

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2128

To provide for the periodic review of the efficiency and public need for Federal agencies, to establish a Commission for the purpose of reviewing the efficiency and public need of such agencies, and to provide for the abolishment of agencies for which a public need does not exist.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. KASICH, Mr. TURNER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. DUNN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. POMBO, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. COOK, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. MINGE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. COBURN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. DANNER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. TANCRED, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. EWING, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. HOBSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for the periodic review of the efficiency and public need for Federal agencies, to establish a Commission for the purpose of reviewing the efficiency and pub-

lic need of such agencies, and to provide for the abolishment of agencies for which a public need does not exist.

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 “The Abolishment of
 5 Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVIEW AND ABOLISHMENT OF FEDERAL AGEN-**
 7 **CIES.**

8 (a) SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW.—Not later than one
 9 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Fed-
 10 eral Agency Sunset Commission established under section
 11 3 (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”) shall sub-
 12 mit to Congress a schedule for review by the Commission,
 13 at least once every 12 years (or less, if determined appro-
 14 priate by Congress), of the abolishment or reorganization
 15 of each agency.

16 (b) REVIEW OF AGENCIES PERFORMING RELATED
 17 FUNCTIONS.—In determining the schedule for review of
 18 agencies under subsection (a), the Commission shall pro-
 19 vide that agencies that perform similar or related func-
 20 tions be reviewed concurrently to promote efficiency and
 21 consolidation.

22 (c) ABOLISHMENT OF AGENCIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall—

1 (A) be reviewed according to the schedule
2 created pursuant to this section; and

3 (B) be abolished not later than one year
4 after the date that the Commission completes
5 its review of the agency pursuant to such sched-
6 ule, unless the agency is reauthorized by the
7 Congress.

8 (2) EXTENSION.—The deadline for abolishing
9 an agency may be extended for an additional two
10 years after the date described in paragraph (1)(B)
11 if the Congress enacts legislation extending such
12 deadline by a vote of a super majority of the House
13 of Representatives and the Senate.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
16 mission to be known as the “Federal Agency Sunset Com-
17 mission”.

18 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be com-
19 posed of 12 members (in this Act referred to as the “mem-
20 bers”) who shall be appointed as follows:

21 (1) Six members shall be appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
23 whom may include the Speaker of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives, with minority members appointed with

1 the consent of the minority leader of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 (2) Six members shall be appointed by the ma-
4 jority leader of the Senate, one of whom may include
5 the majority leader of the Senate, with minority
6 members appointed with the consent of the minority
7 leader of the Senate.

8 (c) QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—(A) Of the members ap-
10 pointed under subsection (b)(1), four shall be mem-
11 bers of the House of Representatives (not more than
12 two of whom may be of the same political party),
13 and two shall be an individual described in subpara-
14 graph (C).

15 (B) Of the members appointed under subsection
16 (b)(2), four shall be members of the Senate (not
17 more than two of whom may be of the same political
18 party) and two shall be an individual described in
19 subparagraph (C).

20 (C) An individual under this subparagraph is
21 an individual—

22 (i) who is not a member of Congress; and
23 (ii) with expertise in the operation and ad-
24 ministration of Government programs.

1 (2) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a
2 member was appointed to the Commission as a
3 Member of Congress and the member ceases to be
4 a Member of Congress, that member shall cease to
5 be a member of the Commission. The validity of any
6 action of the Commission shall not be affected as a
7 result of a member becoming ineligible to serve as
8 a member for the reasons described in this para-
9 graph.

10 (d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—All initial appoint-
11 ments to the Commission shall be made not later than 90
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 (e) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN.—

14 (1) INITIAL CHAIRMAN.—An individual shall be
15 designated by the Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives from among the members initially ap-
17 pointed under subsection (b)(1) to serve as chairman
18 of the Commission for a period of 2 years.

19 (2) INITIAL VICE-CHAIRMAN.—An individual
20 shall be designated by the majority leader of the
21 Senate from among the individuals initially ap-
22 pointed under subsection (b)(2) to serve as vice-
23 chairman of the Commission for a period of two
24 years.

1 (3) ALTERNATE APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMEN
2 AND VICE-CHAIRMEN.—Following the termination of
3 the two-year period described in paragraphs (1) and
4 (2), the Speaker and the majority leader shall alter-
5 nate every two years in appointing the chairman and
6 vice-chairman of the Commission.

