

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2051

To establish a task force to assess activities in previous base closure rounds and to recommend improvements and alternatives to additional base closure rounds.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 1998

Mr. WARNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a task force to assess activities in previous base closure rounds and to recommend improvements and alternatives to additional base closure rounds.

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. TASK FORCE ON BASE CLOSURE REFORM.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
5 commission to be known as the “Task Force on Base Clo-
6 sure Reform” (in this Act referred to as the “Task
7 Force”).

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force is to
9 review the base closure process (including the rec-

1 ommendation and approval of installations for closure and
2 the closure of installations) under the 1990 base closure
3 law in order to recommend improvements, and potential
4 alternatives, to the base closure process under that law.

5 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.**

6 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Task Force shall be
7 composed of 10 members, appointed from among individ-
8 uals described in paragraph (2) as follows:

9 (A) Three members shall be appointed by the
10 Majority Leader of the Senate.

11 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the Mi-
12 nority Leader of the Senate.

13 (C) Three members shall be appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

15 (D) Two members shall be appointed by the Mi-
16 nority Leader of the House of Representatives.

17 (2) Members of the Task Force shall be appointed
18 from among retired members of the Armed Forces, or
19 other private United States citizens, who have one or more
20 of the following qualifications:

21 (A) Past membership on a commission estab-
22 lished under the 1990 base closure law or under title
23 II of the Defense Authorization Amendments and
24 Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law
25 100–526; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

1 (B) Past service on the staff of a commission
2 referred to in subparagraph (A).

3 (C) Experience with military force structure
4 planning and strategic planning.

5 (D) Financial management experience.

6 (E) Past membership in the legislative branch
7 or service on the staff of the legislative branch.

8 (b) APPOINTMENT.—(1) All members of the Task
9 Force shall be appointed not later than 45 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act.

11 (2)(A) Members of the Task Force shall be appointed
12 for the life of the Task Force.

13 (B) A vacancy in the membership of the Task Force
14 shall not affect the powers of the Task Force, but shall
15 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

16 (c) CHAIRMAN.—The members of the Task Force
17 shall choose one of the members to serve as chairman of
18 the Task Force.

19 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

21 (1) carry out a review of the base closure proc-
22 ess under the 1990 base closure law in accordance
23 with subsection (b);

24 (2) carry out an assessment of the impact of
25 the number of base closure rounds on the base clo-

1 sure process under that law in accordance with sub-
2 section (c);

3 (3) carry out a comparative analysis of various
4 means of disposing of excess or surplus property in
5 accordance with subsection (d); and

6 (4) make recommendations in accordance with
7 subsection (e).

8 (b) REVIEW.—In carrying out a review of the base
9 closure process under subsection (a)(1), the Task Force
10 shall—

11 (1) review the activities, after action reports,
12 and recommendations of each commission estab-
13 lished under the 1990 base closure law in the 1991,
14 1993, and 1995 base closure rounds under that law;

15 (2) review the activities and after action reports
16 of the Department of Defense and the military de-
17 partments with respect to each such base closure
18 round under that law, which shall include an assess-
19 ment of the compliance of the military departments
20 with the provisions of that law in each such round;
21 and

22 (3) assess the effectiveness of the provisions of
23 that law in providing guidance to each such commis-
24 sion, the Department of Defense, and the military

1 departments with respect to subsequent closures of
2 military installations.

3 (c) ASSESSMENT.—In carrying out an assessment of
4 the impact of the number of base closure rounds on the
5 base closure process under subsection (a)(2), the Task
6 Force shall—

7 (1) review the activities of the Department of
8 Defense and the military departments in preparing
9 for and carrying out the closure of installations ap-
10 proved for closure in each base closure round under
11 the 1990 base closure law, including—

12 (A) the capacity of the Department of De-
13 fense and the military departments to process
14 the data required to make recommendations
15 with respect to the closure of installations in
16 each such round; and

17 (B) the effectiveness of the activities un-
18 dertaken by the Department of Defense and the
19 military departments to dispose of property and
20 equipment at such installations upon approval
21 of closure; and

22 (2) assess the impact of the number of installa-
23 tions recommended for closure in each such round
24 on—

1 (A) the accuracy of data provided by the
2 Secretary of Defense to the commission estab-
3 lished under that law in such round;

4 (B) the capacity of such commission to
5 process such data; and

6 (C) the ability of such commission to con-
7 sider fully the concerns of the communities like-
8 ly to be effected by the closure of the installa-
9 tions recommended for closure.

10 (d) COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.—In carrying out a
11 comparative analysis under subsection (a)(3), the Task
12 Force shall—

13 (1) compare the law and experience of the
14 United States in disposing of surplus and excess
15 property with the law and experience of similar na-
16 tions in disposing of such property; and

17 (2) compare the law (including any regulations,
18 policies, and directives) of the United States relating
19 to the closure of military installations with the law
20 of similar nations relating to the closure of such in-
21 stallations.

