

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2826

To establish the Commission on Government Transformation to make recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, of Federal programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COOPER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BERA, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. LOEBSACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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 the Commission on Government Transformation to make recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, of Federal programs, 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 “Government Trans-
5 formation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established a commission to be known as the
3 “Commission on Government Transformation” (in this
4 Act referred to as the “Commission”).

5 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

7 (1) review work done by governmental and non-
8 governmental entities, and conduct original research,
9 on the organizational practices, operations, and re-
10 form efforts of Federal agencies;

11 (2) analyze organizational practices and man-
12 agement challenges of Federal agencies and make
13 recommendations as described in subsection (b)(2);

14 (3) assess Federal programs for economy, effi-
15 ciency, and effectiveness, and identify best practices
16 of Federal agencies;

17 (4) establish a process for prioritizing the ac-
18 tivities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), in-
19 cluding establishing criteria and a schedule for car-
20 rying out the activities;

21 (5) coordinate with appropriate Federal agen-
22 cies and provide opportunities for individuals to
23 make recommendations that support the work of the
24 Commission;

25 (6) upon request, provide information on Com-
26 mission activities to the Government Accountability

1 Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office
2 of Management and Budget, other Federal agency
3 heads, and the Office of the Inspector General of
4 each Federal agency; and

5 (7) serve as a repository for best practices to
6 support Federal agencies in efforts to improve effec-
7 tiveness.

8 (b) REPORTS.—

9 (1) INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORTS.—The Com-
10 mission shall submit to the President and Congress
11 interim activity reports that describe the activities of
12 the Commission not later than 6 months after the
13 date on which all members of the Commission have
14 been appointed, and every 6 months thereafter, ex-
15 cept that an interim report is not required on the
16 date on which an annual report is submitted as de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2).

18 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 12
19 months after the date on which all members of the
20 Commission have been appointed, and every 12
21 months thereafter, the Commission shall submit a
22 report to the President and Congress. The report
23 shall include—

24 (A) the findings and conclusions of the
25 Commission;

1 (B) suggestions for implementing the best
2 practices of Federal agencies identified in sub-
3 section (a)(3) in other Federal agencies;

4 (C) proposals for legislation, administrative
5 action, or executive action that include rec-
6 ommendations for improvement or investment
7 in Federal programs, or elimination, reduction,
8 or consolidation of Federal programs; and

9 (D) justification for the recommendations
10 described in subparagraph (C).

11 (3) REPORTS ON HISTORICAL DATA.—Not later
12 than 48 months after the date on which all members
13 of the Commission have been appointed, and every
14 24 months thereafter, the Commission shall submit
15 a report to the President and Congress on historical
16 data and trends in the information studied by the
17 Commission, including any available evidence of cost
18 savings.

19 (4) REPORTS MADE PUBLIC.—Each report sub-
20 mitted under this subsection shall be made available
21 to the public not later than 90 days after the date
22 on which the report is submitted.

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
3 shall be composed of 7 members to be appointed as fol-
4 lows:

5 (1) The majority leader of the Senate shall ap-
6 point 1 member.

7 (2) The minority leader of the Senate shall ap-
8 point 1 member.

9 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
10 tives shall appoint 1 member.

11 (4) The minority leader of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives shall appoint 1 member.

13 (5) The President shall appoint 3 members.

14 (b) RESTRICTION ON GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—
15 No individual may serve as a member of the Commission
16 while employed as an officer or employee of the Federal
17 Government or any State or local government.

18 (c) MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA.—The members of the
19 Commission shall include individuals with recognition for
20 their expertise in agencies, efficiency, waste reduction, fi-
21 nance and economics, or actuarial sciences, and who pro-
22 vide a mix of different professional backgrounds and broad
23 geographic representation.

24 (d) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 3 of
25 the 7 members appointed shall be registered as members
26 of the same political party.

