

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1283

To establish a nonpartisan commission on immigration reform and border security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Mr. RYAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a nonpartisan commission on immigration reform and border security.

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. NONPARTISAN COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION**

4 **REFORM AND BORDER SECURITY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF COMMIS-
6 SION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the
8 enactment of this Act, there is established a Non-
9 partisan Commission on Immigration Reform and

1 Border Security (in this section referred to as the
2 “Commission”) which shall be composed of nine
3 members to be appointed as follows:

4 (A) One member, who shall serve as Chair-
5 person, to be appointed jointly by the Speaker
6 of the House of Representatives and the major-
7 ity leader of the Senate.

8 (B) One member to be appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives who
10 shall select such members from a list of nomi-
11 nees provided by the Chairman of the Sub-
12 committee on Immigration and Citizenship of
13 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
14 Representatives.

15 (C) One member to be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives who
17 shall select such members from a list of nomi-
18 nees provided by the Chairman of the Sub-
19 committee on Border Security, Facilitation, and
20 Operations of the Committee on Homeland Se-
21 curity of the House of Representatives.

22 (D) One member to be appointed by the
23 minority leader of the House of Representatives
24 who shall select such members from a list of
25 nominees provided by the ranking minority

1 member of the Subcommittee on Immigration
2 and Citizenship of the Committee on the Judici-
3 ary of the House of Representatives.

4 (E) One member to be appointed by the
5 minority leader of the House of Representatives
6 who shall select such members from a list of
7 nominees provided by the ranking minority
8 member of the Subcommittee on Border Secu-
9 rity, Facilitation, and Operations of the Com-
10 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (F) Two members to be appointed by the
13 majority leader of the Senate who shall select
14 such members from a list of nominees provided
15 by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Bor-
16 der Security and Immigration of the Committee
17 on the Judiciary of the Senate.

18 (G) Two members to be appointed by the
19 minority leader of the Senate who shall select
20 such members from a list of nominees provided
21 by the ranking minority member of the Sub-
22 committee on Border Security and Immigration
23 of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
24 ate.

1 (2) NO ELECTED OFFICIALS.—No member may
2 be a Federal, State, or local elected official or polit-
3 ical appointee.

4 (3) DEADLINE.—Initial appointments to the
5 Commission shall be made not later than 45 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act. A va-
7 cancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same
8 manner in which the original appointment was
9 made.

10 (4) TERM OF SERVICE.—Members shall be ap-
11 pointed to serve for the life of the Commission.

12 (b) FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION.—The Commission
13 shall—

14 (1) in accordance with subsection (c), review
15 and assess—

16 (A) the security of the borders of the
17 United States and methods to enhance the in-
18 tegrity and efficacy of security at such borders;
19 and

20 (B) the immigration system of the United
21 States in general; and

22 (2) transmit to the Congress—

23 (A) not later than 90 days after the initial
24 appointments to the Commission are completed,

1 a first report describing the progress made in
2 carrying out paragraph (1); and

3 (B) not later than 270 days after the ini-
4 tial appointments to the Commission are com-
5 pleted, a final report setting forth the Commis-
6 sion's findings and recommendations, including
7 recommendations for additional changes that
8 should be made with respect to border security
9 as the Commission deems appropriate.

10 (c) PARTICULAR CONSIDERATIONS.—In particular,
11 the Commission shall consider the following:

12 (1) Vulnerabilities in border security screening
13 and surveillance programs, inspection and detection
14 technologies, and physical infrastructure.

15 (2) U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S.
16 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Office
17 of Refugee Resettlement operations and personnel.

18 (3) Cross-border criminal activity.

19 (4) Drug trafficking and interdiction activities.

20 (5) Severe forms of trafficking and smuggling
21 of persons.

22 (6) Migrant interdiction and detention oper-
23 ations.

24 (7) Protocols pertaining to migrant families and
25 unaccompanied alien minors.

1 (8) Protocols pertaining to asylum seekers and
2 refugees.

3 (9) Protection of the human rights of immi-
4 grants, refugees, and asylum seekers, in particular
5 minor children.

6 (10) Protection of the physical and mental
7 health of migrants in custody, in particular minor
8 children.

9 (11) Asylum and immigration court system
10 backlog.

11 (12) Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

12 (13) Family-sponsored immigrants.

13 (14) Employee-based immigrants.

14 (15) Diversity immigrants.

15 (16) Temporary protected status.

16 (17) Nonimmigrant visitors.

17 (18) Visa overstays.

18 (19) Naturalization and a pathway to citizen-
19 ship.

20 (20) Criminal aliens.

21 (21) Removal proceedings.

22 (d) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

23 (1) PAY.—Each member of the Commission
24 who is not an officer or employee of the Federal
25 Government is entitled to receive, subject to such

1 amounts as are provided in advance in appropria-
2 tions Acts, pay at the daily equivalent of the min-
3 imum annual rate of basic pay in effect for grade
4 GS-18 of the General Schedule. Each member of
5 the Commission who is such an officer or employee
6 shall serve without additional pay.

7 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from
8 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
9 formance of services for the Commission, members
10 of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses,
11 including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

12 (e) MEETINGS, STAFF, AND AUTHORITY OF COMMIS-
13 SION.—The provisions of subsections (e) through (g) of
14 section 304 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act
15 of 1986 shall apply to the Commission in the same manner
16 as they apply to the Commission established under such
17 section, except that paragraph (2) of subsection (e) there-
18 of shall not apply.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
21 appropriated to the Commission such sums as may
22 be necessary to carry out this section.

23 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of this section, the au-
25 thority to make payments, or to enter into contracts,

1 under this section shall be effective only to such ex-
2 tent, or in such amounts, as are provided in advance
3 in appropriations Acts.

4 (g) TERMINATION DATE.—The Commission shall ter-
5minate on the date on which a final report is required to
6 be transmitted under subsection (b)(2)(B), except that the
7 Commission may continue to function until January 20,
8 2021, for the purpose of concluding its activities, including
9 providing testimony to standing committees of Congress
10 concerning its final report under this section and dissemi-
11 nating that report.

12 (h) CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE.—

13 (1) HEARINGS.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of receipt of each report transmitted under
15 subsection (b)(2), the Committees on the Judiciary
16 of the House of Representatives and of the Senate
17 shall initiate hearings to consider the findings and
18 recommendations of the report.

19 (2) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not
20 later than 180 days after the date of receipt of such
21 a report, each such Committee shall report to its re-
22 spective House its oversight findings and any legisla-
23 tion it deems appropriate.

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