22 (e) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In making recommenda-
23 tions under subsection (a)(4), the Task Force shall—

1 (1) recommend such modifications to the 1990
2 base closure law as the Task Force considers appro-
3 prium in light of its activities under this section;

4 (2) compare the merits of requiring one addi-
5 tional round of base closures under that law with the
6 merits of requiring more than one additional round
7 of base closures under that law; and

8 (3) recommend any alternative methods of
9 eliminating excess capacity in the military installa-
10 tions inside the United States that the Task Force
11 considers appropriate in light of its activities under
12 this section.

13 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

14 (a) REPORT.—Not later than March 15, 1999, the
15 Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Armed Serv-
16 ices of the Senate and the Committee on National Security
17 of the House of Representatives a report on its activities
18 under this Act.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the results
20 of the activities of the Task Force under section 3, includ-
21 ing the recommendations required by subsection (e) of
22 that section.

1 **SEC. 5. TASK FORCE MATTERS.**

2 (a) MEETINGS.—(1) The Task Force shall hold its
3 first meeting not later than 30 days after the date on
4 which all members have been appointed.

5 (2) The Task Force shall meet upon the call of the
6 chairman.

7 (3) A majority of the members of the Task Force
8 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
9 meetings.

10 (b) AUTHORITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO ACT FOR TASK
11 FORCE.—Any member or agent of the Task Force may,
12 if authorized by the Task Force, take any action which
13 the Task Force is authorized to take under this section.

14 (c) HEARINGS.—The Task Force may hold such
15 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
16 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Task Force
17 considers advisable to carry out its duties.

18 (d) AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENT INFORMA-
19 TION.—The Task Force may secure directly from the De-
20 partment of Defense and any other department or agency
21 of the Federal Government such information as the Task
22 Force considers necessary to carry out its duties. Upon
23 the request of the chairman of the Task Force, the head
24 of a department or agency shall furnish the requested in-
25 formation expeditiously to the Task Force.

1 (e) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Task Force may use the
2 United States mails in the same manner and under the
3 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
4 Federal Government.

5 **SEC. 6. TASK FORCE PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

6 (a) PAY AND EXPENSES OF MEMBERS.—(1) Each
7 member of the Task Force who is not an employee of the
8 Government shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily
9 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for
10 level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
11 title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel
12 time) during which such member is engaged in performing
13 the duties of the Task Force.

14 (2) Members and personnel of the Task Force may
15 travel on aircraft, vehicles, or other conveyances of the
16 Armed Forces when travel is necessary in the performance
17 of a duty of the Task Force except when the cost of com-
18 mercial transportation is less expensive.

19 (3) The members of the Task Force may be allowed
20 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
21 at rates authorized for employees of agencies under sub-
22 chapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,
23 while away from their homes or regular places of business
24 in the performance of services for the Task Force.

1 (4)(A) A member of the Task Force who is an annu-
2 itant otherwise covered by section 8344 or 8468 of title
3 5, United States Code, shall not by reason of membership
4 on the Task Force be subject to the provisions of such
5 section with respect to such Task Force.

6 (B) A member of the Task Force who is a member
7 or former member of a uniformed service shall not be sub-
8 ject to the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of section
9 5532 of such title with respect to membership on the Task
10 Force.

11 (b) STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—(1)
12 The chairman of the Task Force may, without regard to
13 civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate
14 an executive director and up to three additional staff mem-
15 bers as necessary to enable the Task Force to perform
16 its duties. The chairman of the Task Force may fix the
17 compensation of the executive director and other personnel
18 without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, and sub-
19 chapter III of chapter 53, of title 5, United States Code,
20 relating to classification of positions and General Schedule
21 pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not exceed the
22 maximum rate of pay for grade GS–15 under the General
23 Schedule.

24 (2) Upon the request of the chairman of the Task
25 Force, the head of any department or agency of the Fed-

1 eral Government may detail, without reimbursement, any
2 personnel of the department or agency to the Task Force
3 to assist in carrying out its duties. A detail of an employee
4 shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status
5 or privilege.

6 **SEC. 7. SUPPORT OF TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) TEMPORARY SERVICES.—The chairman of the
8 Task Force may procure temporary and intermittent serv-
9 ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code,
10 at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equiva-
11 lent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level
12 IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such
13 title.

14 (b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORT.—The Sec-
15 retary of Defense shall furnish to the Task Force such
16 administrative and support services as may be requested
17 by the chairman of the Task Force.

18 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

19 The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after the
20 date on which it submits the report required by section
21 4.

22 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

23 Upon the request of the chairman of the Task Force,
24 the Secretary of Defense shall make available to the Task
25 Force, out of funds appropriated for the Department of

1 Defense, such amounts as the Task Force may require to
2 carry out its duties.

3 **SEC. 10. DEFINITION.**

4 In this Act, the term “1990 base closure law” means
5 the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990
6 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C.
7 2687 note).

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