1 (e) DEADLINE TO APPOINT MEMBERS.—All mem-
2 bers of the Commission shall be appointed not later than
3 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 (f) TERMS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
6 pointed for a term of 3 years.

7 (2) REAPPOINTMENT.—Each member may be
8 reappointed for 1 additional term of 3 years.

9 (3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
10 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
11 appointment was made not later than 90 days after
12 the date on which the member leaves the Commis-
13 sion.

14 (g) CO-CHAIRS.—

15 (1) SELECTION.—Of the members selected by
16 the President under subsection (a)(4), 2 members
17 shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Commission.

18 (2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF CO-CHAIRS.—
19 The Co-Chairs of the Commission shall not be from
20 the same political party.

21 (h) BASIC PAY.—

22 (1) RATES OF PAY OF MEMBERS.—Each mem-
23 ber, other than the Co-Chairs, shall be paid at a rate
24 equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of

1 basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule
2 under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (2) RATE OF PAY OF CO-CHAIRS.—The Co-
4 Chairs shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily
5 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level
6 IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
7 title 5, United States Code.

8 (i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
9 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
10 in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter
11 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (j) QUORUM.—Four members of the Commission
13 shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold
14 hearings.

15 (k) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
16 call of the Co-Chairs or a majority of its members. Mem-
17 bers may attend meetings via teleconference.

18 **SEC. 5. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

19 (a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairs, in consulta-
21 tion with the President and Congress, shall appoint
22 and terminate an Executive Director. The Executive
23 Director shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily
24 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level

1 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
2 title 5, United States Code.

3 (2) STAFF.—The Executive Director, with the
4 approval of a majority of the members of the Com-
5 mission, may appoint, set the pay of, and terminate
6 additional personnel.

7 (b) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
8 LAWS.—The Executive Director and staff of the Commis-
9 sion may be appointed without regard to the provisions
10 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
11 the competitive service.

12 (c) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—A member or em-
13 ployee of the Commission shall not have a conflict of inter-
14 est that is relevant to any activity of the Commission.

15 (d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the con-
16 sensus of the Co-Chairs, the Commission may procure
17 temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b)
18 of title 5, United States Code, at a rate to be determined
19 by the Co-Chairs.

20 (e) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
21 of the Co-Chairs, the head of any Federal department or
22 agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
23 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
24 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
3 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
4 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
5 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
7 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
8 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
9 thorized to take by this section.

10 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
11 may secure directly from any department or agency infor-
12 mation necessary to enable it to carry out this section.
13 Upon request of the Co-Chairs, the head of that depart-
14 ment or agency shall furnish that information to the Com-
15 mission on an agreed upon schedule.

16 (d) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
17 the United States mails in the same manner and under
18 the same conditions as other Federal agencies.

19 **SEC. 7. EXPEDITED CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF**
20 **COMMISSION BILL.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

22 (1) COMMISSION BILL.—The term “Commission
23 bill” means a bill—

24 (A) the substance of which implements a
25 recommendation of the Commission submitted
26 under section 3(b)(2)(C); and

1 (B) introduced by request on the date that
2 is 90 days after the annual report of the Com-
3 mission is submitted to Congress under section
4 3(b)(2), or if either House is not in session on
5 such date, on the first day thereafter on which
6 that House is in session.

7 (2) CALENDAR DAY.—The term “calendar day”
8 means a calendar day other than one on which ei-
9 ther House is not in session because of an adjourn-
10 ment of more than 3 days to a date certain.

11 (b) REFERRAL.—A Commission bill described in sub-
12 section (a)(1) that is introduced in the House of Rep-
13 resentatives shall be referred to the Committee on Over-
14 sight and Government Reform of the House of Represent-
15 atives. A Commission bill that is introduced in the Senate
16 shall be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security
17 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

18 (c) DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a Com-
19 mission bill described in subsection (a)(1) is referred has
20 not reported the Commission bill by the end of the 20-
21 day period beginning on the date on which the report is
22 introduced under subsection (a)(1)(B), such committee
23 shall be, at the end of such period, discharged from fur-
24 ther consideration of such bill, and such bill shall be placed
25 on the appropriate calendar of the House involved.

