

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 522

To establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review over 6 years of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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 a commission to conduct a comprehensive review over 6 years of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes.

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 “Commission on the
5 Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Com-
3 mission on the Accountability and Review of Federal
4 Agencies (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Com-
5 mission”).

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
9 be composed of 7 members appointed by the
10 President as follows:

11 (i) One in consultation with the
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13 (ii) One in consultation with the mi-
14 nority leader of the House of Representa-
15 tives.

16 (iii) One in consultation with the ma-
17 jority leader of the Senate.

18 (iv) One in consultation with the mi-
19 nority leader of the Senate.

20 (v) Three other members.

21 (B) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Presi-
22 dent may appoint up to 4 Members of Congress
23 (up to 2 from each House) as nonvoting ex offi-
24 cio members of the Commission.

1 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall se-
2 lect a member from among its members to serve as
3 chairperson of the Commission.

4 (c) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

5 (1) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed
6 for a term of 2 years, except as provided in para-
7 graph (2).

8 (2) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill
9 a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the
10 term for which the member's predecessor was ap-
11 pointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of
12 that term. A member may serve after the expiration
13 of that member's term until a successor has taken
14 office. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not af-
15 fect its powers, but shall be filled in the same man-
16 ner as the original appointment.

17 (d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after
18 the date on which all members of the Commission have
19 been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meet-
20 ing.

21 (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
22 call of the chairperson.

23 (f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
24 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
25 ber of members may hold hearings.

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

2 (a) DEFINITION.—The term “agency”, as used in
3 this section, has the meaning given the term “executive
4 agency” under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

5 (b) EVALUATIONS AND PLAN.—Each year during the
6 life of the Commission, the Commission shall—

7 (1) evaluate agencies, and programs within
8 those agencies, using the criteria under subsection

9 (c) and pursuant to the schedule under subsection
10 (d); and

11 (2) develop—

12 (A) a plan with recommendations on the
13 agencies and programs evaluated under para-
14 graph (1) that year that should be realigned or
15 eliminated; and

16 (B) proposed legislation to implement the
17 plan under subparagraph (A).

18 (c) CRITERIA.—

19 (1) DUPLICATIVE.—If 2 or more agencies or
20 programs are performing the same essential function
21 and the function can be consolidated or streamlined
22 into a single agency or program, the Commission
23 shall recommend that the agency or program be re-
24 aligned.

25 (2) WASTEFUL OR INEFFICIENT.—The Com-
26 mission shall recommend the realignment or elimi-

1 nation of any agency or program that has wasted
2 Federal funds by—

3 (A) egregious spending;

4 (B) mismanagement of resources and per-
5 sonnel; or

6 (C) use of such funds for personal benefit
7 or the benefit of a special interest group.

8 (3) OUTDATED, IRRELEVANT, OR FAILED.—The
9 Commission shall recommend the elimination of any
10 agency or program that—

11 (A) has completed its intended purpose;

12 (B) has become irrelevant; or

13 (C) has failed to meet its objectives.

14 (d) SCHEDULE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—

16 (A) YEARS COVERED.—The Commission
17 shall carry out the evaluations required under
18 subsection (b) each year for 6 years, beginning
19 with the first calendar year beginning after the
20 first meeting of the Commission.

21 (B) AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS COV-
22 ERED.—

23 (i) During each year the Commission
24 carries out evaluations, the Commission
25 shall evaluate—

1 (I) the agencies and programs
2 covered by two annual appropriations
3 Acts; and

4 (II) such additional agencies and
5 programs not funded by annual ap-
6 propriations Acts as the Commission
7 considers appropriate.

8 (ii) If an agency or program is funded
9 in more than one annual appropriations
10 Act, the agency or program shall be evalu-
11 ated under the appropriation Act through
12 which it is primarily funded.

13 (2) PUBLICATION OF SCHEDULE.—Before be-
14 ginning the first evaluations under subsection (b),
15 the Commission shall publish in the Federal Register
16 a schedule for the evaluations. The schedule shall
17 specify, by year, the annual appropriations Acts and
18 the additional agencies and programs not funded by
19 annual appropriations Acts that will be evaluated
20 during that year.

21 (e) REPORTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the end of a year in which evaluations are carried
24 out under the schedule under subsection (d), the

1 Commission shall submit to the President and Con-
2 gress a report that includes—

3 (A) the plan developed under subsection
4 (b)(1) for that year, with supporting docu-
5 mentation for all recommendations; and

6 (B) the proposed legislation developed
7 under subsection (b)(2) for that year.

