

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 141

To establish the Select Commission to Advise on Reforming Elections to issue recommendations for the reform of the laws governing the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office, to establish expedited procedures for the consideration of legislation implementing the recommendations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Select Commission to Advise on Reforming Elections to issue recommendations for the reform of the laws governing the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office, to establish expedited procedures for the consideration of legislation implementing the recommendations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Section Commission
3 to Advise on Reforming Elections Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMISSION TO AD-**
5 **VICE ON REFORMING ELECTIONS.**

6 There is established a commission to be known as the
7 “Select Commission to Advise on Reforming Elections”
8 (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”). The pur-
9 poses of the Commission are to study the laws relating
10 to the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal of-
11 fice and to report and recommend legislation to reform
12 those laws.

13 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

14 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be com-
15 posed of 12 members appointed not later than 60 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act by the Presi-
17 dent, of whom—

18 (1) Three members shall be appointed from
19 among a list of nominees submitted by the majority
20 leader of the House of Representatives;

21 (2) Three members shall be appointed from
22 among a list of nominees submitted by the majority
23 leader of the Senate;

24 (3) Two members shall be appointed from
25 among a list of nominees submitted by the minority
26 leader of the House of Representatives;

1 (4) Two members shall be appointed from
2 among a list of nominees submitted by the minority
3 leader of the Senate; and

4 (5) Two members shall be appointed from indi-
5 viduals meeting such criteria as the President may
6 apply.

7 (b) CHAIR.—The members of the Commission shall
8 select two members to serve as co-chairs of the Commis-
9 sion.

10 (c) TERMS.—The members of the Commission shall
11 serve for the life of the Commission.

12 (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
13 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
14 was made.

15 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

16 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the pur-
17 pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act
18 at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence
19 as the Commission considers appropriate.

20 (b) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission
21 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
22 hearings.

23 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

24 (a) PAY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS.—(1)
25 Each member of the Commission, other than the co-chairs,

1 shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of
2 the annual rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the
3 Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
4 States Code, for each day (including travel time) during
5 which the member is engaged in the actual performance
6 of duties vested in the Commission. Each co-chair shall
7 be paid for each day referred to in the preceding sentence
8 at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate
9 of basic pay payable for level III of the Executive Schedule
10 under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

11 (2) Members of the Commission shall receive travel
12 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
13 cordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United
14 States Code.

15 (b) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall, with-
16 out regard to section 5311(b) of title 5, United States
17 Code, appoint a staff director, who shall be paid at the
18 rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive
19 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States
20 Code.

21 (c) STAFF OF COMMISSION; SERVICES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such rules as may
23 be adopted by the Commission, the staff director of
24 the Commission, without regard to the provisions of
25 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments

1 in the competitive service and without regard to the
2 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-
3 ter 53 of that title relating to classifications and
4 General Schedule pay rates, and subject to the ap-
5 proval of the Commission, may appoint such person-
6 nel as the staff director considers necessary, except
7 that an individual so appointed may not receive pay
8 in excess of the maximum annual rate of basic pay
9 payable for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule
10 under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

11 (2) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERV-
12 ICES.—Subject to the approval of the Commission,
13 the staff director of the Commission may procure
14 temporary and intermittent services to the same ex-
15 tent as is authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5,
16 United States Code.

17 **SEC. 6. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES**
18 **IN LAW.**

19 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the ap-
20 pointment of its members, the Commission shall submit
21 to the President, the Speaker and minority leader of the
22 House of Representatives, and the majority and minority
23 leaders of the Senate a report of the activities of the Com-
24 mission.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN CAMPAIGN
2 FINANCE LAWS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
4 the Commission shall submit to the President, the
5 Speaker and minority leader of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives, and the majority and minority leaders
7 of the Senate any recommendations for changes in
8 the laws (including regulations) governing the con-
9 ducting and financing of Federal campaigns (includ-
10 ing any changes in the rules of the Senate or the
11 House of Representatives) to which seven or more
12 members of the Commission may agree—

13 (A) by including such recommendations in
14 the report submitted under subsection (a); or

15 (B) with the approval of a majority of its
16 members, by submitting a supplemental report
17 containing such recommendations not later than
18 180 days after submitting the report under sub-
19 section (a).

20 (2) FINAL DEADLINE.—The Commission may
21 not submit recommendations under this subsection
22 after July 15, 1998.

23 (c) DISSENTING VIEWS.—The Commission shall in-
24 clude in the report submitted under subsection (a) and
25 in any recommendations submitted under subsection (b)

1 any dissenting or minority views of its members, including
 2 recommendations for changes in law which were proposed
 3 by any member and to which seven or more members did
 4 not agree.

5 **SEC. 7. EXPEDITED CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF**
 6 **LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING REC-**
 7 **OMMENDATIONS.**

8 (a) PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION.—If the Commis-
 9 sion submits any recommendation for changes in the laws
 10 under section 6(b), those members concurring in the rec-
 11 ommendation shall include with the recommendation legis-
 12 lation to implement the recommendation.

13 (b) EXPEDITED CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION
 14 OF LEGISLATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—If any legislation is intro-
 16 duced the substance of which implements a rec-
 17 ommendation of the Commission submitted under
 18 section 6(b), subject to paragraph (2), the provisions
 19 of section 2908 (other than subsection (a)) of the
 20 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990
 21 shall apply to the consideration of the legislation in
 22 the same manner as such provisions apply to a joint
 23 resolution described in section 2908(a) of such Act.

(2) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of applying paragraph (1) with respect to such provisions, the following rules shall apply:

(A) Any reference to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives shall be deemed a reference to the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives and any reference to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall be deemed a reference to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(B) Any reference to the date on which the President transmits a report shall be deemed a reference to the date on which the recommendation involved is submitted under section 6(b).

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall cease to exist 90 days after the later of—

(1) the date of the submission of its report under section 6(a); or

(2) the date of the submission of its recommendations under section 6(b).

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