7 (f) TERMS OF MEMBERS.—

8 (1) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Each member
9 appointed to the Commission who is a member of
10 Congress shall serve for a term of six years, except
11 that, of the members first appointed under para-
12 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), 2 members
13 shall be appointed to serve a term of three years
14 under each such paragraph.

15 (2) OTHER MEMBERS.—Each member of the
16 Commission who is not a member of Congress shall
17 serve for a term of three years.

18 (3) TERM LIMIT.—(A) A member of the Com-
19 mission who is a member of Congress and who
20 serves more than three years of a term may not be
21 appointed to another term as a member.

22 (B) A member of the Commission who is not a
23 member of Congress and who serves as a member of
24 the Commission for more than 56 months may not
25 be appointed to another term as a member.

1 (g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

2 (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commis-
3 sion may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act,
4 hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and
5 places, take such testimony, and receive such evi-
6 dence as the Commission considers appropriate. The
7 Commission may administer oaths to witnesses ap-
8 pearing before it.

9 (2) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The Commis-
10 sion may secure directly from any department or
11 agency of the United States information necessary
12 to enable it to carry out its duties under this Act.
13 Upon request of the Chairman, the head of that de-
14 partment or agency shall furnish that information to
15 the Commission in a full and timely manner.

16 (3) SUBPOENA POWER.—(A) The Commission
17 may issue a subpoena to require the attendance and
18 testimony of witnesses and the production of evi-
19 dence relating to any matter under investigation by
20 the Commission.

21 (B) If a person refuses to obey an order or sub-
22 poena of the Commission that is issued in connection
23 with a Commission proceeding, the Commission may
24 apply to the United States district court in the judi-
25 cial district in which the proceeding is held for an

1 order requiring the person to comply with the sub-
2 poena or order.

3 (4) IMMUNITY.—The Commission is an agency
4 of the United States for purposes of part V of title
5 18, United States Code (relating to immunity of wit-
6 nesses).

7 (5) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission
8 may contract with and compensate government and
9 private agencies or persons for services without re-
10 gard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41
11 U.S.C. 5).

12 (h) COMMISSION PROCEDURES.—

13 (1) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
14 the call of the Chairman.

15 (2) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Commis-
16 sion shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number
17 may hold hearings.

18 (i) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

19 (1) COMPENSATION.—Members shall not be
20 paid by reason of their service as members.

21 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
22 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
23 subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and
24 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

1 (3) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a
2 Director who shall be appointed by the Chairman.
3 The Director shall be paid at a rate not to exceed
4 the maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15
5 of the General Schedule.

6 (4) STAFF.—The Director may appoint and fix
7 the pay of additional personnel as the Director con-
8 siders appropriate.

9 (5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
10 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission
11 shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title
12 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
13 the competitive service, and shall be paid in accord-
14 ance with the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
15 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to
16 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

17 (j) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

18 (1) POSTAL AND PRINTING SERVICES.—The
19 Commission may use the United States mails and
20 obtain printing and binding services in the same
21 manner and under the same conditions as other de-
22 partments and agencies of the United States.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—
24 Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-
25 trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-

1 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative
2 support services necessary for the Commission to
3 carry out its duties under this Act.

4 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Com-
5 mission may procure temporary and intermittent
6 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
7 States Code.

8 (k) SUNSET OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall
9 terminate on December 31, 2024, unless reauthorized by
10 Congress.

11 **SEC. 4. REVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND NEED FOR FEDERAL**
12 **AGENCIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall review the
14 efficiency and public need for each agency in accordance
15 with the criteria described in section 5.

16 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—
17 The Commission shall submit to Congress and the Presi-
18 dent not later than September 1 of each year a report
19 containing—

20 (1) an analysis of the efficiency of operation
21 and public need for each agency to be reviewed in
22 the year in which the report is submitted pursuant
23 to the schedule submitted to Congress under section
24 2;

1 (2) recommendations on whether each such
2 agency should be abolished or reorganized;

3 (3) recommendations on whether the functions
4 of any other agencies should be consolidated, trans-
5 ferred, or reorganized in an agency to be reviewed
6 in the year in which the report is submitted pursu-
7 ant to the schedule submitted to Congress under
8 section 2; and

9 (4) recommendations for administrative and
10 legislative action with respect to each such agency.

11 (c) DRAFT LEGISLATION.—The Commission shall
12 submit to Congress and the President not later than Sep-
13 tember 1 of each year a draft of legislation to carry out
14 the recommendations of the Commission under subsection
15 (b).

