

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1560

To establish a Congressional Commission on Expanding Social Service
Delivery Options.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2005

Mr. SANTORUM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a Congressional Commission on Expanding
Social Service Delivery Options.

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 “Congressional Commis-
5 sion on Expanding Social Service Delivery Options Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a Con-
8 gressional Commission on Expanding Social Service Deliv-
9 ery Options (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

10 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

1 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
2 composed of 10 members, of whom—

3 (A) 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of
4 the House of Representatives;

5 (B) 3 shall be appointed by the majority
6 leader of the Senate;

7 (C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority
8 leader of the House of Representatives; and

9 (D) 2 shall be appointed by the minority
10 leader of the Senate.

11 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Com-
12 mission shall be appointed from among individuals
13 with demonstrated expertise and experience in social
14 service delivery, including, to the extent practicable,
15 in the area of reform of such delivery.

16 (3) DATE.—The appointments of the members
17 of the Commission shall be made not later than 30
18 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

19 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
20 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any
21 vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but
22 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
23 ment.

24 (d) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Speaker of the House
25 of Representatives shall designate 1 of the members ap-

1 pointed under subsection (b)(1)(A) as a co-Chairperson of
 2 the Commission. The majority leader of the Senate shall
 3 designate 1 of the members appointed under subsection
 4 (b)(1)(B) as a co-Chairperson of the Commission.

5 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after
 6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
 7 hold its first meeting.

8 (f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
 9 call of either co-Chairperson.

10 (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
 11 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
 12 ber of members may hold hearings.

13 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

14 (a) STUDY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall con-
 16 duct a thorough and thoughtful study of all matters
 17 relating to increasing beneficiary-selected or bene-
 18 ficiary-directed options for social service delivery in
 19 Federal social service programs, including certifi-
 20 cate, scholarship, voucher, or other forms of indirect
 21 delivery. The Commission shall review all relevant
 22 Federal social service programs in existence on the
 23 date of the beginning of the study, including the ini-
 24 tiatives of the Corporation for National and Commu-
 25 nity Service. The Commission shall determine pro-

1 gram areas, among the Federal programs, for which
2 it is appropriate and feasible to implement full or
3 partial beneficiary-selected or beneficiary-directed
4 options for the delivery of the social services.

5 (2) GOALS.—In making determinations under
6 paragraph (1), the Commission shall seek to pro-
7 mote goals of—

8 (A) expanding consumer and beneficiary
9 choice in Federal social service programs;

10 (B) maximizing the use of governmental
11 resources in the Federal programs; and

12 (C) minimizing concerns relating to any
13 precedent under the Constitution regarding the
14 participation of faith-based providers in the
15 Federal programs.

16 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall de-
17 velop recommendations on program areas, among the Fed-
18 eral social service programs, for which it is appropriate
19 and feasible to implement full or partial beneficiary-se-
20 lected or beneficiary-directed options for the delivery of
21 the social services.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 11 months after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall sub-
24 mit a report to the Speaker and minority leader of the
25 House of Representatives and the majority leader and mi-

1 nority leader of the Senate, which shall contain a detailed
2 statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commis-
3 sion, together with its recommendations for such legisla-
4 tion and administrative actions as it considers appro-
5 priate.

6 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

7 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such
8 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
9 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
10 considers necessary to carry out this Act.

11 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
12 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-
13 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
14 siders necessary to carry out this Act. Upon request of
15 either co-Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such
16 department or agency shall furnish such information to
17 the Commission.

18 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
19 the United States mails in the same manner and under
20 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
21 the Federal Government.

22 **SEC. 5. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

23 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of
24 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the
25 Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal

1 to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay pre-
2 scribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-
3 tion 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (in-
4 cluding travel time) during which such member is engaged
5 in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All
6 members of the Commission who are officers or employees
7 of the United States shall serve without compensation in
8 addition to that received for their services as officers or
9 employees of the United States.

10 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
11 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
12 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
13 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
14 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
15 regular places of business in the performance of services
16 for the Commission.

17 (c) STAFF.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The co-Chairpersons of the
19 Commission, acting jointly, may, without regard to
20 the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and
21 terminate an executive director and such other addi-
22 tional personnel as may be necessary to enable the
23 Commission to perform its duties. The employment
24 of an executive director shall be subject to confirma-
25 tion by the Commission.

1 (2) COMPENSATION.—The co-Chairpersons of
2 the Commission, acting jointly, may fix the com-
3 pensation of the executive director and other per-
4 sonnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter
5 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, re-
6 lating to classification of positions and General
7 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for
8 the executive director and other personnel may not
9 exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive
10 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

11 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
12 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
13 Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall
14 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or
15 privilege.

16 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
17 TENT SERVICES.—The co-Chairpersons of the Commis-
18 sion, acting jointly, may procure temporary and intermit-
19 tent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
20 States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed
21 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay pre-
22 scribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section
23 5316 of such title.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the
3 date on which the Commission submits its report under
4 section 3.

5 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the Commission for fiscal year 2006 such sums
8 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

9 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated under
10 the authorization contained in this section shall remain
11 available, without fiscal year limitation, until expended.

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