

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 119

To establish a Commission to study and make recommendations on the implementation of standardized voting procedures in the Federal, State, and local electoral process, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. HOLT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on 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 establish a Commission to study and make recommendations on the implementation of standardized voting procedures in the Federal, State, and local electoral process, 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 “Commission on Elec-
5 tions Procedures Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
3 mission to be known as the Commission on Elections Pro-
4 cedures (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Commis-
5 sion”).

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission shall
7 be to study Federal, State, and local electoral processes
8 and to make recommendations on the implementation of
9 standardized voting procedures, including standardized
10 technology, for Federal, State, and local elections.

11 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

12 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
13 shall be composed of 10 members who shall be appointed
14 as follows:

15 (1) 2 shall be appointed by the President.

16 (2) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader
17 of the Senate.

18 (3) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader
19 of the Senate.

20 (4) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives.

22 (5) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader
23 of the House of Representatives.

24 (b) QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—Members shall
25 be appointed to the Commission from among individuals
26 who have expertise in election laws, the United States

1 Constitution, and the history of the United States, or
2 other pertinent qualifications or experience.

3 (c) TERMS.—Members of the Commission shall be
4 appointed not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act. Appointments shall be for the life of the
6 Commission.

7 (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
8 not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same man-
9 ner as the original appointment.

10 (e) MEETINGS.—

11 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
12 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
13 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
14 its first meeting.

15 (2) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Commission
16 shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or a major-
17 ity of its members.

18 (f) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
19 members of the Commission shall select a Chairperson and
20 Vice Chairperson from among its members.

21 (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the Commission shall
22 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

23 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall examine
25 the nature and consequences of Federal, State, and local

1 government electoral processes and make recommenda-
2 tions on its findings.

3 (b) SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED.—Among
4 other electoral issues the Commission determines are rel-
5 evant, the Commission shall examine and report to the
6 President, the Congress, and the Federal Election Com-
7 mission on the following issues:

8 (1) Voting procedures in Federal, State, and
9 local government elections.

10 (2) Legislation and regulatory efforts that af-
11 fect voting procedures issues.

12 (3) The implementation of standardized voting
13 procedures, including standardized technology for
14 Federal, State and local government elections.

15 (c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after
16 the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, the
17 Commission shall submit to the President, the Congress,
18 and the Federal Election Commission a final report which
19 includes an analysis of the matters discussed under sub-
20 section (b) and recommendations for addressing the prob-
21 lems identified as part of the Commission’s analysis.

22 (d) SEPARATE VIEWS.—Any member of the Commis-
23 sion may submit additional findings and recommendations
24 as part of the final report.

1 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such
3 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
4 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
5 may find advisable to fulfill the requirements of this Act.
6 The Commission may administer oaths and affirmations
7 to witnesses appearing before the Commission.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
9 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-
10 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
11 siders necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
12 Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the
13 head of such department or agency shall furnish such in-
14 formation to the Commission.

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

19 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
20 the request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Ad-
21 ministrator of General Services shall provide to the Com-
22 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative sup-
23 port services that are necessary to enable the Commission
24 to carry out its duties under this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

2 (a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Each member of
3 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the
4 Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal
5 to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay pre-
6 scribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-
7 tion 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (in-
8 cluding travel time) during which such member is engaged
9 in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All
10 members of the Commission who are officers or employees
11 of the United States shall serve without compensation in
12 addition to that received for their services as officers or
13 employees of the United States.

14 (b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Com-
15 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
16 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
17 ees of agencies under subchapter 1 of chapter 57 of title
18 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
19 regular places of business in the performance of services
20 for the Commission.

21 (c) **STAFF.**—(1) The chairperson of the Commission
22 may appoint and terminate staff of the Commission, re-
23 quest the detail of Federal employees, and accept tem-
24 porary and intermittent services in accordance with sec-
25 tion 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

1 (2) The employment of an executive director of the
2 Commission shall be subject to the approval of the Com-
3 mission.

4 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the
6 date on which the Commission submits its report under
7 section 4.

8 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000
10 for the Commission to carry out this Act.

○