

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6048

To establish a Commission for Review and Correction of Historical Injustices,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Armed Services, 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 Commission for Review and Correction of
Historical Injustices, 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 “Confronting and Cor-
5 recting Historical Injustices Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AND CORRECTION OF**
2 **HISTORICAL INJUSTICES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
4 mission to be known as the Commission for Review and
5 Correction of Historical Injustices (in this Act referred to
6 as the “Commission”).

7 (b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—The Commission
8 shall—

9 (1) identify and review each instance of histor-
10 ical injustice;

11 (2) identify and review any instance in which a
12 Federal agency has unjustly discriminated against
13 an individual or group protected by the Civil Rights
14 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.), by the Reha-
15 bilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 705), and members of the
16 uniformed services as defined by section 101 of title
17 10, United States Code, that led to a discriminatory
18 charge, conviction, or dismissal of that individual or
19 group;

20 (3) identify and review any instance where an
21 individual or group has been discriminated against
22 and has not received compensation for the discrimi-
23 natory act of the Federal agency;

24 (4) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
25 actment of this Act, establish a mechanism for the
26 public to submit and be heard on each instance of

1 discrimination by a Federal agency for consideration
2 by the Commission; and

3 (5) not later than 180 days after a public sub-
4 mission described in paragraph (4) is submitted, the
5 Commission shall review the submission or decline to
6 consider the instance of discrimination.

7 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) NUMBER.—The Commission shall be com-
9 posed of 12 members appointed as follows:

10 (A) Four members shall be appointed by
11 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (B) Two members shall be appointed by
13 the minority leader of the House of Representa-
14 tives.

15 (C) Four members shall be appointed by
16 the majority leader of the Senate.

17 (D) Two members shall be appointed by
18 the minority leader of the Senate.

19 (2) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Commis-
20 sion shall be appointed to the Commission not later
21 than 60 days after the date of enactment of this
22 Act.

23 (3) MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Com-
25 mission appointed shall be civil rights leaders,

1 historians, lawyers, or judges with expertise or
2 academic experience in—

3 (i) civil rights;

4 (ii) social justice;

5 (iii) civil law;

6 (iv) criminal law;

7 (v) constitutional law; or

8 (vi) history.

9 (B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives, minority leader
11 of the House of Representatives, majority lead-
12 er of the Senate, and minority leader of the
13 Senate may solicit and receive recommendations
14 from civil rights groups and submit such rec-
15 ommendations to the Commission for review.

16 (4) TERMS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member ap-
18 pointed after the initial appointments described
19 in subparagraph (B) shall be appointed for
20 three years.

21 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Com-
22 mission shall be filled in the manner in which
23 the original appointment was made.

1 (5) BASIC PAY.—The rate of pay for members
2 of the Commission shall be set by the Chairperson
3 of the Commission.

4 (6) QUORUM.—9 members of the Commission
5 shall constitute a quorum and are required to con-
6 duct the duties of the Commission.

7 (7) CHAIRPERSON.—One member shall be elect-
8 ed to serve as the chair of the Commission.

9 (8) MEETINGS.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date of enactment of this Act and quarterly
11 thereafter, the Commission shall hold a meeting. Ad-
12 ditional meetings may be called by a majority of the
13 members.

14 (d) DIRECTOR; STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

15 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a
16 Director who shall be appointed by a majority vote
17 of the Commission.

18 (2) STAFF.—Subject to rules prescribed by the
19 Commission, the Commission shall appoint and fix
20 the pay of at least 11 additional personnel as the
21 Director considers appropriate.

22 (3) CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTION.—The Director
23 and staff shall qualify for civil service protection.

24 (e) CONSULTATION.—The Commission may collabo-
25 rate with historians, sociologists, researchers, graduate

1 students, doctoral students, law students, community
2 members, formerly incarcerated or exonerated individuals,
3 or other individuals directly impacted by discrimination by
4 any Federal agency to identify any appropriate instance
5 to be reviewed by the Commission.

6 (f) RESEARCH.—The Commission may investigate
7 any instance brought to the attention of the Commission
8 as described in subsection (e) and may issue a subpoena
9 to any agency that a majority of the Commission deter-
10 mines is necessary.

11 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least quar-
13 terly thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Congress
14 and the appropriate congressional committees, a report in-
15 cluding the following:

16 (1) Information on any alternative to the par-
17 don process, including exoneration or other forgive-
18 ness.

19 (2) Each instance reviewed during the quarter.

20 (3) Recommendations on legislative or executive
21 action with respect to each instance reviewed by the
22 Commission.

23 (h) EXCEPTION FOR TERMINATION OF COMMIS-
24 SION.—Section 14(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Com-

1 mittee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to the Commis-
2 sion.

3 (i) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
4 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
5 sional committees” means the following:

6 (1) The Committee on the Judiciary of the
7 House of Representatives.

8 (2) The Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
9 ate.

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