8 (2) USE OF SAVINGS.—The proposed legislation
9 under paragraph (1)(B) shall provide that all funds
10 saved by the implementation of the plan under para-
11 graph (1)(A) shall be used to cover the costs of the
12 Commission and for deficit reduction.

13 (3) RELOCATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—
14 The proposed legislation under paragraph (1)(B)
15 shall provide that if the position of an employee of
16 an agency is eliminated as a result of the implemen-
17 tation of the plan under paragraph (1)(A), the af-
18 fected agency shall make reasonable efforts to relo-
19 cate such employee to another position within the
20 agency or within another Federal agency.

21 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

22 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission or, at its direction,
23 any subcommittee or member of the Commission, may, for
24 the purpose of carrying out this Act—

1 (1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such
2 times and places, take such testimony, receive such
3 evidence, and administer such oaths as any member
4 of the Commission considers advisable;

5 (2) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the at-
6 tendance and testimony of such witnesses as any
7 member of the Commission considers advisable; and

8 (3) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the pro-
9 duction of such books, records, correspondence,
10 memoranda, papers, documents, tapes, and other
11 evidentiary materials relating to any matter under
12 investigation by the Commission.

13 (b) ISSUANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF SUB-
14 POENAS.—

15 (1) ISSUANCE.—Subpoenas issued under sub-
16 section (a) shall bear the signature of the chair-
17 person of the Commission and shall be served by any
18 person or class of persons designated by the chair-
19 person for that purpose.

20 (2) ENFORCEMENT.—In the case of contumacy
21 or failure to obey a subpoena issued under sub-
22 section (a), the United States district court for the
23 judicial district in which the subpoenaed person re-
24 sides, is served, or may be found, may issue an order
25 requiring such person to appear at any designated

1 place to testify or to produce documentary or other
2 evidence. Any failure to obey the order of the court
3 may be punished by the court as a contempt of that
4 court.

5 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
6 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-
7 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
8 siders necessary to carry out this Act. Upon request of
9 the chairperson of the Commission, the head of such de-
10 partment or agency shall furnish such information to the
11 Commission.

12 (d) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
13 the United States mails in the same manner and under
14 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
15 the Federal Government.

16 **SEC. 5. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

17 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

18 (1) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Except as pro-
19 vided under subsection (b), each member of the
20 Commission who is not an officer or employee of the
21 Federal Government shall not be compensated.

22 (2) FEDERAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES.—All
23 members of the Commission who are officers or em-
24 ployees of the United States shall serve without com-

1 pensation in addition to that received for their serv-
2 ices as officers or employees of the United States.

3 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
4 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
5 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
6 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
7 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
8 regular places of business in the performance of services
9 for the Commission.

10 (c) STAFF.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson of the Com-
12 mission may, without regard to the civil service laws
13 and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive
14 director and such other additional personnel as may
15 be necessary to enable the Commission to perform
16 its duties. The employment of an executive director
17 shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

18 (2) COMPENSATION.—Upon the approval of the
19 chairperson, the executive director may fix the com-
20 pensation of the executive director and other per-
21 sonnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter
22 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, re-
23 lating to classification of positions and General
24 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for
25 the executive director and other personnel may not

1 exceed the maximum rate payable for a position at
2 GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332
3 of such title.

4 (3) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The executive director
6 and any personnel of the Commission who are
7 employees shall be employees under section
8 2105 of title 5, United States Code, for pur-
9 poses of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89,
10 and 90 of that title.

11 (B) MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Subpara-
12 graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to
13 members of the Commission.

14 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
15 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
16 Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall
17 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or
18 privilege.

19 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
20 TENT SERVICES.—The chairperson of the Commission
21 may procure temporary and intermittent services under
22 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates
23 for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent
24 of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of
25 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the
3 date on which the Commission submits the sixth report
4 under section 3(e).

5 **SEC. 7. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**

6 Not later than 180 days after the termination of the
7 Commission, the Comptroller General of the United States
8 shall prepare and submit to Congress and the President
9 a report on the effectiveness of the Commission.

10 **SEC. 8. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF REFORM**
11 **PROPOSALS.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

13 (1) the term “implementation bill” means only
14 a bill which is introduced as provided under sub-
15 section (b), and contains the proposed legislation in-
16 cluded in a report submitted to Congress under sec-
17 tion 3, without modification; and

18 (2) the term “calendar day” means a calendar
19 day other than one on which either House is not in
20 session because of an adjournment of more than 3
21 days to a date certain.

