serve on the Commission by virtue of their edu-

1 cation, training, or experience. Not more than 6 members
2 of the Commission shall be of the same political party.
3 The members shall be appointed as follows:

4 (1) Four individuals appointed by the Presi-
5 dent, not more than two of whom shall be from the
6 same political party.

7 (2) Three individuals appointed by the Speaker
8 of the House of Representatives, not more than two
9 of whom shall be from the same political party.

10 (3) One individual appointed by the minority
11 leader of the House of Representatives.

12 (4) Three individuals appointed by the majority
13 leader of the Senate, not more than two of whom
14 shall be from the same political party.

15 (5) One individual appointed by the minority
16 leader of the Senate.

17 (b) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If an indi-
18 vidual is appointed to the Commission, and later becomes
19 an officer or employee of a government, such individual
20 may continue as a member of the Commission for not
21 longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date such
22 individual becomes such an officer or employee.

23 (c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—Appointments
24 shall be made within 30 days of the date of the enactment
25 of this Act.

1 (d) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
2 life of the Commission.

3 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
4 be filled within 30 days in the manner in which the origi-
5 nal appointment was made.

6 (f) COMPENSATION; RATES OF PAY.—Members of
7 the Commission shall serve without pay.

8 (g) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission
9 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
10 hearings.

11 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-
12 mission shall be elected by the members from among the
13 members.

14 (i) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at least
15 once each month at the call of the Chairperson of the
16 Commission.

17 **SEC. 5. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

18 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
19 tor appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission and
20 paid a rate determined by the Commission.

21 (b) STAFF.—With the approval of the Commission,
22 the Director of the Commission may appoint personnel as
23 the Director considers appropriate.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
3 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
4 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
5 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (b) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Any Member or
7 agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Com-
8 mission, take any action which the Commission is author-
9 ized to take by this section.

10 (c) INFORMATION.—The Commission may secure di-
11 rectly from any Federal agency information necessary to
12 enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-
13 person of the Commission, the head of the Federal agency
14 shall furnish the information to the Commission.

15 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
16 contract with and compensate government and private
17 agencies or persons for supplies or services without regard
18 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

19 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

20 (a) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Pursuant to section
21 3(a)(3) the Commission shall issue periodic reports to the
22 President and the Congress.

23 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the expiration
24 of the 24-month period beginning on the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the
26 President and the Congress a final report setting forth

1 the findings and conclusions of the Commission and spe-
2 cific recommendations for legislative and administrative
3 actions that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

4 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate not later than the
6 expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on
7 which the Commission submits its final report under sec-
8 tion 7(b).

9 **SEC. 9 FUNDING AND SUPPORT.**

10 The Commission is to be funded, staffed and
11 equipped, by the private sector without cost to the Federal
12 Government. To accomplish this objective, it is expected
13 that the Secretary of Commerce will engage in a joint
14 project with a nonprofit organization pursuant to the first
15 section of Public Law 91–412 (15 U.S.C. 1525) for the
16 purpose of providing support for the Commission.

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