

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 185

To establish a commission to study employment and economic insecurity  
in the workforce in the United States.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish a commission to study employment and  
economic insecurity in the workforce in the United States.

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 “Presidential Commis-  
5       sion to Study Employment and Economic Insecurity in the  
6       American Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2       There is established a commission to be known as the  
3 Presidential Commission to Study Employment and Eco-  
4 nomic Insecurity in the American Workforce (in this Act  
5 referred to as the “Commission”).

6 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

7       The Commission shall—

8           (1) examine the issues of economic and psycho-  
9 logical insecurity of members of the workforce in the  
10 United States caused by employment dislocation;

11          (2) examine the relationship between psycho-  
12 logical stress caused by employment insecurity and  
13 economic insecurity, and increased violence by em-  
14 ployees and former employees in the workplace;

15          (3) examine the economic and psychological ef-  
16 fects of the decreasing number of well-paid jobs on  
17 members of the workforce in the United States; and

18          (4) recommend potential solutions, including  
19 recommendations for legislation and administrative  
20 action, to alleviate the problems of economic and  
21 psychological insecurity of members of the workforce  
22 in the United States.

23 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

24       (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
25 shall be composed of 17 members (in this Act referred to  
26 as the “members”) who shall be appointed as follows:

1 (1) 9 individuals appointed by the President.

2 (2) 2 individuals appointed by the Majority  
3 Leader of the House of Representatives.

4 (3) 2 individuals appointed by the Minority  
5 Leader of the House of Representatives.

6 (4) 2 individuals appointed by the Majority  
7 Leader of the Senate.

8 (5) 2 individuals appointed by the Minority  
9 Leader of the Senate.

10 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Members shall be experts in  
12 the subjects of labor and employment.

13 (2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Political affili-  
14 ation shall not be a determining factor in the ap-  
15 pointment of members.

16 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Every original  
17 member shall be appointed to the Commission within 3  
18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

21 (e) BASIC PAY.—Members shall not be paid by rea-  
22 son of their service as members.

23 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive  
24 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,

1 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,  
2 United States Code.

3 (g) QUORUM.—9 members shall constitute a quorum  
4 for conducting the business of the Commission, but a less-  
5 er number may hold hearings.

6 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The members shall elect 1 mem-  
7 ber to act as the Chairperson of the Commission (in this  
8 Act referred to as the “Chairperson”).

9 (i) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the  
10 call of the Chairperson.

11 **SEC. 5. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

12 (a) STAFF.—The Chairperson may appoint and fix  
13 the pay of Commission personnel as the Chairperson con-  
14 siders appropriate.

15 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
16 LAWS.—The staff of the Commission shall be appointed  
17 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,  
18 governing appointments in the competitive service, and  
19 shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
20 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating  
21 to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

22 (c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request  
23 of the Chairperson, the head of any Federal department  
24 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the

1 personnel of the department or agency to assist the Com-  
2 mission in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

4 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
5 may hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take  
6 testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission consid-  
7 ers appropriate to carry out this Act. The Commission  
8 may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appear-  
9 ing before the Commission.

10 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—The Com-  
11 mission may delegate to a member or agency any authority  
12 of the Commission under this subsection or subsection (e)  
13 or (h).

14 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission  
15 may secure directly from any department or agency of the  
16 United States information necessary to enable the Com-  
17 mission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-  
18 person, the head of the department or agency shall furnish  
19 the information to the Commission.

20 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
21 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
22 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United  
23 States.

1       (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon  
2 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-  
3 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-  
4 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-  
5 essary for the Commission to carry out its duties.

6       (f) IMMUNITY.—The Commission is an agency of the  
7 United States for purposes of part V of title 18, United  
8 States Code (relating to immunity of witnesses).

9       (g) SUBPOENA POWER.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may issue  
11 a subpoena to require the attendance and testimony  
12 of witnesses and the production of evidence relating  
13 to any matter described in section 3.

14           (2) FAILURE TO OBEY AN ORDER OR SUB-  
15 POENA.—If a person refuses to obey an order or  
16 subpoena of the Commission that is issued in con-  
17 nection with a Commission hearing, the Commission  
18 may apply to the United States district court in the  
19 judicial district in which the hearing is held for an  
20 order requiring the person to comply with the sub-  
21 poena or order.

22       (h) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may  
23 contract with and compensate government or private agen-  
24 cies or persons for supplies or services, without regard to  
25 section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

1 **SEC. 7. REPORT OF COMMISSION.**

2       The Commission shall transmit a report to the Presi-  
3 dent and the Congress not later than 1 year after the date  
4 that all original members have been appointed to the Com-  
5 mission. The report shall contain a detailed statement of  
6 the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the  
7 Commission.

8 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

9       The Commission shall terminate 30 days after sub-  
10 mitting the report required by section 7.

11 **SEC. 9. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

12       Any spending authority (as defined in subparagraphs  
13 (A) and (C) of section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional  
14 Budget Act of 1974) authorized by this Act shall be effec-  
15 tive only to such extent and in such amounts as are pro-  
16 vided in appropriations Acts.

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