

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4076

To establish a commission to make recommendations on the appropriate size of membership of the House of Representatives and the method by which Representatives are elected.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a commission to make recommendations on the appropriate size of membership of the House of Representatives and the method by which Representatives are elected.

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 “Congress 2000 Com-
5 mission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established a commission to be known as the
3 “Congress 2000 Commission” (hereinafter in this Act re-
4 ferred to as the “Commission”).

5 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

6 The Commission shall—

7 (1) analyze the current size of the membership
8 of the House of Representatives considering the re-
9 quirement for the institution to carry out its respon-
10 sibilities in an effective manner under the challenges
11 of the new century;

12 (2) examine alternatives to the current method
13 by which Representatives are elected (including cu-
14 mulative voting and proportional representation) to
15 determine if such alternatives would make the House
16 of Representatives a more representative body;

17 (3) provide consideration to the continuing dis-
18 solution of adherence to the platforms and can-
19 didates of the Nation’s two major political parties as
20 well as to the reduction in electoral participation by
21 the citizenry;

22 (4) consider whether alternative methods of
23 electing House Members might include more citizens
24 in the electoral process;

25 (5) to the extent necessary, formulate proposals
26 for changes in the size of the membership of, and

1 the method of electing Representatives to, the House
2 of Representatives; and

3 (6) not later than the end of the One Hundred
4 Fifth Congress, submit to the President and the
5 Congress a report of the work of the Commission,
6 together with a draft of legislation (including tech-
7 nical and conforming provisions) to implement the
8 proposals referred to in paragraph (5).

9 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

10 (a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission
11 shall be composed of 15 members, as follows:

12 (1) Two members appointed by the President.

13 (2) Ten members appointed by the House of
14 Representatives, in the manner prescribed by the
15 House of Representatives.

16 (3) Three members appointed by the Senate, in
17 the manner prescribed by the Senate.

18 (b) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—In making appointments
19 under this section, the appointing authorities shall make
20 a special effort to appoint individuals who are particularly
21 qualified to perform the functions of the Commission, by
22 reason of either practical experience or academic expertise
23 in politics or government.

24 (c) **TERMS AND VACANCIES.**—Each member shall be
25 appointed for the life of the Commission. A vacancy in

1 the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the
2 original appointment was made.

3 (d) PAY AND TRAVEL.—Each member of the Com-
4 mission, other than a full-time officer or employee of the
5 United States—

6 (1) shall be paid the daily equivalent of the an-
7 nual rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Ex-
8 ecutive Schedule for each day (including travel time)
9 during which the member is engaged in the actual
10 performance of duties vested in the Commission; and

11 (2) shall receive travel expenses, including per
12 diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sec-
13 tions 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

14 (e) QUORUM.—Eight members of the Commission
15 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
16 hearings.

17 (f) CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman of the Commission
18 shall be elected by the members.

19 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
20 call of the Chairman or a majority of its members.

21 **SEC. 5. STAFF.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the Commis-
23 sion, the Chairman may appoint and fix the pay of not
24 more than six individuals for the staff of the Commission.
25 Such individuals may be appointed without regard to the

1 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
2 pointments in the competitive service, and may be paid
3 without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
4 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classifica-
5 tion and General Schedule pay rates, except that an indi-
6 vidual so appointed may not receive pay in excess of the
7 maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS-
8 15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title
9 5, United States Code.

10 (b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
11 proval of the Commission, the Chairman may procure tem-
12 porary and intermittent services in the manner prescribed
13 in section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at
14 rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of
15 the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade
16 GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title
17 5, United States Code.

18 (c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
19 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department
20 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
21 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
22 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

23 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

24 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the pur-
25 pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act

1 at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence
2 as the Commission considers appropriate.

3 (b) MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any member or agent
4 of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission,
5 take any action which the Commission is authorized to
6 take by this section.

7 (c) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
8 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
9 ditions as departments and agencies of the United States.

10 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
11 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
12 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
13 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
14 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
15 under this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

17 The Commission shall cease to exist on the last day
18 of the month in which its report is submitted under section
19 3.

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