16 (d) INFORMATION GATHERING.—The Commission
17 shall—

18 (1) conduct public hearings on the abolishment
19 of each agency reviewed under subsection (b);

20 (2) provide an opportunity for public comment
21 on the abolishment of each such agency;

22 (3) require the agency to provide information to
23 the Commission as appropriate; and

24 (4) consult with the General Accounting Office,
25 the Office of Management and Budget, the Comp-

1 troller General, and the chairman and ranking mi-
2 nority members of the committees of Congress with
3 oversight responsibility for the agency being re-
4 viewed regarding the operation of the agency.

5 (e) USE OF PROGRAM INVENTORY.—The Commis-
6 sion shall use the program inventory prepared under sec-
7 tion 9 in reviewing the efficiency and public need for each
8 agency under subsection (a).

9 **SEC. 5. CRITERIA FOR REVIEW.**

10 The Commission shall evaluate the efficiency and
11 public need for each agency pursuant to section 4(a) using
12 the following criteria:

13 (1) The effectiveness, and the efficiency of the
14 operation of, the programs carried out by each such
15 agency.

16 (2) Whether the programs carried out by the
17 agency are cost-effective.

18 (3) Whether the agency has acted outside the
19 scope of its original authority, and whether the origi-
20 nal objectives of the agency have been achieved.

21 (4) Whether less restrictive or alternative meth-
22 ods exist to carry out the functions of the agency.

23 (5) The extent to which the jurisdiction of, and
24 the programs administered by, the agency duplicate

1 or conflict with the jurisdiction and programs of
2 other agencies.

3 (6) The potential benefits of consolidating pro-
4 grams administered by the agency with similar or
5 duplicative programs of other agencies, and the po-
6 tential for consolidating such programs.

7 (7) The number and types of beneficiaries or
8 persons served by programs carried out by the agen-
9 cy.

10 (8) The extent to which any trends, develop-
11 ments, and emerging conditions that are likely to af-
12 fect the future nature and extent of the problems or
13 needs that the programs carried out by the agency
14 are intended to address.

15 (9) The extent to which the agency has com-
16 plied with the provisions contained in the Govern-
17 ment Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Pub.
18 Law 103–62; 107 Stat. 285).

19 (10) The promptness and effectiveness with
20 which the agency seeks public input and input from
21 State and local governments on the efficiency and ef-
22 fectiveness of the performance of the functions of
23 the agency.

24 (11) Whether the agency has worked to enact
25 changes in the law that are intended to benefit the

1 public as a whole rather than the specific business,
2 institution, or individuals that the agency regulates.

3 (12) The extent to which the agency has en-
4 couraged participation by the public as a whole in
5 making its rules and decisions rather than encour-
6 aging participation solely by those it regulates.

7 (13) The extent to which the public participa-
8 tion in rulemaking and decisionmaking of the agency
9 has resulted in rules and decisions compatible with
10 the objectives of the agency.

11 (14) The extent to which the agency complies
12 with section 552 of title 5, United States Code (com-
13 monly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

14 (15) The extent to which the agency complies
15 with equal employment opportunity requirements re-
16 garding equal employment opportunity.

17 (16) The extent of the regulatory, privacy, and
18 paperwork impacts of the programs carried out by
19 the agency.

20 (17) The extent to which the agency has coordi-
21 nated with State and local governments in per-
22 forming the functions of the agency.

23 (18) The potential effects of abolishing the
24 agency on State and local governments.

1 (19) The extent to which changes are necessary
2 in the authorizing statutes of the agency in order
3 that the functions of the agency can be performed
4 in the most efficient and effective manner.

5 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION OVERSIGHT.**

6 (a) MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REC-
7 OMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall monitor imple-
8 mentation of laws enacting provisions that incorporate rec-
9 ommendations of the Commission with respect to abolish-
10 ment or reorganization of agencies.

11 (b) MONITORING OF OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLA-
12 TION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall review
14 and report to Congress on all legislation introduced
15 in either house of Congress that would establish—

16 (A) a new agency;

17 (B) a new program to be carried out by an
18 existing agency.

19 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commission
20 shall include in each report submitted to Congress
21 under paragraph (1) an analysis of whether—

22 (A) the functions of the proposed agency
23 or program could be carried out by one or more
24 existing agencies;

1 (B) the functions of the proposed agency
2 or program could be carried out in a less re-
3 strictive manner than the manner proposed in
4 the legislation; and

5 (C) the legislation provides for public input
6 regarding the performance of functions by the
7 proposed agency or program.

