

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1902

To establish a National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. ALLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

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. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DIGESTIVE DIS-**
4 **EASES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human and Human Services (in this section referred to
7 as the “Secretary”), after consultation with the Director
8 of the National Institutes of Health, shall, within 60 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, establish a
10 National Commission on Digestive Diseases (in this sec-
11 tion referred to as the “Commission”).

1 (b) DUTIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

3 (A) conduct a comprehensive study of the
4 present state of knowledge of the incidence, du-
5 ration, and morbidity of, and mortality rates re-
6 sulting from, digestive diseases and of the social
7 and economic impact of such diseases;

8 (B) evaluate the public and private facili-
9 ties and resources (including trained personnel
10 and research activities) for the diagnosis, pre-
11 vention, and treatment of, and research in, such
12 diseases; and

13 (C) identify programs (including biological,
14 behavioral, nutritional, environmental, and so-
15 cial programs) in which, and the means by
16 which, improvement in the management of di-
17 gestive diseases can be accomplished.

18 (2) LONG-RANGE PLAN.—Based on the study,
19 evaluation, and identification made pursuant to
20 paragraph (1), the Commission shall develop and
21 recommend a long-range plan for the use and orga-
22 nization of national resources to effectively deal with
23 digestive diseases. The plan shall provide for—

1 (A) research studies into the basic biological
2 processes and mechanisms related to digestive
3 diseases;

4 (B) investigations into the epidemiology,
5 etiology, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and
6 control of digestive diseases;

7 (C) development of preventive measures
8 (including education programs, programs for
9 the elimination of environmental hazards re-
10 lated to digestive diseases, and clinical pro-
11 grams) to be taken against digestive diseases;

12 (D) detection of digestive diseases in the
13 presymptomatic stages and development and
14 evaluation of new, and improved methods of
15 screening for digestive diseases, taking into ac-
16 count recent technological changes in diagnostic
17 imaging modalities;

18 (E) development of criteria for the diag-
19 nosis and the clinical management and control
20 of digestive diseases;

21 (F) development of approaches to advance
22 digestive diseases research by incorporating in-
23 sights obtained from genomic and proteomic re-
24 search.

1 (G) development of coordinated health care
2 systems for dealing with digestive diseases;

3 (H) education and training (including con-
4 tinuing education programs) of scientists, clini-
5 cians, educators, and allied health professionals
6 in the fields and specialties requisite to the con-
7 duct of programs related to digestive diseases
8 with special emphasis on training for careers in
9 research, teaching, and all aspects of patient
10 care;

11 (I) the conduct and subject matter of trials
12 in clinical and translational research in diges-
13 tive diseases; and

14 (J) establishment of a system of periodic
15 surveillance of the research potential and re-
16 search needs in digestive diseases;

17 The long-range plan formulated under this paragraph
18 shall also include within its scope related nutritional dis-
19 orders and basic biological processes and mechanisms in
20 nutrition which are related to digestive diseases.

21 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL NA-
22 TIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES.—The Commission
23 shall recommend for each of the Institutes of the
24 National Institutes of Health whose activities are to
25 be affected by the long-range plan estimates of the

1 expenditures needed to carry out each Institute's
2 part of the overall program. Such estimates shall be
3 prepared for the fiscal year beginning immediately
4 after completion of the Commission's plan and for
5 each of the next 5 fiscal years.

6 (c) COMPOSITION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
8 composed of 16 members appointed in accordance
9 with paragraph (2) and the ex officio members des-
10 ignated under paragraph (3). The appointed mem-
11 bers shall be voting members, and the ex officio
12 members shall be nonvoting members, except that
13 the ex officio member designated under paragraph
14 (3)(A) shall be a voting member.

15 (2) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The voting mem-
16 bers of the Commission shall be appointed by the
17 Secretary from among individuals who are not offi-
18 cers or employees of the Federal Government. Of
19 such members—

20 (A) 10 shall be appointed from among sci-
21 entists, physicians, and other health profes-
22 sionals, of whom—

23 (i) two shall be practicing clinical gas-
24 troenterologists;

1 (ii) two shall be gastroenterologists in-
2 volved primarily in research on digestive
3 diseases;

4 (iii) one shall be a surgeon;

5 (iv) one shall be an expert in liver dis-
6 ease;

7 (v) one shall be an epidemiologist;

8 (vi) one shall be an allied health pro-
9 fessional; and

10 (vii) two shall be basic biomedical sci-
11 entists (such as biochemists, physiologists,
12 microbiologists, nutritionists, pharma-
13 cologists, or immunologists); and

14 (B) six shall be appointed from among the
15 general public, of whom at least three shall
16 have personal or close family experience with di-
17 gestive diseases.

