

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 271

To establish a Second National Blue Ribbon Commission to Eliminate Waste
in Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

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

A BILL

To establish a Second National Blue Ribbon 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 “Second National Blue
5 Ribbon Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 There is established a commission known as the Sec-
9 ond National Blue Ribbon Commission to Eliminate

1 Waste in Government (in this Act referred to as the
2 “Commission”).

3 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the Com-
5 mission—

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

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

11 (3) to review existing Government Accounting
12 Office (GAO), Congressional Budget Office (CBO),
13 and inspector general reports and other existing gov-
14 ernmental and nongovernmental recommendations
15 for reducing waste including recommendations from
16 the President’s Private Sector Survey on Cost Con-
17 trol, and based on this review periodically submit to
18 the President and Congress a list of those rec-
19 ommendations with estimated savings the Commis-
20 sion determines are most significant and shall in-
21 clude in the report a determination of whether the
22 recommendation can be implemented by Executive
23 order or whether it requires legislative action; and

24 (4) to submit to the President and the Congress
25 recommendations for improving the budget process,

1 management and reducing waste and costs in the
2 Federal Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

24 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
25 shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

1 (1) 12 individuals appointed by the President
2 from among individuals who are not officers or em-
3 ployees of any government and who are especially
4 qualified to serve on the Commission by virtue of
5 their education, training, or experience.

6 (2) The majority leader and minority leader of
7 the Senate, as well as the Speaker and minority
8 leader of the House of Representatives may submit
9 recommendations to the President concerning ap-
10 pointments to the Commission.

11 (3) Not more than 6 members of the Commis-
12 sion shall be of the same political party.

13 (b) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If an individ-
14 ual is appointed to the Commission, and later becomes an
15 officer or employee of a government, such individual may
16 continue as a member of the Commission for not longer
17 than the 30-day period beginning on the date such individ-
18 ual becomes such an officer or employee.

19 (c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—Appointments
20 shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of
21 enactment of this Act.

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

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

4 (f) COMPENSATION.—

5 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in
6 paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall
7 serve without pay.

8 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the
9 Commission shall receive travel expenses, including
10 per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with
11 sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States
12 Code.

13 (g) QUORUM.—5 members of the Commission shall
14 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-
15 ings.

16 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-
17 mission shall be elected by the members from among the
18 members.

19 (i) MEETING.—The Commission shall meet at least
20 once each month at the call of the Chairperson of the
21 Commission.

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

23 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
24 tor appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission and
25 paid by a rate determined by the Commission.

1 (b) STAFF.—With the approval of the Commission,
2 the Director of the Commission may appoint personnel as
3 the Director considers appropriate.

4 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

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

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

23 (a) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Pursuant to section
24 3(a)(3), the Commission shall issue periodic reports to the
25 President and the Congress.

1 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the expiration
2 of the 24-month period beginning on the date of enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the
4 President and the Congress a final report setting forth
5 the finding and conclusions of the Commission and specific
6 recommendations for legislative and administrative actions
7 that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

8 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

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

13 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

14 The Commission is to be funded, staffed and
15 equipped, to the extent practicable and permitted by law,
16 by the private sector without cost to the Federal Govern-
17 ment. To accomplish this objective, it is expected that the
18 Secretary of Commerce will engage in a joint project, with
19 a nonprofit organization, pursuant to section 1 of Public
20 Law 91–412 (15 U.S.C. 1525), for the purpose of provid-
21 ing support for the Commission as described in section
22 5 and section 6 of this Act.

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