8 **SEC. 7. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.**

9 The Commission may promulgate such rules as nec-
10 essary to carry out this Act.

11 **SEC. 8. RELOCATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**

12 If the position of an employee of an agency is elimi-
13 nated as a result of the abolishment of an agency in ac-
14 cordance with this Act, there shall be a reasonable effort
15 to relocate such employee to a position within another
16 agency.

17 **SEC. 9. PROGRAM INVENTORY.**

18 (a) PREPARATION.—The Comptroller General and
19 the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in co-
20 operation with the Director of the Congressional Research
21 Service, shall prepare an inventory of Federal programs
22 (in this Act referred to as the “program inventory”) with-
23 in each agency.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program inven-
25 tory is to advise and assist the Congress and the Commis-

1 sion in carrying out the requirements of this Act. Such
2 inventory shall not in any way bind the committees of the
3 Senate or the House of Representatives with respect to
4 their responsibilities under this Act and shall not infringe
5 on the legislative and oversight responsibilities of such
6 committees. The Comptroller General shall compile and
7 maintain the inventory and the Director of the Congres-
8 sional Budget Office shall provide budgetary information
9 for inclusion in the inventory.

10 (c) INVENTORY CONTENT.—The program inventory
11 shall set forth for each program each of the following mat-
12 ters:

13 (1) The specific provision or provisions of law
14 authorizing the program.

15 (2) The committees of the Senate and the
16 House of Representatives which have legislative or
17 oversight jurisdiction over the program.

18 (3) A brief statement of the purpose or pur-
19 poses to be achieved by the program.

20 (4) The committees which have jurisdiction over
21 legislation providing new budget authority for the
22 program, including the appropriate subcommittees of
23 the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and
24 the House of Representatives.

1 (5) The agency and, if applicable, the subdivi-
2 sion thereof responsible for administering the pro-
3 gram.

4 (6) The grants-in-aid, if any, provided by such
5 program to State and local governments.

6 (7) The next reauthorization date for the pro-
7 gram.

8 (8) A unique identification number which links
9 the program and functional category structure.

10 (9) The year in which the program was origi-
11 nally established and, where applicable, the year in
12 which the program expires.

13 (10) Where applicable, the year in which new
14 budget authority for the program was last author-
15 ized and the year in which current authorizations of
16 new budget authority expire.

17 (d) BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The report also shall set
18 forth for each program whether the new budget authority
19 provided for such programs is—

20 (1) authorized for a definite period of time;

21 (2) authorized in a specific dollar amount but
22 without limit of time;

23 (3) authorized without limit of time or dollar
24 amounts;

25 (4) not specifically authorized; or

1 (5) permanently provided,
2 as determined by the Director of the Congressional
3 Budget Office.

4 (e) CBO INFORMATION.—For each program or group
5 of programs, the program inventory also shall include in-
6 formation prepared by the Director of the Congressional
7 Budget Office indicating each of the following matters:

8 (1) The amounts of new budget authority au-
9 thorized and provided for the program for each of
10 the preceding four fiscal years and, where applicable,
11 the four succeeding fiscal years.

12 (2) The functional and subfunctional category
13 in which the program is presently classified and was
14 classified under the fiscal year 1999 budget.

15 (3) The identification code and title of the ap-
16 propriation account in which budget authority is
17 provided for the program.

18 (f) MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.—The
19 General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research
20 Service, and the Congressional Budget Office shall permit
21 the mutual exchange of available information in their pos-
22 session which would aid in the compilation of the program
23 inventory.

24 (g) ASSISTANCE BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH.—The Of-
25 fice of Management and Budget, and the Executive agen-

1 cies and the subdivisions thereof shall, to the extent nec-
2 essary and possible, provide the General Accounting Office
3 with assistance requested by the Comptroller General in
4 the compilation of the program inventory.

5 **SEC. 10. DEFINITION OF AGENCY.**

6 As used in this Act, the term “agency” has the mean-
7 ing given that term by section 105 of title 5, United States
8 Code, except that such term includes an advisory com-
9 mittee as that term is defined in section 3(2) of the Fed-
10 eral Advisory Committee Act.

11 **SEC. 11. OFFSET OF AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.**

12 Amounts appropriated to carry out this Act shall be
13 offset by a reduction in amounts appropriated to carry out
14 programs of other Federal agencies.

○