18 (3) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—

19 (A) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES
20 AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES.—From
21 among officers or employees of the National In-
22 stitute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney
23 Diseases whose primary interest is in the field
24 of digestive diseases, the Secretary shall des-

1 ignate an individual to serve as an ex officio
2 member of the Commission.

3 (B) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The fol-
4 lowing officials (or the designees of the offi-
5 cials) shall serve as ex officio members of the
6 Commission: The Director of the National In-
7 stitutes of Health; the Director of the National
8 Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney
9 Diseases; the Director of the National Institute
10 of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; the Director
11 of the National Cancer Institute; the Director
12 of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging
13 and Bioengineering; the Director of the Na-
14 tional Institute of Drug Abuse; the Director of
15 the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Al-
16 coholism; the Director of the National Human
17 Genome Research Institute; the Director for the
18 Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition
19 within the National Institute of Diabetes and
20 Digestive Kidney Diseases; the Director of the
21 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the
22 Chief Medical Director of the Department of
23 Veterans Affairs; and the Secretary of Defense.

1 (d) CHAIR.—From among the appointed members of
2 the Commission, the members of the Commission shall se-
3 lect an individual to serve as the Chair of the Commission.

4 (e) TERMS.—The term of a member of the Commis-
5 sion is the life of the Commission.

6 (f) VACANCIES.—

7 (1) AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION.—A vacancy in
8 the membership of the Commission does not affect
9 the power of the remaining members to carry out
10 the duties of the Commission.

11 (2) APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR.—A vacancy
12 in the membership of the Commission shall be filled
13 in the manner in which the original appointment was
14 made.

15 (3) INCOMPLETE TERM.—If a member of the
16 Commission does not serve the full term of the mem-
17 ber, the individual appointed to fill the resulting va-
18 cancy shall be appointed for the remainder of the
19 term of the predecessor of the individual.

20 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall first meet as
21 directed by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after
22 the Commission is established, and thereafter shall meet
23 at the call of the Chair of the Commission, but not less
24 often than three times during the life of the Commission.

1 (h) COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT OF EX-
2 PENSES.—

3 (1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—Members of the
4 Commission appointed from among individuals who
5 are not officers or employees of the Federal Govern-
6 ment shall receive compensation for each day (in-
7 cluding travel time) engaged in carrying out the du-
8 ties of the Commission. Such compensation may not
9 be in an amount in excess of the daily equivalent of
10 the annual maximum rate of basic pay payable
11 under section 5108 of title 5, United States Code,
12 for positions above GS-15.

13 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—Members of the
14 Commission appointed from among individuals who
15 are officers or employees of the Federal Government
16 may not receive compensation for service on the
17 Commission in addition to the compensation other-
18 wise received for duties carried out as Federal offi-
19 cers or employees.

20 (3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Members of the Com-
21 mission, while serving away from their homes or reg-
22 ular places of business in the performance of serv-
23 ices for the Commission, shall be allowed travel ex-
24 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in
25 the same manner as such expenses are authorized by

1 section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for per-
2 sons in Government service employed intermittently.

3 (i) STAFF.—

4 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission
5 may appoint and fix the pay of an executive director
6 to effectively carry out its functions. The executive
7 director shall be appointed subject to the provisions
8 of title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
9 ments in the competitive service, and shall be paid
10 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and
11 subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title related to
12 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

13 (2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Secretary shall
14 provide the Commission with such additional profes-
15 sional and clerical staff, such information, and the
16 services of such consultants as the Secretary deter-
17 mines to be necessary for the Commission to carry
18 out effectively its functions.

19 (j) POWERS.—The Commission may hold such hear-
20 ings, take such testimony, and sit and act at such time
21 and places as the Commission deems advisable.

22 (k) REPORT.—Within 18 months following its initial
23 meetings (as prescribed by subsection (g)), the Commis-
24 sion shall publish and transmit directly to Congress a final

1 report respecting its activities under this section. The re-
2 port shall contain—

3 (1) the long-range plan required by subsection
4 (b)(2);

5 (2) the expenditure estimates required by sub-
6 section (b)(3); and

7 (3) any recommendations of the Commission for
8 legislation that would facilitate the implementation
9 of the long-range plan.

10 In developing recommendations under paragraph (3), the
11 Commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Inter-
12 agency Coordinating Committee for Digestive Diseases
13 and assess its ability to monitor and promote adherence
14 to the long-range plan. The Commission may also make
15 recommendations regarding organizational changes within
16 the National Institutes of Health or the establishment of
17 new entities that would facilitate implementation of the
18 long-range plan and otherwise coordinate the Federal di-
19 gestive diseases research effort.

20 (l) TERMINATION.—The Commission terminates 30
21 days after the date on which the final report under sub-
22 section (k) is submitted to Congress.

23 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
24 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized

1 to be appropriated \$4,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal
2 years 2005 and 2006.

○