

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2024

To establish the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2007

Mr. TANNER (for himself and Mr. CASTLE) 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

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 2007”.

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 shall 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 The appropriate Committees of Congress shall hold
13 hearings on such report.

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

17 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

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

23 (2) The minority leader of the Senate shall ap-
24 point 2 members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (f) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Commission shall select
21 2 Co-Chairpersons from among its members.

22 (g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
23 on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the
24 Commission submits the report required under section
25 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 2008, \$1,500,000 to carry out this
10 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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