

# Union Calendar No. 370

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2615

[Report No. 114-486]

To establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2015

Ms. PLASKETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

APRIL 12, 2016

Additional sponsors: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BASS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MENG, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Ms. PINGREE

APRIL 12, 2016

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole  
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 2, 2015]

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# **A BILL**

To establish the Virgin Islands of the United States  
Centennial Commission.

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 “Virgin Islands of the*  
5 *United States Centennial Commission Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7        *There is established a commission to be known as the*  
8 *“Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commis-*  
9 *sion” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).*

10 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

11        *The Commission shall—*

12                *(1) plan, develop, and carry out such activities*  
13 *as the Commission determines to be appropriate to*  
14 *commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Is-*  
15 *lands of the United States becoming an unincor-*  
16 *porated territory of the United States;*

17                *(2) provide advice and assistance to Federal,*  
18 *State, and local governmental agencies, as well as*  
19 *civic groups to carry out activities to commemorate*  
20 *the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands of the*  
21 *United States becoming an unincorporated territory*  
22 *of the United States; and*

23                *(3) submit to the President and Congress the re-*  
24 *ports required pursuant to section 7.*

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) *NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.*—*The Commission*  
3 *shall be composed of 8 members as follows:*

4 (1) *The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for*  
5 *Insular Affairs or a designee of the Assistant Sec-*  
6 *retary.*

7 (2) *One member appointed by the Governor of*  
8 *the Virgin Islands of the United States or a designee*  
9 *of the Governor.*

10 (3) *Two Members of the House of Representatives*  
11 *appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-*  
12 *tives.*

13 (4) *One Member of the House of Representatives*  
14 *appointed by the minority leader of the House of Rep-*  
15 *resentatives.*

16 (5) *Two Members of the Senate appointed by the*  
17 *majority leader of the Senate.*

18 (6) *One Member of the Senate appointed by the*  
19 *minority leader of the Senate.*

20 (b) *TERMS.*—*Each member of the Commission shall be*  
21 *appointed for the life of the Commission.*

22 (c) *DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.*—*All members of the*  
23 *Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after*  
24 *the date of the enactment of this Act.*

25 (d) *VACANCIES.*—*A vacancy on the Commission*  
26 *shall—*

1           (1) *not affect the powers of the Commission; and*

2           (2) *be filled in the manner in which the original*  
3 *appointment was made.*

4           (e) *RATES OF PAY.—Members shall not receive com-*  
5 *ensation for the performance of duties on behalf of the*  
6 *Commission.*

7           (f) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commis-*  
8 *sion shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem in lieu*  
9 *of subsistence expenses during the performance of duties of*  
10 *the Commission while away from home or regular place of*  
11 *business of the member, in accordance with applicable pro-*  
12 *visions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United*  
13 *States Code.*

14           (g) *QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Com-*  
15 *mission shall constitute a quorum to conduct business, but*  
16 *two or more members may hold hearings.*

17           (h) *CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Commis-*  
18 *sion shall be selected by a majority vote of the members of*  
19 *the Commission.*

20 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

21           (a) *DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—The Commission shall ap-*  
22 *point an executive director and such other additional per-*  
23 *sonnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform*  
24 *the duties of the Commission.*

1           (b) *APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE*  
2 *LAWS.*—*The executive director and staff of the Commission*  
3 *may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title*  
4 *5, United States Code, governing appointments in the com-*  
5 *petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the pro-*  
6 *visions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of*  
7 *such title relating to classification and General Schedule*  
8 *pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive direc-*  
9 *tor and other staff may not exceed the rate payable for level*  
10 *III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of such*  
11 *title.*

12           (c) *DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—*Upon request*  
13 *of the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior or the Ar-*  
14 *chivist of the United States may detail, on a reimbursable*  
15 *basis, any of the personnel of the Department of the Interior*  
16 *or the National Archives and Records Administration, re-*  
17 *spectively to the Commission to assist the Commission to*  
18 *perform the duties of the Commission.*

19           (d) *EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.*—*The Commission*  
20 *may procure such temporary and intermittent services from*  
21 *experts and consultants as are necessary to enable the Com-*  
22 *mission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

23           (e) *VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.*—  
24 *Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States*  
25 *Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and*

1 *uncompensated services as the Commission determines nec-*  
2 *essary.*

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

4 (a) *HEARINGS.*—*The Commission may, for the pur-*  
5 *pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act*  
6 *at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence*  
7 *as the Commission considers appropriate.*

8 (b) *MAILS.*—*The Commission may use the United*  
9 *States mails in the same manner and under the same condi-*  
10 *tions as other Federal agencies.*

11 (c) *OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.*—*The Commission*  
12 *may secure directly from any Federal agency information*  
13 *necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties*  
14 *of the Commission. Upon request of the chairperson of the*  
15 *Commission, the head of that Federal agency shall furnish*  
16 *that information to the Commission.*

17 (d) *GIFTS, BEQUESTS, DEVISES.*—*The Commission*  
18 *may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or*  
19 *devises of money, services, or property, both real and per-*  
20 *sonal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of*  
21 *the Commission.*

22 (e) *AVAILABLE SPACE.*—*Upon the request of the Com-*  
23 *mission, the Administrator of General Services shall make*  
24 *available to the Commission, at a normal rental rate for*  
25 *Federal agencies, such assistance and facilities as may be*

1 *necessary for the Commission to perform the duties of the*  
2 *Commission.*

3 (f) *CONTRACT AUTHORITY.*—*The Commission may*  
4 *enter into contracts with and compensate the Federal Gov-*  
5 *ernment, State and local governments, private entities, or*  
6 *individuals to enable the Commission to perform the duties*  
7 *of the Commission.*

8 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

9 (a) *ANNUAL REPORTS.*—*Not later than January 31 of*  
10 *each year, and annually thereafter until the final report*  
11 *is submitted pursuant to subsection (b), the Commission*  
12 *shall submit to the President and the Congress a report*  
13 *on—*

14 (1) *the activities of the Commission; and*  
15 (2) *the revenue and expenditures of the Commis-*  
16 *sion, including a list of each gift, bequest, or devise*  
17 *to the Commission with a value of more than \$250,*  
18 *including the identity of the donor of each gift, be-*  
19 *quest, or devise.*

20 (b) *FINAL REPORT.*—*Not later than January 31,*  
21 *2018, the Commission shall submit a final report to the*  
22 *President and the Congress containing—*

23 (1) *a summary of the activities of the Commis-*  
24 *sion; and*



1           (2) *a final accounting of funds received and ex-*  
2           *pended by the Commission.*

3 **SEC. 8. ANNUAL AUDIT.**

4           *The Inspector General of the Department of the Inte-*  
5           *rior—*

6           (1) *may perform an audit of the Commission;*

7           (2) *shall make the results of any such audit*  
8           *available to the public; and*

9           (3) *shall transmit such results to the Committee*  
10          *on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of*  
11          *Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Se-*  
12          *curity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.*

13 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

14          *In this Act:*

15           (1) *FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agen-*  
16           *cy” has the meaning given the term “agency” in sec-*  
17           *tion 551 of title 5, United States Code.*

18           (2) *STATE.—The term “State” means each of the*  
19           *several States, the District of Columbia, each territory*  
20           *or possession of the United States, and each federally*  
21           *recognized Indian tribe.*

22 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

23          *The Commission shall terminate on September 30,*  
24          *2018, or may terminate at an earlier date determined by*

1 *the Commission after the final report is submitted pursuant*  
2 *to section 7(b).*

3 **SEC. 11. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

4 *No Federal funds are authorized or may be obligated*  
5 *to carry out this Act.*



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