

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4177

To establish a commission to review Federal Government administration and spending practices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2005

Ms. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To establish a commission to review Federal Government administration and spending practices.

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 “Federal Government
5 Spending Accountability and Oversight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 Federal Government Spending Accountability and Over-
9 sight Commission (in this Act referred to as the “Commis-
10 sion”).

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

2 The Commission—

3 (1) shall conduct a survey on cost control in the
4 Federal Government;

5 (2) shall conduct in-depth reviews of the oper-
6 ations of Executive agencies to evaluate potential
7 improvements in agency operations; and

8 (3) shall advise and make recommendations to
9 Congress, the President, and the heads of Executive
10 agencies with respect to improving management and
11 reducing costs.

12 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

13 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
14 shall be composed of 24 members appointed as follows:

15 (1) 8 individuals appointed by the President.

16 (2) 4 individuals appointed by the Speaker of
17 the House of Representatives.

18 (3) 4 individuals appointed by the minority
19 leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (4) 4 individuals appointed by the majority
21 leader of the Senate.

22 (5) 4 individuals appointed by the minority
23 leader of the Senate.

24 (b) QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—

1 (1) PROHIBITION ON GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
2 EES.—Individuals appointed to the Commission shall
3 not be officers or employees of a government.

4 (2) OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals ap-
5 pointed to the Commission shall possess extensive
6 experience in their respective fields, and shall be
7 qualified to study government spending and budget
8 practices.

9 (3) POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.—Not more
10 than 4 members of the Commission appointed by the
11 President under subsection (a)(1) shall be from the
12 same political party.

13 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Appointments
14 shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of
15 enactment of this Act.

16 (d) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member
17 is appointed to the Commission, and later becomes an offi-
18 cer or employee of a government, that member may con-
19 tinue as a member of the Commission for not longer than
20 the 30-day period beginning on the date that member be-
21 comes such an officer or employee.

22 (e) TERMS.—

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

1 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
2 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
3 appointment was made not later than 30 days after
4 the date on which the vacancy occurs.

5 (f) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

6 (g) QUORUM.—13 members of the Commission shall
7 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-
8 ings.

9 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-
10 mission shall be elected by the members. The term of of-
11 fice of the Chairperson shall be the duration of the Com-
12 mission.

13 (i) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet not
14 fewer than one time per month at the call of the Chair-
15 person.

16 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

17 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
18 tor who shall be appointed by the Chairperson. The Direc-
19 tor shall be paid at a rate to be determined by the Com-
20 mission.

21 (b) STAFF.—With the approval of the Chairperson,
22 the Director may appoint personnel as the Director con-
23 siders appropriate. Such personnel shall be paid at a rate
24 to be determined by the Director, with the approval of the
25 Chairperson.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
3 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
4 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
5 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—If author-
7 ized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Com-
8 mission may take any action that the Commission is au-
9 thorized to take by this section.

10 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
11 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
12 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
13 out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson, the head
14 of that department or agency shall furnish to the Com-
15 mittee, its staff, and the Secretary of Commerce such in-
16 formation, including information relating to the structure,
17 organization, personnel, and operations of that depart-
18 ment or agency, to the extent permitted by law.

19 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
20 contract with and compensate government and private
21 agencies or persons for supplies or services, without regard
22 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

23 (e) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Commis-
24 sion may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or
25 devises of services or property, both real and personal, for
26 the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Com-

1 mission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds
2 from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests,
3 or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be
4 available for disbursement upon order of the Chairperson.
5 For purposes of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes,
6 property accepted under this subsection shall be consid-
7 ered as a gift, bequest, or devise to the United States.

8 **SEC. 7. JOINT PROJECTS.**

9 The Secretary of Commerce may engage in joint
10 projects, or perform services, on matters of mutual inter-
11 est with the Commission in accordance with Public Law
12 91–412 (15 U.S.C. 1525).

13 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

14 (a) **PRELIMINARY REPORT.**—Not later than 6
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
16 mission shall submit to the President and Congress a re-
17 port containing its findings.

18 (b) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than 12 months
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
20 shall submit to the President and Congress a report con-
21 taining its findings.

22 (c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
24 submit to the President and Congress a report con-
25 taining—

1 (1) the findings and conclusions of the Commis-
2 sion; and

3 (2) specific recommendations for legislative and
4 administrative actions determined by the Commis-
5 sion to be appropriate.

6 (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing reports re-
7 quired under this section, the Commission shall consider
8 the following:

9 (1) Executive or congressional action that can
10 increase efficiency and reduce costs in the Federal
11 Government.

12 (2) Areas where managerial accountability can
13 be enhanced and administrative control can be im-
14 proved.

15 (3) Long and short-term opportunities for man-
16 agerial improvement.

17 (4) Specific areas where potential savings jus-
18 tify further study.

19 (5) Information and data relating to govern-
20 mental expenditures, indebtedness, and personnel
21 management.

22 (6) Federal programs that can be terminated
23 because the objectives of the program have been ter-
24 minated or are duplicated by another Federal pro-
25 gram.

1 (7) Federal programs that can be carried out
2 more efficiently and cost-effectively by the private
3 sector.

4 **SEC. 9. DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**

5 In this Act, the term “Executive agency” has the
6 meaning given that term by section 105 of title 5, United
7 States Code.

8 **SEC. 10. FUNDING.**

9 All of the expenses of the Commission shall be paid
10 from non-Federal sources.

11 **SEC. 11. TERMINATION.**

12 The Commission shall terminate not later than 30
13 days after the date of submission of the report required
14 under section 8(c).

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