

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 170

To establish a temporary commission to recommend reforms in the laws  
relating to elections for Federal office.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey 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 a temporary commission to recommend reforms  
in the laws relating to elections for Federal office.

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 “Campaign Finance Re-  
5       form Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF COMMISSION.**

7       There is established a commission to be known as the  
8       “Campaign Finance Reform Commission” (hereinafter in  
9       this Act referred to as the “Commission”). The purposes

1 of the Commission are to study the laws relating to elec-  
2 tions for Federal office and to recommend reforms in  
3 those laws.

4 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

5 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be com-  
6 posed of 13 members appointed from among individuals  
7 who are not officers or employees of any government and  
8 who are specially qualified to serve on the Commission by  
9 reason of education, training, or experience. Of the mem-  
10 bers of the Commission—

11 (1) 3 members shall be appointed by the major-  
12 ity leader of the House of Representatives, and one  
13 of those members shall be an independent;

14 (2) 3 members shall be appointed by the major-  
15 ity leader of the Senate, and one of those members  
16 shall be an independent;

17 (3) 3 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
18 ity leader of the House of Representatives, and one  
19 of those members shall be an independent;

20 (4) 3 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
21 ity leader of the Senate, and one of those members  
22 shall be an independent; and

1           (5) 1 member, who shall be designated as  
2       Chairman of the Commission, shall be jointly ap-  
3       pointed by the President and the Speaker of the  
4       House of Representatives.

5       (b) INDEPENDENT DEFINED.—An independent mem-  
6       ber of the Commission shall not have registered in or de-  
7       clared officially his affiliation with a political party or  
8       voted in the primary election of a political party in the  
9       last 7 years, and shall never have held appointed or elected  
10      public or party office.

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

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

16      (e) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4  
17      members of the Commission may be of the same political  
18      party.

19      **SEC. 4. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

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

24      (b) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Commission  
25      shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold

1 hearings. Any member of the Commission may, if author-  
2 ized by the Commission, take any action which the Com-  
3 mission is authorized to take under this section.

4 **SEC. 5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION.**

5 Not later than 10 months after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Con-  
7 gress a report of the activities of the Commission, together  
8 with a draft of legislation (including technical and con-  
9 forming provisions) recommended by the Commission to  
10 reform the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2  
11 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) and any other laws relating to elec-  
12 tions for Federal office.

13 **SEC. 6. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMIS-**  
14 **SION.**

15 In formulating its draft of legislation under section  
16 5, the Commission shall consider ways to—

- 17 (1) increase confidence in the Federal electoral  
18 system;  
19 (2) increase voter participation;  
20 (3) create a more equitable electoral system for  
21 challengers and incumbents; and  
22 (4) remove the negative and insidious aspects of  
23 campaign financing.

1 **SEC. 7. FAST-TRACK PROCEDURES.**

2 (a) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
3 SENATE.—This section is enacted by the Congress—

4 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
5 the House of Representatives and the Senate, re-  
6 spectively, and as such they shall be considered as  
7 part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of  
8 that House to which they specifically apply, and  
9 such rules shall supersede other rules only to the ex-  
10 tent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

11 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
12 right of either House to change the rules (so far as  
13 relating to such House) at any time, in the same  
14 manner and to the same extent as in the case of any  
15 other rule of that House.

16 (b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term  
17 “Federal election bill” means only a bill of either House  
18 of Congress which is introduced as provided in subsection  
19 (c) to carry out the recommendations of the Commission  
20 as set forth in the draft of legislation referred to in section  
21 5.

22 (c) INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL.—Within 3 days  
23 after the Commission submits its draft legislation under  
24 section 5, a Federal election bill shall be introduced (by  
25 request) in the House by the majority leader of the House  
26 or his designee and shall be introduced (by request) in

1 the Senate by the majority leader of the Senate or his  
2 designee. Such bills shall be referred to the appropriate  
3 committees.

4 (d) AMENDMENTS PROHIBITED.—No amendment to  
5 a Federal election bill shall be in order in either the House  
6 of Representatives or the Senate; and no motion to sus-  
7 pend the application of this subsection shall be in order  
8 in either House; nor shall it be in order in either House  
9 to entertain a request to suspend the application of this  
10 subsection by unanimous consent.

11 (e) PERIOD FOR COMMITTEE AND FLOOR CONSIDER-  
12 ATION.—

13 (1) If the committee of either House to which  
14 a Federal election bill has been referred has not re-  
15 ported it at the close of the 20th day after its intro-  
16 duction, such committee shall be automatically dis-  
17 charged from further consideration of the bill and it  
18 shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. If prior  
19 to the passage by one House of a Federal election  
20 bill of that House, that House receives the same  
21 Federal election bill from the other House, then—

22 (A) the procedure in that House shall be  
23 the same as if no Federal election bill had been  
24 received from the other House; but

1 (B) the vote on final passage shall be on  
2 the Federal election bill of the other House.

3 (2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in comput-  
4 ing a number of days in either House, there shall be  
5 excluded the days on which that House is not in ses-  
6 sion because of an adjournment of more than 3 days  
7 to a day certain or an adjournment of the Congress  
8 sine die.

9 (f) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE.—

10 (1) A motion in the House of Representatives  
11 to proceed to the consideration of a Federal election  
12 bill shall be highly privileged except that a motion to  
13 proceed to consider may only be made on the second  
14 legislative day after the calendar day on which the  
15 Member making the motion announces to the House  
16 his intention to do so. The motion to proceed to con-  
17 sider is not debatable. An amendment to the motion  
18 shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move  
19 to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed  
20 to or disagreed to.

21 (2) Consideration of a Federal election bill in  
22 the House of Representatives shall be in the House  
23 with debate limited to not more than 10 hours,  
24 which shall be divided equally between those favoring  
25 and those opposing the bill. The previous question

1 on the Federal election bill shall be considered as or-  
2 dered to final passage without intervening motion. It  
3 shall not be in order to move to reconsider the vote  
4 by which a Federal election bill is agreed to or dis-  
5 agreed to.

6 (g) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

7 (1) A motion in the Senate to proceed to the  
8 consideration of a Federal election bill shall be privi-  
9 leged and not debatable. An amendment to the mo-  
10 tion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order  
11 to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion  
12 is agreed to or disagreed to.

13 (2) Debate in the Senate on a Federal election  
14 bill, and all debatable motions and appeals in con-  
15 nection therewith, shall be limited to not more than  
16 10 hours. The time shall be equally divided between,  
17 and controlled by, the majority leader and the mi-  
18 nority leader or their designees.

19 (3) Debate in the Senate on any debatable mo-  
20 tion or appeal in connection with a Federal election  
21 bill shall be limited to not more than one hour, to  
22 be equally divided between, and controlled by, the  
23 mover and the manager of the bill, except that in  
24 the event the manager of the bill is in favor of any



1       such motion or appeal, the time in opposition there-  
2       to, shall be controlled by the minority leader or his  
3       designee. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from  
4       time under their control on the passage of a Federal  
5       election bill, allot additional time to any Senator  
6       during the consideration of any debatable motion or  
7       appeal.

8   **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

9       The Commission shall cease to exist 3 months after  
10      the date of the submission of its report under section 5.

○