22 (b) INTRODUCTION; REFERRAL; AND REPORT OR
23 DISCHARGE.—

24 (1) INTRODUCTION.—On the first calendar day
25 on which both Houses are in session, on or imme-
26 diately following the date on which the report is sub-

1 mitted to Congress under section 3, a single imple-
2 mentation bill shall be introduced (by request)—

3 (A) in the Senate by the majority leader of
4 the Senate, for himself and the minority leader
5 of the Senate, or by Members of the Senate
6 designated by the majority leader and minority
7 leader of the Senate; and

8 (B) in the House of Representatives by the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives, for
10 himself and the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives, or by Members of the House of
12 Representatives designated by the Speaker and
13 minority leader of the House of Representa-
14 tives.

15 (2) REFERRAL.—The implementation bills in-
16 troduced under paragraph (1) shall be referred to
17 any appropriate committee of jurisdiction in the
18 Senate and any appropriate committee of jurisdic-
19 tion in the House of Representatives. A committee
20 to which an implementation bill is referred under
21 this paragraph may report such bill to the respective
22 House without amendment.

23 (3) REPORT OR DISCHARGE.—If a committee to
24 which an implementation bill is referred has not re-
25 ported such bill by the end of the 15th calendar day

1 after the date of the introduction of such bill, such
2 committee shall be immediately discharged from fur-
3 ther consideration of such bill, and upon being re-
4 ported or discharged from the committee, such bill
5 shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

6 (c) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—When the committee to
8 which an implementation bill is referred has re-
9 ported, or has been discharged under subsection
10 (b)(3), it is at any time thereafter in order (even
11 though a previous motion to the same effect has
12 been disagreed to) for any Member of the respective
13 House to move to proceed to the consideration of the
14 implementation bill, and all points of order against
15 the implementation bill (and against consideration of
16 the implementation bill) are waived. The motion is
17 highly privileged in the House of Representatives
18 and is privileged in the Senate and is not debatable.
19 The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a
20 motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the
21 consideration of other business. A motion to recon-
22 sider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or
23 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to
24 proceed to the consideration of the implementation
25 bill is agreed to, the implementation bill shall remain

1 the unfinished business of the respective House until
2 disposed of.

3 (2) AMENDMENTS.—An implementation bill
4 may not be amended in the Senate or the House of
5 Representatives.

6 (3) DEBATE.—Debate on the implementation
7 bill, and on all debatable motions and appeals in
8 connection therewith, shall be limited to not more
9 than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally be-
10 tween those favoring and those opposing the resolu-
11 tion. A motion further to limit debate is in order and
12 not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to
13 postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consider-
14 ation of other business, or a motion to recommit the
15 implementation bill is not in order. A motion to re-
16 consider the vote by which the implementation bill is
17 agreed to or disagreed to is not in order.

18 (4) VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE.—Immediately
19 following the conclusion of the debate on an imple-
20 mentation bill, and a single quorum call at the con-
21 clusion of the debate if requested in accordance with
22 the rules of the appropriate House, the vote on final
23 passage of the implementation bill shall occur.

24 (5) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—
25 Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to

1 the application of the rules of the Senate or the
 2 House of Representatives, as the case may be, to the
 3 procedure relating to an implementation bill shall be
 4 decided without debate.

5 (d) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER
 6 HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of an imple-
 7 mentation bill of that House, that House receives from
 8 the other House an implementation bill, then the following
 9 procedures shall apply:

10 (1) NONREFERRAL.—The implementation bill
 11 of the other House shall not be referred to a com-
 12 mittee.

13 (2) VOTE ON BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.—With
 14 respect to an implementation bill of the House re-
 15 ceiving the implementation bill—

16 (A) the procedure in that House shall be
 17 the same as if no implementation bill had been
 18 received from the other House; but

19 (B) the vote on final passage shall be on
 20 the implementation bill of the other House.

21 (e) RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 22 REPRESENTATIVES.—This section is enacted by Con-
 23 gress—

24 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
 25 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-

1 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the
2 rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only
3 with respect to the procedure to be followed in that
4 House in the case of an implementation bill de-
5 scribed in subsection (a), and it supersedes other
6 rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with
7 such rules; and

8 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
9 right of either House to change the rules (so far as
10 relating to the procedure of that House) at any time,
11 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in
12 the case of any other rule of that House.

13 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
15 as may be necessary for carrying out this Act.

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