1 (d) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—

2 (1) CONSIDERATION.—On or after the third
3 day after the date on which the committee to which
4 a Commission bill described in subsection (a)(1) is
5 referred has reported, or has been discharged (under
6 subsection (c)) from further consideration of, it is in
7 order (even though a previous motion to the same
8 effect has been disagreed to) for any Member of the
9 respective House to move to proceed to the consider-
10 ation of the bill. A Member may make the motion
11 only on the day after the calendar day on which the
12 Member announces to the House concerned the
13 Member's intention to make the motion, except that,
14 in the case of the House of Representatives, the mo-
15 tion may be made without such prior announcement
16 if the motion is made by direction of the committee
17 to which the bill was referred. The motion is highly
18 privileged in the House of Representatives and is
19 privileged in the Senate and is not debatable. The
20 motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion
21 to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consid-
22 eration of other business. A motion to reconsider the
23 vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed
24 to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to
25 the consideration of the bill is agreed to, the respec-

1 tive House shall immediately proceed to consider-
2 ation of the bill without intervening motion, order,
3 or other business, and the bill shall remain the un-
4 finished business of the respective House until dis-
5 posed of.

6 (2) DEBATE.—Debate on the bill, and on all
7 debatable motions and appeals in connection there-
8 with, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours,
9 which shall be divided equally between those favoring
10 and those opposing the bill. An amendment to the
11 bill is not in order. A motion further to limit debate
12 is in order and not debatable. A motion to postpone,
13 a motion to proceed to the consideration of other
14 business, or a motion to recommit the bill is not in
15 order. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the
16 bill is agreed to or disagreed to is not in order.

17 (3) VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE.—Immediately
18 following the conclusion of the debate on the bill and
19 a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate,
20 if requested in accordance with the rules of the ap-
21 propriate House, the vote on final passage of the bill
22 shall occur.

23 (4) APPEALS.—Appeals from the decisions of
24 the Chair relating to the application of the rules of
25 the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the

1 case may be, to the procedure relating to the bill
2 shall be decided without debate.

3 (e) CONSIDERATION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

4 (1) BEFORE PASSAGE.—If, before the passage
5 by one House of a Commission bill of that House de-
6 scribed in subsection (a)(1), that House receives
7 from the other House a Commission bill, then the
8 following procedures shall apply—

9 (A) the Commission bill of the other House
10 shall not be referred to a committee and may
11 not be considered in the House receiving it ex-
12 cept in the case of vote on final passage as pro-
13 vided in subparagraph (B); and

14 (B) with respect to a Commission bill of
15 the House receiving the bill, the procedure in
16 that House shall be the same as if no bill had
17 been received from the other House, but the
18 vote on final passage shall be on the bill of the
19 other House.

20 (2) AFTER PASSAGE.—Upon disposition of a
21 Commission bill received from the other House, it
22 shall no longer be in order to consider the bill that
23 originated in the receiving House.

24 (f) RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REP-
25 RESENTATIVES.—This section is enacted by Congress—

1 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
2 the Senate and House of Representatives, respec-
3 tively, and is deemed to be a part of the rules of
4 each House, respectively, but applicable only with re-
5 spect to the procedure to be followed in that House
6 in the case of a Commission bill described in sub-
7 section (a)(1), and it supersedes other rules only to
8 the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

9 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
10 right of either House to change the rules of proce-
11 dure of that House at any time, in the same man-
12 ner, and to the same extent as in the case of any
13 other rule of that House.

14 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal
17 agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive
18 agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States
19 Code.

20 (2) **FEDERAL PROGRAM.**—The term “Federal
21 program” means any function or activity of a Fed-
22 eral agency.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
3 mission for fiscal years 2015 through 2020 such sums as
4 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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