

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7155

To form the National Commission on Modernizing Military Installation Designations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To form the National Commission on Modernizing Military Installation Designations, 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 “National Commission
5 on Modernizing Military Installation Designations Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MODERNIZING MILI-**
7 **TARY INSTALLATION DESIGNATIONS.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
10 executive branch an independent Commission to re-

1 view the designations of military installations and
2 other property of the Department of Defense.

3 (2) TREATMENT.—The Commission shall be
4 considered an independent Commission establish-
5 ment of the Federal Government as defined by sec-
6 tion 104 of title 5, United States Code, and a tem-
7 porary organization under section 3161 of such title.

8 (3) DESIGNATION.—The Commission estab-
9 lished under paragraph (1) shall be known as the
10 “National Commission on Modernizing Military In-
11 stallation Designations”.

12 (4) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (A) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall
14 be composed of 11 members appointed as fol-
15 lows:

16 (i) The Secretary of the Army shall
17 appoint 1 member.

18 (ii) The Secretary of the Air Force
19 shall appoint 1 member.

20 (iii) The Secretary of the Navy shall
21 appoint 1 member.

22 (iv) The Chairman of the Committee
23 on Armed Services of the Senate shall ap-
24 point 1 member.

1 (v) The Ranking Member of the Com-
2 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate
3 shall appoint 1 member.

4 (vi) The Chairman of the Committee
5 on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives shall appoint 1 member.

7 (vii) The Ranking Member of the
8 Committee on Armed Services of the
9 House of Representatives shall appoint 1
10 member.

11 (viii) The majority leader of the Sen-
12 ate shall appoint 1 member.

13 (ix) The minority leader of the Senate
14 shall appoint 1 member.

15 (x) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives shall appoint 1 member.

17 (xi) The minority leader of the House
18 of Representatives shall appoint 1 member.

19 (B) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Mem-
20 bers shall be appointed to the Commission
21 under subparagraph (A) not later than 90 days
22 after the date on which the Commission is es-
23 tablished.

24 (C) EFFECT OF LACK OF APPOINTMENT
25 BY APPOINTMENT DATE.—If one or more ap-

1 pointments under subparagraph (A) are not
2 made by the appointment date specified in sub-
3 paragraph (B), or if a position described in sub-
4 paragraph (A) is vacant for more than 90 days,
5 the authority to make such appointment shall
6 transfer to the Chair of the Commission.

7 (5) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission
8 shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its
9 members.

10 (6) TERMS.—Members shall be appointed for
11 the life of the Commission. A vacancy in the Com-
12 mission shall not affect its powers and shall be filled
13 in the same manner as the original appointment was
14 made.

15 (7) STATUS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Not-
16 withstanding the requirements of section 2105 of
17 title 5, United States Code, including the required
18 supervision under subsection (a)(3) of such section,
19 the members of the Commission shall be deemed to
20 be Federal employees.

21 (b) DUTIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry
23 out the review described in paragraph (2). In car-
24 rying out such review, the Commission shall consider
25 the designations of covered military installations and

1 criteria for their redesignation that honors our de-
2 ceased heroes and other deceased distinguished men
3 and women that represent the diversity of our soci-
4 ety.

5 (2) SCOPE OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting the
6 review under paragraph (1), the Commission shall
7 consider the following:

8 (A) The designations of military installa-
9 tions and other Department of Defense prop-
10 erty, including if such designations represent
11 the values enshrined in the Constitution of the
12 United States.

13 (B) The characteristics on which the des-
14 ignation of a covered military installation
15 should be based, including but not limited to—

16 (i) serving as inspiration to the service
17 members and citizens of the United States;

18 (ii) honoring careers or actions that
19 were important to, and well known in, the
20 locality or function to be memorialized;

21 (iii) recognizing the contributions to
22 the service under which the installation or
23 property is operated;

1 (iv) representing an allegiance to the
2 values enshrined in the Constitution of the
3 United States;

4 (v) diversity in race, gender, and eth-
5 nicity; and

6 (vi) honoring living persons in excep-
7 tional cases and where it is uniquely ap-
8 propriate.

9 (C) The rules, regulations, and procedures
10 for the designation of military installations and
11 other Department of Defense property.

12 (D) Any other matters the Commission
13 deems relevant.

14 (c) REPORTS.—

15 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
17 days after the date of the enactment of this
18 Act, the Commission shall submit to the Presi-
19 dent and Congress an initial report on the find-
20 ings of the Commission and such recommenda-
21 tions that the Commission may have for action
22 by the executive branch and Congress related to
23 the covered military installations.

24 (B) ELEMENTS.—The report required
25 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

1 (i) the covered military installations
2 considered for redesignation;

3 (ii) the criteria to be used for select-
4 ing a redesignation for each covered mili-
5 tary installation, consistent with the char-
6 acteristics under subsection (b)(2)(B); and

7 (iii) any other matters the Commis-
8 sion considers appropriate.

9 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365
11 days after the date of the enactment of this
12 Act, the Commission shall submit to the Presi-
13 dent and Congress a comprehensive report on
14 the results of the review required under sub-
15 section (b).

16 (B) ELEMENTS.—The report required
17 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

18 (i) a redesignation for each covered
19 military installation;

20 (ii) the criteria used for selecting a re-
21 designation for each covered military in-
22 stallation;

23 (iii) the rationale for the selected re-
24 designation for each covered military in-
25 stallation;

1 (iv) recommendations for improve-
2 ments to and standardization of Depart-
3 ment of Defense regulations and processes
4 related to the naming of military installa-
5 tions and property; and

6 (v) any other matters the Commission
7 considers appropriate.

8 (3) FORM OF REPORTS.—Reports submitted
9 under this subsection shall be made publicly avail-
10 able.

11 (d) REDESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days after
12 the submission of the recommendations under subsection
13 (c)(2), the Secretary of Defense shall redesignate the cov-
14 ered military installations with such designations as deter-
15 mined by the Commission.

16 (e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
17 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
18 States to a covered military installation referred to in sub-
19 section (d) shall be deemed to be a reference to such in-
20 stallation as redesignated under such subsection.

21 (f) TERMINATION.—Commission shall terminate not
22 later than 30 days after submitting the final versions of
23 reports and recommendations pursuant to subsection (c).

24 (g) COVERED MILITARY INSTALLATION.—In this sec-
25 tion, the term “covered military installation” includes—

- 1 (1) Camp Beauregard, Louisiana;
- 2 (2) Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia;
- 3 (3) Fort Benning, Georgia;
- 4 (4) Fort Bragg, North Carolina;
- 5 (5) Fort Gordon, Georgia;
- 6 (6) Fort Hood, Texas;
- 7 (7) Fort Lee, Virginia;
- 8 (8) Fort Pickett, Virginia;
- 9 (9) Fort Polk, Louisiana;
- 10 (10) Fort Rucker, Alabama;
- 11 (11) the USS Chancellorsville; and
- 12 (12) any other military base or property as the
- 13 Commission determines appropriate.
- 14 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 15 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
- 16 essary to carry out this section.

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