

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1889

To establish the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2005

Mr. HAGEL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Finance

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:

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

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

15 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

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

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

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a
22 comprehensive review of Social Security, Medicare, and
23 Medicaid consistent with the purpose specified in section
24 4 and shall submit the report required under subsection
25 (b).

1 (b) REPORT.—

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

9 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report sub-
10 mitted under this subsection shall be made available
11 to the public.

12 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

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

18 (2) The minority leader of the Senate shall ap-
19 point 2 members.

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

22 (4) The minority leader of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives shall appoint 2 members.

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

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

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

12 (e) INITIAL ORGANIZATION PERIOD.—Not later than
 13 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
 14 mission shall develop and implement a schedule for com-
 15 pletion of the review and report required under section 5.

16 (f) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Commission shall select
 17 2 Co-Chairpersons from among its members.

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

22 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

23 (a) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission
 24 shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, but a

1 quorum is not required for members to meet and hold
2 hearings.

3 (b) MEETINGS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet
5 at the call of the Co-Chairpersons or a majority of
6 its members.

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

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

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

20 (e) STAFF.—

21 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission
22 shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director.
23 The Executive Director shall be paid at a rate equiv-
24 alent to a rate established for the Senior Executive

1 Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

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

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

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

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

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

6 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

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