

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 132

To establish a Second National Blue Ribbon Commission to Eliminate Waste  
in Government.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland) introduced  
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government  
Reform and Oversight

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## A BILL

To establish a Second National Blue Ribbon Commission  
to Eliminate Waste in Government.

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 “Second National Blue  
5 Ribbon Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government  
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 There is established a commission known as the Sec-  
9 ond National Blue Ribbon Commission to Eliminate

1 Waste in Government (in this Act referred to as the  
2 “Commission”).

3 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the Com-  
5 mission—

6 (1) to conduct a private sector survey on man-  
7 agement and cost control in the Federal Govern-  
8 ment;

9 (2) to conduct in-depth reviews of the oper-  
10 ations of the executive agencies;

11 (3) to review existing Government Accounting  
12 Office (GAO), Congressional Budget Office (CBO),  
13 Inspector General Reports, and other existing gov-  
14 ernmental and nongovernmental recommendations  
15 for reducing waste including recommendations from  
16 the President’s Private Sector Survey on Cost Con-  
17 trol, and, based on this review, to periodically submit  
18 a report to the President and Congress a list of such  
19 recommendations with estimated savings the Com-  
20 mission determines are most significant and to in-  
21 clude in the report a determination of whether the  
22 recommendation can be implemented by Executive  
23 Order or whether it requires legislative action; and

24 (4) to submit to the President and the Congress  
25 recommendations for improving the budget process

1 and management and for reducing waste and costs  
2 in the Federal Government.

3 (b) PARTICULAR AREAS TO BE EXAMINED.—In ful-  
4 filling the duties described in subsection (a), the Commis-  
5 sion shall identify and address—

6 (1) opportunities for increased efficiency and  
7 reduced costs in the Federal Government that can  
8 be realized by executive action or legislation;

9 (2) areas in the Federal Government where  
10 managerial accountability can be enhanced and ad-  
11 ministrative control can be improved;

12 (3) specific Federal programs that have accom-  
13 plished their objectives and ought to be terminated;

14 (4) specific Federal program services that could  
15 be provided at a lower cost by the private sector;

16 (5) specific reforms of the budget process that  
17 would yield savings, increase accountability and effi-  
18 ciency, and enhance public confidence in the budget  
19 process; and

20 (6) specific areas in the Federal Government  
21 where further study can be justified by potential sav-  
22 ings.

23 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

24 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
25 shall be composed of 12 members who are not officers or

1 employees of any government and who are especially quali-  
2 fied to serve on the Commission by virtue of their edu-  
3 cation, training, or experience. Not more than 6 members  
4 of the Commission shall be of the same political party.  
5 The members shall be appointed as follows:

6           (1) Four individuals appointed by the Presi-  
7 dent, not more than two from the same political  
8 party.

9           (2) Two individuals appointed by the Speaker  
10 of the House of Representatives.

11           (3) Two individuals appointed by the minority  
12 leader of the House of Representatives.

13           (4) Two individuals appointed by the majority  
14 leader of the Senate.

15           (5) Two individuals appointed by the minority  
16 leader of the Senate.

17           (b) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If an individ-  
18 ual is appointed to the Commission, and later becomes an  
19 officer or employee of a government, such individual may  
20 continue as a member of the Commission for not longer  
21 than the 30-day period beginning on the date such individ-  
22 ual becomes such an officer or employee.

23           (c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—Appointments  
24 shall be made within 30 days of the date of the enactment  
25 of this Act.

1 (d) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the  
2 life of the Commission.

3 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall  
4 be filled within 30 days in the manner in which the origi-  
5 nal appointment was made.

6 (f) COMPENSATION.—

7 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in  
8 paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall  
9 serve without pay.

10 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the  
11 Commission shall receive travel expenses, including  
12 per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with  
13 sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States  
14 Code.

15 (g) QUORUM.—5 members of the Commission shall  
16 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-  
17 ings.

18 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
19 mission shall be elected by the members from among the  
20 members.

21 (i) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at least  
22 once each month at the call of the Chairperson of the  
23 Commission.

1 **SEC. 5. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

2 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-  
3 tor appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission and  
4 paid by a rate determined by the Commission.

5 (b) STAFF.—With the approval of the Commission,  
6 the Director of the Commission may appoint personnel as  
7 the Director considers appropriate.

8 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

9 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
10 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-  
11 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and  
12 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

13 (b) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Any member or  
14 agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Com-  
15 mission, take any action which the Commission is author-  
16 ized to take by this section.

17 (c) INFORMATION.—The Commission may secure di-  
18 rectly from any Federal agency information necessary to  
19 enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-  
20 person of the Commission, the head of the Federal agency  
21 shall furnish the information to the Commission.

22 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may  
23 contract with and compensate government and private  
24 agencies or persons for supplies or services without regard  
25 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

1 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

2 (a) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Pursuant to section  
3 3(a)(3) the Commission shall issue periodic reports to the  
4 President and the Congress.

5 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the expiration  
6 of the 24-month period beginning on the date of enact-  
7 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the  
8 President and the Congress a final report setting forth  
9 the finding and conclusions of the Commission and specific  
10 recommendations for legislative and administrative actions  
11 that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

12 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

13 The Commission shall terminate not later than the  
14 expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on  
15 which the Commission submits its final report under sec-  
16 tion 7(b).

17 **SEC. 9. FUNDING AND SUPPORT.**

18 The Commission is to be funded, staffed and  
19 equipped, to the extent practicable and permitted by law,  
20 by the private sector without cost to the Federal Govern-  
21 ment. To accomplish this objective, it is expected that the  
22 Secretary of Commerce will engage in a joint project with  
23 a nonprofit organization pursuant to the first section of  
24 Public Law 91–412 (15 U.S.C. 1525) for the purpose of  
25 providing support for the Commission.