

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3696

To establish the President's Commission on Veterans and Smoking.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish the President's Commission on Veterans and  
Smoking.

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 "President's Commis-  
5       sion on Veterans and Smoking Act".

6       **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7       There is established a commission to be known as the  
8       "President's Commission on Veterans and Smoking" (in  
9       this Act referred to as the "Commission").

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study  
3 of issues related to veterans and smoking, including the  
4 following:

5 (1) The extent to which the past policy of the  
6 Armed Forces of providing members of the Armed  
7 Forces with free cigarettes contributed to these  
8 members becoming smokers.

9 (2) The percentage of veterans who are smokers  
10 compared to the percentage of smokers in the gen-  
11 eral population of the United States.

12 (3) The incidence and severity of smoking-re-  
13 lated illnesses among veterans compared to the inci-  
14 dence and severity of these illnesses in the general  
15 population of the United States.

16 (b) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-  
19 sion shall transmit to the Congress and the Presi-  
20 dent a report.

21 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain a de-  
22 tailed statement of the findings and conclusions of  
23 the Commission, and its recommendations on wheth-  
24 er present policies should be changed to better treat  
25 smoking-related illnesses of veterans.

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
3 shall be composed of 11 members appointed as follows:

4 (1) 1 member appointed by the President, who  
5 shall serve as Chairman.

6 (2) 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the  
7 House of Representatives.

8 (3) 3 members appointed by the majority leader  
9 of the Senate.

10 (4) 2 members appointed by the minority leader  
11 of the House of Representatives.

12 (5) 2 members appointed by the minority leader  
13 of the Senate.

14 (b) TERMS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-  
16 pointed for the life of the Commission.

17 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission  
18 shall be filled in the manner in which the original  
19 appointment was made.

20 (c) PAY; TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Com-  
21 mission shall serve without pay, but shall receive travel  
22 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-  
23 cordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United  
24 States Code.

1 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the  
 2 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-  
 3 ber may hold hearings.

4 (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the  
 5 call of the Chairman or a majority of its members.

6 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION; EXPERTS**  
 7 **AND CONSULTANTS.**

8 (a) DIRECTOR.—

9 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall ap-  
 10 point a Director on or after October 1, 2000.

11 (2) PAY.—The Director shall be paid at the  
 12 rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Executive  
 13 Schedule.

14 (b) STAFF.—The Chairman may appoint additional  
 15 personnel as the Chairman considers appropriate.

16 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
 17 LAWS.—The staff of the Commission shall be appointed  
 18 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,  
 19 governing appointments in the competitive service, and  
 20 shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
 21 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating  
 22 to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but at  
 23 rates not in excess of the maximum rate for grade GS-  
 24 15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of that  
 25 title.

1 (d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Chairman  
2 may procure temporary and intermittent services under  
3 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

4 (e) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request  
5 of the Chairman, the head of any Federal department or  
6 agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the  
7 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission  
8 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

9 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

10 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
11 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-  
12 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and  
13 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.  
14 The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to  
15 witnesses appearing before it.

16 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-  
17 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the  
18 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-  
19 thorized to take by this section.

20 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Subject to sections  
21 552, 552a, and 552b of title 5, United States Code, the  
22 Commission may secure directly from any department or  
23 agency of the United States information necessary to en-  
24 able it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-

1 man of the Commission, the head of that department or  
2 agency shall furnish that information to the Commission.

3 (d) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—The Commission may  
4 accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services  
5 or property to carry out this Act, but only to the extent  
6 or in amounts provided in appropriation Acts.

7 (e) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
8 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
9 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United  
10 States.

11 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the  
12 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General  
13 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-  
14 able basis, the administrative support services necessary  
15 for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under  
16 this Act.

17 (g) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may con-  
19 tract with and compensate government and private  
20 agencies or persons for supplies and other services.

21 (2) BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.—Any new con-  
22 tract authority authorized by this Act shall be effec-  
23 tive only to the extent or in the amounts provided  
24 in advance in appropriation Acts.

1 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

2       The Commission shall terminate 180 days after sub-  
3 mitting its report under section 3(b).

4 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5       To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be ap-  
6 propriated to the Commission \$2,000,000 for fiscal year  
7 2001 and \$2,100,000 for fiscal year 2002.

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