

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4907

To protect the integrity, impartiality, and independence of Federal statistical agencies by establishing fixed terms and for-cause removal protections for the heads of such agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Mr. WHITESIDES (for himself, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. LANDSMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, 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 protect the integrity, impartiality, and independence of Federal statistical agencies by establishing fixed terms and for-cause removal protections for the heads of such agencies.

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 “Statistical Agency In-
5 tegrity and Independence Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The people of the United States, its finan-
4 cial markets, its businesses, and its policymakers
5 rely on the timely, credible, and impartial data pro-
6 duced by Federal statistical agencies to make in-
7 formed decisions.

8 (2) The credibility of Federal statistics depends
9 on public confidence that the data are produced by
10 agencies that are free from political influence, ma-
11 nipulation, or censorship.

12 (3) The heads of the principal Federal statis-
13 tical agencies serve as the chief stewards of this pub-
14 lic trust, and their professional independence is
15 paramount.

16 (4) Structures that grant operational and
17 decisional independence, such as those established
18 for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
19 System, provide a proven model for insulating crit-
20 ical government functions from short-term political
21 pressures.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to
23 strengthen public trust in Federal statistics by insulating
24 the leadership of principal statistical agencies from polit-
25 ical interference through the establishment of fixed terms

1 of office, staggered appointments, and clear, for-cause pro-
2 tections against arbitrary removal.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) COVERED STATISTICAL AGENCY.—The term
6 “Covered Statistical Agency” means each of the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (A) The Bureau of the Census, Depart-
9 ment of Commerce.

10 (B) The Bureau of Labor Statistics, De-
11 partment of Labor.

12 (C) The National Center for Education
13 Statistics, Department of Education.

14 (D) The Bureau of Justice Statistics, De-
15 partment of Justice.

16 (2) HEAD OF A COVERED STATISTICAL AGEN-
17 CY.—The term “Head of a Covered Statistical Agen-
18 cy” means the Director, Commissioner, or Adminis-
19 trator who is the highest-ranking official of a Cov-
20 ered Statistical Agency.

21 **SEC. 4. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF OFFICE OF HEADS OF**
22 **COVERED STATISTICAL AGENCIES.**

23 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Head of each Covered Sta-
24 tistical Agency shall be appointed by the President, by and
25 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

1 (b) TERM.—The term of office for the Head of a Cov-
2 ered Statistical Agency shall be six years. The terms shall
3 be staggered to ensure that no more than two such terms
4 expire in any given calendar year.

5 (c) SERVICE AFTER EXPIRATION OF TERM.—The
6 Head of a Covered Statistical Agency may continue to
7 serve after the expiration of their term until a successor
8 has been appointed and confirmed.

9 (d) VACANCY.—Any individual appointed to fill a va-
10 cancy in the office of the Head of a Covered Statistical
11 Agency occurring before the expiration of the term for
12 which their predecessor was appointed shall be appointed
13 for a full term of six years.

14 **SEC. 5. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.**

15 (a) STANDARD FOR REMOVAL.—The President may
16 remove the Head of a Covered Statistical Agency only for
17 cause.

18 (b) DEFINITION OF CAUSE.—For the purposes of
19 this section, the term “for cause” shall mean proven ineffi-
20 ciency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. A deter-
21 mination of cause may not be based on the substance, con-
22 clusions, or timing of any statistical data, report, or re-
23 lease prepared by the agency.

1 **SEC. 6. GUARANTEES OF PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE.**

2 (a) FINAL AUTHORITY.—The Head of a Covered Sta-
3 tistical Agency shall have final and unencumbered author-
4 ity over the professional and technical decisions of the
5 agency, including:

6 (1) The methodologies, procedures, and sci-
7 entific processes used to collect and analyze data.

8 (2) The content of all statistical reports, press
9 releases, and other official publications.

10 (3) The timing and scheduling of the release of
11 statistical data, which shall be made public in ad-
12 vance and may only be altered for technical, non-po-
13 litical reasons, with any such alteration being accom-
14 panied by a public, written explanation.

15 (b) PERSONNEL.—No political test or qualification
16 shall be used in the appointment, evaluation, or promotion
17 of any professionally qualified employee of a Covered Sta-
18 tistical Agency.

19 **SEC. 7. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

20 (a) INITIAL STAGGERED TERMS.—To establish the
21 staggered terms required by section 4(b), the initial ap-
22 pointments made under this Act shall be for terms of vary-
23 ing lengths as determined by the President, provided that:

24 (1) The first three appointments shall be for a
25 term of six years.

1 (2) The next four appointments shall be for a
2 term of four years.

3 (3) The remaining three appointments shall be
4 for a term of two years.

5 (4) All subsequent appointments shall be for a
6 full term of six years as prescribed in section 4(b).

7 **SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.**

8 If any provision of this Act, or the application of such
9 provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be un-
10 constitutional, the remainder of this Act and the applica-
11 tion of the remaining provisions to any other person or
12 circumstance shall not be affected.

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