

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2991

To establish a Uniform Claim Commission, to require the use of a universal claim form to submit claims under certain Federal programs that provide for payments for health care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1993

Mr. RAMSTAD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a Uniform Claim Commission, to require the use of a universal claim form to submit claims under certain Federal programs that provide for payments for health care services, 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 “Health Care Adminis-
5 trative Simplification Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 Uniform Claim Commission.

1 **SEC. 3. DUTY.**

2 The Commission shall develop a universal paper
3 claims processing form containing standard data elements
4 for use by all health service providers that furnish services
5 for which a claim may be submitted under a Federal pro-
6 gram that provides for payments for health care services.
7 The Commission shall develop such form in a manner that
8 will permit the form to serve as a model for claims process-
9 ing forms used in the private sector.

10 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

11 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
12 shall be composed of 17 members appointed by the direc-
13 tor of the Office of Technology Assessment not later than
14 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The
15 members of the Commission shall be appointed from
16 among individuals with expertise in health care claims ad-
17 ministration, enrollment and eligibility administration,
18 health care financial management, health care reimburse-
19 ment, and other related fields. The Commission shall in-
20 clude individuals from various geographic areas of the
21 United States, representatives from public and private
22 health benefit plans involved in payment under such plans,
23 administrators of such plans, and health service providers.

24 (b) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
25 life of the Commission.

1 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
2 be filled not later than 30 days after the date of the cre-
3 ation of the vacancy in the manner in which the original
4 appointment was made.

5 (d) COMPENSATION.—

6 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in
7 paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall
8 serve without pay.

9 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the
10 Commission shall receive travel expenses, including
11 per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with
12 sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States
13 Code.

14 (e) QUORUM.—11 members of the Commission shall
15 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-
16 ings, take testimony, or receive evidence.

17 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Commis-
18 sion shall be elected by a majority vote of the members
19 of the Commission.

20 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
21 call of the chairperson of the Commission.

22 **SEC. 5. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

23 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a direc-
24 tor appointed by the Commission and paid at a rate not

1 to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS-
2 9 of the General Schedule.

3 (b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix
4 the pay of additional personnel as it considers appropriate,
5 except that—

6 (1) not more than 2 individuals may be ap-
7 pointed under this subsection; and

8 (2) an individual so appointed may not receive
9 pay in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay pay-
10 able for GS-7 of the General Schedule.

11 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
12 LAWS.—The director and staff of the Commission may be
13 appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
14 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
15 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the
16 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
17 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule
18 pay rates, except as provided in subsections (a) and (b).

19 (d) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
20 of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may
21 detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel
22 of the agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying
23 out its duties under this Act.

24 (e) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission
25 may procure temporary and intermittent services under

1 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates
2 for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the
3 maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-12 of
4 the General Schedule.

5 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Ad-
6 ministrator of General Services shall provide to the Com-
7 mission on a reimbursable basis such administrative sup-
8 port services necessary for the Commission to carry out
9 its responsibilities under this Act.

10 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

11 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
12 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
13 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
14 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.
15 The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to
16 witnesses appearing before it.

17 (b) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Any member or
18 agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Com-
19 mission, take any action that the Commission is author-
20 ized to take by this section.

21 (c) INFORMATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
23 directly from any Federal agency information nec-
24 essary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon re-
25 quest of the Commission, the head of the Federal

1 agency shall furnish the information to the Com-
2 mission.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
4 apply to any information that the Commission is
5 prohibited to secure or request by another law.

6 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
7 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
8 ditions as other Federal agencies.

9 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
10 contract with and compensate government and private
11 agencies or persons for supplies or services without regard
12 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

13 (f) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The
14 Commission may publish a notice and request for com-
15 ments in the Federal Register in the same manner as a
16 Federal agency.

17 **SEC. 7. PROMULGATION OF UNIFORM CLAIMS PROCESSING**
18 **FORM.**

19 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY FORM.—The
20 Commission shall develop a preliminary version of the
21 form required to be developed under section 3 not later
22 than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on
23 the date of the appointment of the last member of the
24 Commission to be appointed under section 4(a).

1 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall publish a
2 copy of the preliminary version of the form required to
3 be developed under subsection (a) in the Federal Register,
4 along with a notice of the comment period established in
5 subsection (c) and a request for comments, promptly after
6 the date on which such preliminary version is completed.

7 (c) COMMENT PERIOD.—The Commission may re-
8 ceive comments concerning the preliminary version of the
9 form required to be developed under subsection (a) during
10 the 30-day period beginning on the date the preliminary
11 version appears in the Federal Register.

12 (d) REVISION OF FORM AND FINAL REPORT.—Not
13 later than the expiration of the 30-day period beginning
14 on the date following the closing date of the comment pe-
15 riod under subsection (c), the Commission shall—

16 (1) revise the preliminary version of the form
17 required to be developed under subsection (a), tak-
18 ing into consideration any comments received pursu-
19 ant to subsection (c);

20 (2) develop a final version of the form required
21 to be developed under section 3; and

22 (3) submit to the Congress, the Secretary of
23 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of De-
24 fense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report
25 containing—

1 (A) a copy of the final version of the form;

2 (B) a summary of the activities of the
3 Commission; and

4 (C) any other findings, conclusions, or rec-
5 ommendations that the Commission determines
6 to be appropriate.

7 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

8 The Commission shall terminate not later than the
9 expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on
10 which the Commission submits its report under section 7.

11 **SEC. 9. PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING**
12 **UNIFORM CLAIMS PROCESSING FORM.**

13 (a) NOTICE OF REGULATIONS.—Promptly upon re-
14 ceipt of the report submitted under section 7(d), the Sec-
15 retary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of
16 Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs each shall
17 publish in the Federal Register a notice of rulemaking in
18 which the Secretary announces the promulgation of a reg-
19 ulation that will—

20 (1) take effect 90 days after the date of the
21 publication of the notice; and

22 (2) require all health service providers that fur-
23 nish health care services for which a claim for pay-
24 ment may be submitted under a Federal program
25 within the jurisdiction of the Secretary to submit

1 any such claim using the universal paper claims
2 processing form developed by the Commission under
3 section 3.

4 (b) PROMULGATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGU-
5 LATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
6 the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs each shall promulgate and implement a regulation
8 described in subsection (a).

9 **SEC. 10. FUNDING.**

10 From funds appropriated for salaries and expenses
11 with respect to the Department of Health and Human
12 Services for fiscal year 1995, the Secretary of Health and
13 Human Services shall expend such amounts as may be
14 necessary to ensure that the Commission is able to carry
15 out its duties under this Act, except that such amounts
16 shall not exceed \$500,000.

17 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

18 For purposes of this Act:

19 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
20 means the Uniform Claims Commission established
21 by section 2.

22 (2) HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term
23 “health service provider” includes a provider of serv-
24 ices (as defined in section 1861(u) of the Social Se-
25 curity Act), physician, supplier, and other person

1 furnishing health care services but does not include
2 a Federal program that provides directly for the pro-
3 vision of health care services to beneficiaries.

4 **SEC. 12. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.**

5 Any spending authority (as defined in subparagraphs
6 (A) and (C) of section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional
7 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651(c)(2)(A))) authorized
8 by this Act shall be effective only to such extent or in such
9 amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

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