

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 80

Establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights
Commission.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. JOHN S. MCCAIN III HUMAN RIGHTS COMMIS-**
3 **SION.**

4 (a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
6 Senate the John S. McCain III Human Rights Com-
7 mission (in this section referred to as the “Commis-
8 sion”).

9 (2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

1 (A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discus-
 2 sion of international human rights issues and
 3 promotion of internationally recognized human
 4 rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration
 5 of Human Rights;

6 (B) raise awareness of international
 7 human rights violations through regular brief-
 8 ings and hearings; and

9 (C) collaborate with the executive branch,
 10 human rights entities, and nongovernmental or-
 11 ganizations to promote human rights initiatives
 12 within the Senate.

13 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may become a
 14 member of the Commission by submitting a written
 15 statement to that effect to the Commission.

16 (4) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the
 18 Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-
 19 chairpersons of the Commission, as follows:

20 (i) One co-chairperson shall be ap-
 21 pointed, and may be removed, by the ma-
 22 jority leader of the Senate.

23 (ii) One co-chairperson shall be ap-
 24 pointed, and may be removed, by the mi-
 25 nority leader of the Senate.

(B) TERM.—The term of a member as a co-chairperson of the Commission shall end on the last day of the Congress during which the member is appointed as a co-chairperson, unless the member ceases being a member of the Senate, leaves the Commission, resigns from the position of co-chairperson, or is removed.

(C) PUBLICATION.—Appointments under this paragraph shall be printed in the Congressional Record.

(D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the position of co-chairperson of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(b) COMMISSION STAFF.—

(1) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is authorized, from funds made available under subsection (c), to—

(i) employ such staff in the manner and at a rate not to exceed that allowed for employees of a committee of the Senate under section 105(e)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575(e)(3)); and

1 (ii) incur such expenses as may be
 2 necessary or appropriate to carry out its
 3 duties and functions.

4 (B) EXPENSES.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—Payments made
 6 under this subsection for receptions, meals,
 7 and food-related expenses shall be author-
 8 ized only for actual expenses incurred by
 9 the Commission in the course of con-
 10 ducting its official duties and functions.

11 (ii) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—
 12 Amounts received as reimbursement for ex-
 13 penses described in clause (i) shall not be
 14 reported as income, and the expenses so
 15 reimbursed shall not be allowed as a de-
 16 duction under the Internal Revenue Code
 17 of 1986.

18 (2) DESIGNATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each co-chairperson of
 20 the Commission may designate 1 professional
 21 staff member.

22 (B) COMPENSATION OF SENATE EMPLOY-
 23 EES.—In the case of the compensation of any
 24 professional staff member designated under
 25 subparagraph (A) who is an employee of a

1 Member of the Senate or of a committee of the
 2 Senate and who has been designated to perform
 3 services for the Commission, the professional
 4 staff member shall continue to be paid by the
 5 Member or committee, as the case may be, but
 6 the account from which the professional staff
 7 member is paid shall be reimbursed for the
 8 services of the professional staff member (in-
 9 cluding agency contributions when appropriate)
 10 out of funds made available under subsection
 11 (c).

12 (C) DUTIES.—Each professional staff
 13 member designated under subparagraph (A)
 14 shall—

15 (i) serve all members of the Commis-
 16 sion; and

17 (ii) carry out such other functions as
 18 the co-chairperson designating the profes-
 19 sional staff member may specify.

20 (c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The expenses of the Com-
 22 mission shall be paid from the Contingent Fund of
 23 the Senate, out of the account of Miscellaneous
 24 Items, upon vouchers approved jointly by the co-
 25 chairpersons (except that vouchers shall not be re-

1 quired for the disbursement of salaries of employees
2 who are paid at an annual rate of pay).

3 (2) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—For any fiscal year,
4 not more than \$200,000 shall be expended for em-
5 ployees and expenses.

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