

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4122

To establish the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. TANNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform  
Commission.

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 “Comprehensive Entitle-  
5       ment Reform Commission Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
2       means the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Com-  
3       mission established under section 3.

4           (2) MEDICAID.—The term “Medicaid” means  
5       the program established under title XIX of the So-  
6       cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

7           (3) MEDICARE.—The term “Medicare” means  
8       the program established under title XVIII of the So-  
9       cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

10          (4) SOCIAL SECURITY.—The term “Social Secu-  
11       rity” means the program of old-age, survivors, and  
12       disability insurance benefits established under title  
13       II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et  
14       seq.).

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

16       There is established a commission to be known as the  
17       “Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission”.

18 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

19       The Commission will review Social Security, Medi-  
20       care, and Medicaid and make comprehensive recommenda-  
21       tions to sustain the solvency and stability of these three  
22       programs for future generations.

23 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

24       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a  
25       comprehensive review of Social Security, Medicare, and

1 Medicaid consistent with the purpose specified in section  
2 4 and shall submit the report required under subsection  
3 (b).

4 (b) REPORT.—

5 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6 selection of the 2 Co-Chairpersons and the Executive  
7 Director of the Commission, the Commission shall  
8 prepare and submit a final report that contains a  
9 detailed statement of the recommendations, findings,  
10 and conclusions of the Commission to the appro-  
11 priate Committees of Congress and the President.

12 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report sub-  
13 mitted under this subsection shall be made available  
14 to the public.

15 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
17 shall be composed of 8 members, to be appointed as fol-  
18 lows:

19 (1) The majority leader of the Senate shall ap-  
20 point 2 members.

21 (2) The minority leader of the Senate shall ap-  
22 point 2 members.

23 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representa-  
24 tives shall appoint 2 members.

1           (4) The minority leader of the House of Rep-  
2       representatives shall appoint 2 members.

3       (b) PROHIBITED APPOINTMENTS.—Members of the  
4       Commission shall not include Members of Congress or  
5       other elected Federal, State, or local government officials.

6       (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member shall  
7       be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancies  
8       shall not affect the power and duties of the Commission  
9       but shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-  
10      pointment.

11      (d) DATE.—Members of the Commission shall be ap-  
12      pointed by not later than 30 days after the date of enact-  
13      ment of this Act.

14      (e) INITIAL ORGANIZATION PERIOD.—Not later than  
15      60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-  
16      mission shall develop and implement a schedule for com-  
17      pletion of the review and report required under section 5.

18      (f) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Commission shall select  
19      2 Co-Chairpersons from among its members.

20      (g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
21      on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the  
22      Commission submits the report required under section  
23      5(b)(1).

1 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission  
3 shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, but a  
4 quorum is not required for members to meet and hold  
5 hearings.

6 (b) MEETINGS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet  
8 at the call of the Co-Chairpersons or a majority of  
9 its members.

10 (2) OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the  
11 Commission, other than meetings in which classified  
12 information is to be discussed, shall be open to the  
13 public.

14 (c) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such  
15 hearings and undertake such other activities as the Com-  
16 mission determines to be necessary to carry out its duties.

17 (d) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members shall receive trav-  
18 el expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in  
19 accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United  
20 States Code, while away from their homes or regular  
21 places of business in performance of services for the Com-  
22 mission.

23 (e) STAFF.—

24 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission  
25 shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director.

26 The Executive Director shall be paid at a rate equiv-

1       alent to a rate established for the Senior Executive  
2       Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States  
3       Code.

4           (2) STAFF APPOINTMENT.—With the approval  
5       of the Commission, the Executive Director may ap-  
6       point such personnel as the Executive Director de-  
7       termines to be appropriate.

8           (3) ACTUARIAL EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—  
9       With the approval of the Commission, the Executive  
10      Director may procure temporary and intermittent  
11      services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
12      States Code.

13          (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—  
14      Upon the request of the Commission, the head of  
15      any Federal agency may detail, without reimburse-  
16      ment, any of the personnel of such agency to the  
17      Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of  
18      the Commission. Any such detail shall not interrupt  
19      or otherwise affect the civil service status or privi-  
20      leges of the Federal employee.

21          (5) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Commission  
22      shall have reasonable access to materials, resources,  
23      statistical data, and other information such Commis-  
24      sion determines to be necessary to carry out its du-  
25      ties from the Library of Congress, the Chief Actuary

1 of Social Security, the Congressional Budget Office,  
2 and other agencies and elected representatives of the  
3 executive and legislative branches of the Federal  
4 Government. The Co-Chairpersons of the Commis-  
5 sion shall make requests for such access in writing  
6 when necessary.

7 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
9 priated for fiscal year 2006, \$1,500,000 to carry out the  
10 purposes of this Act.

11 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated under  
12 the subsection (a) shall remain available, without fiscal  
13 year limitation, until expended.

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