

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1856

To direct the Attorney General to establish a panel to study the issue of Federal benefits received by persons convicted of drug offenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 1999

Mr. THORNBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to establish a panel to study the issue of Federal benefits received by persons convicted of drug offenses.

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 “Tough on Drugs Act
5 of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PANEL.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall estab-
8 lish a panel to study, and make findings, conclusions, and
9 recommendations, with regard to the issues related to

1 Federal benefits received by persons convicted of drug of-
2 fenses.

3 (b) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—The panel estab-
4 lished in subsection (a) shall examine the following issues
5 as they relate to Federal benefits received by persons con-
6 victed of drug offenses:

7 (1) The number of individuals in the United
8 States receiving Federal benefits who have been con-
9 victed of a drug offense.

10 (2) The amount of Federal money, per Federal
11 benefit program, that goes to individuals convicted
12 of a drug offense.

13 (3) The legal and constitutional implications,
14 limitations, or impediments related to a denial of
15 Federal benefits to individuals convicted of a drug
16 offense.

17 (4) The specific Federal and State drug of-
18 fenses which could be utilized as a trigger for a de-
19 nial of Federal benefits.

20 (5) Ways in which the Federal and State Gov-
21 ernments could improve the exchange of information
22 about individuals convicted of a drug offense.

23 (6) The length of time for which Federal bene-
24 fits might be denied to individuals convicted of a
25 drug offense, and the effect of such denial on such

1 convicted individual, as well as on any dependent of
2 any such individual.

3 (7) The cost-effectiveness of a denial of Federal
4 benefits to individuals convicted of a drug offense,
5 including any savings to the Federal Government re-
6 sulting from such a denial of Federal benefits.

7 (c) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL BENEFIT.—In this
8 Act, the term “Federal benefit” means any program or
9 entitlement in which the Federal Government provides a
10 payment of money or a direct financial benefit to the re-
11 cipient, including Federal housing benefits, Medicaid,
12 Medicare, food stamps, and Social Security.

13 (d) REPORT.—The panel shall submit a report to
14 Congress detailing its methodology, findings, conclusions,
15 and recommendations, not later than one year after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act.

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