

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 718

Establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights
Commission.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. JOHN S. MCCAIN III HUMAN RIGHTS COMMIS-**
3 **SION.**

4 (a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
6 Senate the John S. McCain III Human Rights Com-
7 mission (in this section referred to as the “Commis-
8 sion”).

9 (2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

1 (A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discus-
2 sion of international human rights issues and
3 promotion of internationally recognized human
4 rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration
5 of Human Rights;

6 (B) raise awareness of international
7 human rights violations through regular brief-
8 ings and hearings; and

9 (C) collaborate with the executive branch,
10 human rights entities, and nongovernmental or-
11 ganizations to promote human rights initiatives
12 within the Senate.

13 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may become a
14 member of the Commission by submitting a written
15 statement to that effect to the Commission.

16 (4) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the
18 Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-
19 chairpersons of the Commission, as follows:

20 (i) One co-chairperson shall be ap-
21 pointed, and may be removed, by the ma-
22 jority leader of the Senate.

23 (ii) One co-chairperson shall be ap-
24 pointed, and may be removed, by the mi-
25 nority leader of the Senate.

1 (B) TERM.—The term of a member as a
2 co-chairperson of the Commission shall end on
3 the last day of the Congress during which the
4 member is appointed as a co-chairperson, unless
5 the member ceases being a member of the Sen-
6 ate, leaves the Commission, resigns from the
7 position of co-chairperson, or is removed.

8 (C) PUBLICATION.—Appointments under
9 this paragraph shall be printed in the Congres-
10 sional Record.

11 (D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the posi-
12 tion of co-chairperson of the Commission shall
13 be filled in the same manner in which the origi-
14 nal appointment was made.

15 (b) COMMISSION STAFF.—

16 (1) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is au-
18 thorized, from funds made available under sub-
19 section (c), to—

20 (i) employ such staff in the manner
21 and at a rate not to exceed that allowed
22 for employees of a committee of the Senate
23 under section 105(e)(3) of the Legislative
24 Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C.
25 4575(e)(3)); and

1 (ii) incur such expenses as may be
2 necessary or appropriate to carry out its
3 duties and functions.

4 (B) EXPENSES.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—Payments made
6 under this subsection for receptions, meals,
7 and food-related expenses shall be author-
8 ized only for actual expenses incurred by
9 the Commission in the course of con-
10 ducting its official duties and functions.

11 (ii) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—
12 Amounts received as reimbursement for ex-
13 penses described in clause (i) shall not be
14 reported as income, and the expenses so
15 reimbursed shall not be allowed as a de-
16 duction under the Internal Revenue Code
17 of 1986.

18 (2) DESIGNATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each co-chairperson of
20 the Commission may designate 1 professional
21 staff member.

22 (B) COMPENSATION OF SENATE EMPLOY-
23 EES.—In the case of the compensation of any
24 professional staff member designated under
25 subparagraph (A) who is an employee of a

1 Member of the Senate or of a committee of the
2 Senate and who has been designated to perform
3 services for the Commission, the professional
4 staff member shall continue to be paid by the
5 Member or committee, as the case may be, but
6 the account from which the professional staff
7 member is paid shall be reimbursed for the
8 services of the professional staff member (in-
9 cluding agency contributions when appropriate)
10 out of funds made available under subsection
11 (c).

12 (C) DUTIES.—Each professional staff
13 member designated under subparagraph (A)
14 shall—

15 (i) serve all members of the Commis-
16 sion; and

17 (ii) carry out such other functions as
18 the co-chairperson designating the profes-
19 sional staff member may specify.

20 (c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The expenses of the Com-
22 mission shall be paid from the Contingent Fund of
23 the Senate, out of the account of Miscellaneous
24 Items, upon vouchers approved jointly by the co-
25 chairpersons (except that vouchers shall not be re-

1 quired for the disbursement of salaries of employees
2 who are paid at an annual rate of pay).

3 (2) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—For any fiscal year,
4 not more than \$200,000 shall be expended for em-
5 ployees and expenses.

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