

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1049

To establish the Commission on the Presentation of the Budget of the
United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1993

Mr. CLINGER (for himself, Mr. HORN, Mr. ZELIFF, Mr. MACHTLEY, Mr. THOMAS of Wyoming, Mr. WISE, and Mr. HASTERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations

A BILL

To establish the Commission on the Presentation of the
Budget of the United States.

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 “Improved Budget Pres-
5 entation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission
8 which will submit findings and recommendations to pro-

1 vide a more effective presentation of capital and operating
2 expenses of the United States Government.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Federal Government does not take a
6 comprehensive look at capital investment programs
7 across agency and program lines to see how they fit
8 into a national strategy for maintaining and improv-
9 ing the Nation's public facilities.

10 (2) Both the executive branch and the Congress
11 tend to set priorities for physical capital investment
12 program-by-program. There is no consistent basis
13 for setting priorities among projects and programs,
14 and there is no framework in which to identify those
15 having similar objectives and those that are at cross-
16 purposes.

17 (3) This program- and project-orientation
18 makes planning for public facilities vulnerable to
19 short-term factors, thus impairing the stability and
20 predictability needed for an efficient capital invest-
21 ment program.

22 (4) A separate capital budget would establish a
23 useful planning process because it would focus on
24 long-term projects, costs, and benefits.

1 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE**
2 **BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out the purpose of
4 section 2, there is established the Commission on the Pres-
5 entation of the Budget of the United States (hereinafter
6 in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-
8 posed of the following 9 members:

9 (1) The Deputy Director of the Office of Man-
10 agement and Budget, who shall act as Chairman of
11 the Commission.

12 (2) The Comptroller General of the United
13 States, or his or her delegate.

14 (3) The Director of the Congressional Budget
15 Office, or his or her delegate.

16 (4) Two members of the House of Representa-
17 tives, one appointed by the Speaker of the House
18 and one appointed by the minority leader of the
19 House.

20 (5) Two members of the Senate, one appointed
21 by the President pro tempore of the Senate and one
22 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

23 (6) Two executive branch officials appointed by
24 the President, who—

25 (A) are not employed in the Executive Of-
26 fice of the President;

1 (B) hold positions at or above level III of
2 the Executive Schedule; and

3 (C) have substantial responsibilities for
4 formulating, presenting, and implementing ex-
5 ecutive budgets.

6 (c) COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointment
7 of the members of the Commission shall be completed
8 within 30 days after the effective date of this Act.

9 (d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the membership of
10 the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be
11 filled in the same manner in which the original appoint-
12 ment was made.

13 (e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission
14 shall not receive compensation for their service on the
15 Commission, but shall be reimbursed by the Federal orga-
16 nization in which they are employed for travel, subsist-
17 ence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the per-
18 formance of their duties on the Commission.

19 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

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

21 (1) study and investigate the manner in which
22 all departments, agencies, independent establish-
23 ments, and instrumentalities of the United States
24 Government participate in the formulation and pres-
25 entation of the United States Budget; and

1 (2) make such recommendations as the mem-
2 bers of the Commission consider appropriate to pro-
3 vide improved governmental processes in the formu-
4 lation, presentation, and implementation of the Unit-
5 ed States Budget with respect to—

6 (A) the ability of the United States Budget
7 to distinguish between capital activities and op-
8 erating activities, and between operating funds
9 and trust funds, to identify the resources need-
10 ed to meet the Government's needs;

11 (B) improved procedures among depart-
12 ments, agencies, independent establishments,
13 and instrumentalities of the United States Gov-
14 ernment to provide improved coordination and
15 control with respect to the formulation, presen-
16 tation, and implementation of the United States
17 Budget; and

18 (C) more effective arrangements between
19 the executive branch and the Congress, which
20 will better enable each to carry out its budget-
21 ing, revenue, and appropriation responsibilities.

22 (c) REPORT.—The Commission shall submit a com-
23 prehensive report to the President and the Congress by
24 not later than 7 months after the effective date of this
25 Act, containing the findings and recommendations of the

1 Commission. Such recommendations may include proposed
2 legislation and administrative actions the Commission con-
3 siders appropriate.

4 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

5 (a) MEETINGS.—(1) The Commission may, for the
6 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold
7 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, ad-
8 minister such oaths, and require the attendance and testi-
9 mony of such witnesses and the production of such books,
10 records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and doc-
11 uments, as the Commission may consider advisable.

12 (2) Five members of the Commission shall constitute
13 a quorum, except that a lesser number may hold hearings.

14 (b) OBTAINING INFORMATION, ETC.—The Commis-
15 sion may request from any executive department, bureau,
16 agency, board, commission, office, independent establish-
17 ment, or instrumentality information, suggestions, esti-
18 mates, and statistics for the purposes of this Act. Each
19 such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, of-
20 fice, establishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent
21 not otherwise prohibited by law, furnish such information,
22 suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Com-
23 mission, upon request made by the Chairman.

1 **SEC. 7. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 The individual Commission members shall obtain
3 staff support from their respective employing organiza-
4 tions.

5 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

6 The Commission shall cease to exist on the 30th day
7 after the date on which it submits its report under section
8 5(c).

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