

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1701

To establish a commission to study the relocation of select executive agencies or divisions of such agencies outside the Washington metropolitan area, to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate findings, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2019

Mr. RYAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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

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## A BILL

To establish a commission to study the relocation of select executive agencies or divisions of such agencies outside the Washington metropolitan area, to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate findings, and for other purposes.

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 “Federal Government  
5 Decentralization Commission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2       There is established in the General Services Adminis-  
3 tration a commission to be known as the “Federal Govern-  
4 ment Decentralization Commission” (in this Act referred  
5 to as the “Commission”).

6 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

7       The Commission shall—

8           (1) study the relocation of executive agencies or  
9 divisions of executive agencies outside the Wash-  
10 ington metropolitan area; and

11          (2) submit to Congress a plan for the relocation  
12 of recommended agencies or divisions.

13 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

14       (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
15 shall be composed of the Administrator of General Serv-  
16 ices (or a designee) and 10 other members, appointed as  
17 follows:

18           (1) Two members shall be appointed by the ma-  
19 jority leader of the Senate.

20           (2) Two members shall be appointed by the  
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

22           (3) Two members shall be appointed by the mi-  
23 nority leader of the Senate.

24           (4) Two members shall be appointed by the mi-  
25 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

1           (5) Two members shall be appointed by the Ad-  
2           ministrators of the General Service Administration.

3           (b) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The  
4           initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not  
5           later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
6           Act.

7           (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

8           (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-  
9           sion; and

10          (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the  
11          original appointment was made.

12          (d) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commis-  
13          sion shall serve without pay.

14          (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-  
15          mission shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel  
16          expenses, at rates consistent with those authorized under  
17          subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

18          (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-  
19          sion shall be the Administrator of General Services (or a  
20          designee).

21   **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND STAFF PROVIDED**  
22                           **BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRA-**  
23                           **TION.**

24          Administrative and support staff for the Commission  
25          shall be provided by the General Services Administration.

1 **SEC. 6. SUBMISSION OF PLAN TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall  
4 develop and submit to Congress a plan for the relocation  
5 of executive agencies or divisions of executive agencies out-  
6 side the Washington metropolitan area.

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN.—The plan shall in-  
8 clude the following:

9 (1) An identification of new locations for execu-  
10 tive agencies or divisions of executive agencies out-  
11 side the Washington metropolitan area, which shall  
12 be prioritized—

13 (A) by relocation to a low-income commu-  
14 nity; or

15 (B) by relocation to areas with expertise in  
16 the mission and goal of the executive agency or  
17 division.

18 (2) A consideration of national security implica-  
19 tions of the relocation.

20 (3) An economic and workforce development  
21 study on how the relocation of an executive agency  
22 or division would impact the new location.

23 (4) A list of potential site acquisitions and par-  
24 tial prospectus for executive agencies or divisions of  
25 executive agencies, which shall include—

- 1 (A) a brief description of the building to be  
2 constructed, altered, or leased;  
3 (B) the location of the building; and  
4 (C) an estimate of the maximum cost of  
5 the acquisition and the relocation.

6 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive  
9 agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive  
10 agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States  
11 Code, except that the term does not include the Ex-  
12 ecutive Office of the President.

13 (2) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-  
14 income community” has the meaning given that  
15 term in section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code  
16 of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 45D(e)).

17 (3) WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA.—The  
18 term “Washington metropolitan area” means the ge-  
19 ographic area located within the boundaries of—

20 (A) the District of Columbia;

21 (B) Montgomery and Prince George’s  
22 Counties in the State of Maryland; and

23 (C) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, and  
24 Prince William Counties and the City of Alex-  
25 andria in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

2       The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the  
3 submission of the plan under section 6.

4 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

5       No new appropriations may be obligated to carry out  
6 this Act.

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