

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4831

To establish a national commission to review the regular military compensation of members of the Armed Forces and develop recommendations to end the dependence of some members and their families on Federal and local assistance programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 1994

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. SPENCE, and Mr. STUMP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a national commission to review the regular military compensation of members of the Armed Forces and develop recommendations to end the dependence of some members and their families on Federal and local assistance programs.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION**

4 **ON FAIRNESS IN MILITARY COMPENSATION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
6 mission to be known as the “National Commission on

1 Fairness in Military Compensation” (in this Act referred
2 to as the “Commission”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-
4 sion shall consist of 16 members, as follows:

5 (1) The Secretary of Defense.

6 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (3) The Director of the Office of Management
8 and Budget.

9 (4) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
10 ices.

11 (5) Two Members of the Senate, one Member
12 selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate
13 and one Member selected by the minority leader of
14 the Senate.

15 (6) Two Members of the House of Representa-
16 tives, one Member selected by the Speaker of the
17 House and one Member selected by the minority
18 leader of the House of Representatives.

19 (7) Eight additional members appointed by the
20 President from the general public or as representa-
21 tives of nonprofit or military advocacy organizations,
22 such as—

23 (A) the American Legion;

24 (B) the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

25 (C) the USO;

1 (D) the Non-Commissioned Officers Asso-
2 ciation;

3 (E) the Retired Enlisted Association;

4 (F) the Fleet Reserve Association;

5 (G) the Association of the United States
6 Army;

7 (H) the National Military Family Associa-
8 tion; and

9 (I) the Air Force Sergeants Association.

10 (c) TIME FOR APPOINTMENT.—The members of the
11 Commission required to be appointed or selected under
12 subsection (b) shall be appointed or selected not later than
13 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall elect a
15 Chairperson from among its membership.

16 **SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION.**

17 (a) REVIEW OF FAIRNESS OF MILITARY COMPENSA-
18 TION.—The Commission shall determine the extent to
19 which members of the Armed Forces or their dependents
20 have come to rely on food stamps, the special supplemental
21 food program under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act
22 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), and other Federal or local as-
23 sistance programs as a necessary supplement to their reg-
24 ular military compensation and the circumstances that
25 lead to such dependence. In the case of members of the

1 Armed Forces stationed outside the United States who are
2 unable to receive such assistance, the Commission shall
3 also determine the general standard of living for these
4 members and their dependents.

5 (b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—On the basis
6 of the review conducted under subsection (a), the Commis-
7 sion shall prepare and submit to the President and Con-
8 gress a report containing the findings of the Commission
9 and specific recommendations on possible changes in the
10 military pay structure or other methods to ensure that
11 members of the Armed Forces receive adequate compensa-
12 tion so that they are able to provide for themselves and
13 their families without seeking special financial assistance
14 to maintain a decent standard of living. The report shall
15 be submitted within 180 days after the first meeting of
16 the Commission.

17 **SEC. 3. GENERAL POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

18 (a) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
19 Commission shall constitute a group for the transaction
20 of business.

21 (b) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Commission
22 shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the manner
23 in which the original appointment was made.

24 (c) PROHIBITION OF ADDITIONAL PAY.—Members of
25 the Commission who are officers or employees of the

1 United States shall receive no additional pay, allowances,
2 or benefits by reason of their service on the Commission.
3 Members appointed from among private citizens of the
4 United States may be allowed travel expenses, including
5 per diem, in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for
6 persons serving intermittently in the government service
7 to the extent funds are available for such expenses.

8 (d) HEARINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
9 Act, the Commission may hold such hearings and sit and
10 act at such times and places as the Commission may find
11 advisable.

12 (e) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Commission
13 may adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary
14 to establish its procedures and to govern the manner of
15 its operations, organization, and personnel.

16 (f) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—(1)
17 The Commission may request from the head of any Fed-
18 eral agency or instrumentality such information as the
19 Commission may require for the purpose of this Act. Upon
20 request made by the Chairperson of the Commission, each
21 such agency or instrumentality shall furnish such informa-
22 tion to the Commission, to the extent permitted by law
23 and subject to the exceptions set forth in section 552 of
24 title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the
25 Freedom of Information Act).

1 (2) Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commis-
2 sion, the head of any Federal agency or instrumentality
3 shall, to the extent possible and subject to the discretion
4 of such head—

5 (A) make any of the facilities and services of
6 such agency or instrumentality available to the Com-
7 mission; and

8 (B) detail any of the personnel of such agency
9 or instrumentality to the Commission, on a reim-
10 bursable basis, to assist the Commission in carrying
11 out its duties under this Act, except that any ex-
12 penses of the Commission incurred under this sub-
13 paragraph shall be subject to the limitation on total
14 expenses set forth in section 4(b).

15 (g) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
16 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
17 ditions as other Federal agencies.

18 (h) **CONTRACTING.**—The Commission may, to such
19 extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropria-
20 tion Acts, enter into contracts with State agencies, private
21 firms, institutions, and individuals for the purpose of con-
22 ducting research or surveys necessary to enable the Com-
23 mission to discharge its duties under this Act, subject to
24 the limitation on total expenses set forth in section 4(b).

1 (i) STAFF.—Subject to such rules and regulations as
2 may be adopted by the Commission, the Chairperson of
3 the Commission (subject to the limitation on total ex-
4 penses set forth in section 4(b)) shall have the power to
5 appoint, terminate, and fix the compensation (without re-
6 gard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, gov-
7 erning appointments in the competitive service, and with-
8 out regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
9 III of provision of law, relating to the number, classifica-
10 tion, and General Schedule rates) of an Executive Direc-
11 tor, and of such additional staff as the Chairperson deems
12 advisable to assist the Commission, at rates not to exceed
13 a rate to the maximum rate for GS-15, of the General
14 Schedule under section 5332 of such title.

15 **SEC. 4. EXPENSES OF COMMISSION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any expenses of the Commission
17 shall be paid from such funds as may be available to the
18 Secretary of Defense.

19 (b) LIMITATION.—The total expenses of the Commis-
20 sion shall not exceed \$750,000.

21 (c) GAO AUDIT.—Prior to the termination of the
22 Commission, the Comptroller General of the United States
23 shall conduct an audit of the financial books and records
24 of the Commission to determine that the limitation on ex-
25 penses has been met, and shall include its determination

1 in an opinion to be included in the report of the Commis-
2 sion.

3 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

4 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the
5 date on which the Commission submits its final report
6 under section 2(b).

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