

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1549

To establish a commission to be known as the Harold Hughes-Bill Emerson
Commission on Alcoholism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD (for himself, Mr. KLECZKA, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FROST, Mr. GILCHREST, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KLUG, Mr. LAZIO of New York, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To establish a commission to be known as the Harold
Hughes-Bill Emerson Commission on Alcoholism.

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 “Harold Hughes-Bill
5 Emerson Commission on Alcoholism Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established a commission to be known as the
3 Harold Hughes-Bill Emerson Commission on Alcoholism
4 (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

5 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry out
7 the following duties:

8 (1) Hold public hearings on selected areas of
9 interest related to alcoholism.

10 (2) Promote the development of a national con-
11 sensus on policy issues related to alcoholism, which
12 may include conducting a national opinion survey on
13 attitudes toward the disease of alcoholism and its
14 prevention.

15 (3) Evaluate the interest of the provider and
16 medical communities in new medications related to
17 alcoholism and the barriers to the communities in
18 obtaining such medications, and make recommenda-
19 tions regarding research on and the manufacturing
20 and availability of such medications.

21 (4) In conjunction with the National Institute
22 on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and the advisory
23 council of such Institute, conduct a study to identify
24 the current state-of-the-art alcohol research, unmet
25 alcohol research needs, and appropriate research

1 funding in view of the size and scope of the alcohol-
2 ism problem.

3 (5) Evaluate and make recommendations re-
4 garding the education of physicians in American
5 medical schools concerning alcoholism (including an
6 examination of the requirements of accreditation of
7 medical schools) and the certification of other indi-
8 viduals trained to provide alcoholism prevention and
9 treatment services.

10 (6) Evaluate and make recommendations re-
11 garding the availability, timing, and dissemination of
12 research information to alcoholism prevention and
13 treatment services administrators and providers, and
14 the application of current research findings by these
15 administrators and providers.

16 (7) Make recommendations designed to reduce
17 and prevent alcoholism which include recommenda-
18 tions concerning appropriate roles for the Federal,
19 State, and local governments and the private sector,
20 and concerning specific changes needed to Federal
21 laws and Federal programs.

22 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than two years after the
23 date on which amounts under section 8 are first made
24 available for carrying out this Act, the Commission shall
25 submit to the President and the Congress a report describ-

1 ing the findings made in studies under subsection (a). The
2 Commission may submit to the President and the Con-
3 gress such interim reports regarding the duties of the
4 Commission under such subsection as the Commission de-
5 termines to be appropriate.

6 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

7 (a) COMPOSITION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
9 composed of 12 voting members appointed in accord-
10 ance with paragraph (2), one ex officio voting mem-
11 ber designated in paragraph (3), and such ex officio
12 nonvoting members as may serve pursuant to para-
13 graph (4).

14 (2) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—Members of the
15 Commission shall be appointed in accordance with
16 the following:

17 (A) The President shall appoint four indi-
18 viduals who are not officers or employees of the
19 Federal Government. Such individuals shall be
20 appointed from four of the following fields of
21 expertise:

22 (i) An economist.

23 (ii) A biomedical or behavioral re-
24 searcher or clinician.

1 (iii) A person from the field of busi-
2 ness.

3 (iv) A representative of the medical
4 schools.

5 (v) A health provider.

6 (B) The President Pro Tempore of the
7 Senate shall, after consultation with the major-
8 ity and minority leaders of the Senate, appoint
9 four individuals. Of such individuals—

10 (i) two shall be Senators;

11 (ii) one shall be an expert in alcohol-
12 ism prevention; and

13 (iii) one shall be an expert in alcohol-
14 ism treatment.

15 (C) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives shall, after consultation with the
17 majority and minority leaders of the House, ap-
18 point four individuals. Of such individuals—

19 (i) two shall be Members of the
20 House;

21 (ii) one shall be a person with per-
22 sonal or family experience with alcoholism;
23 and

24 (iii) one shall be a marketing or com-
25 munications expert.

1 (3) VOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Direc-
2 tor of the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alco-
3 hol Abuse shall serve as a voting ex officio member
4 of the Commission.

5 (4) NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OR AD-
6 VISORS.—The Commission may request Federal offi-
7 cials to serve as nonvoting members of or advisors
8 to the Commission, including but not limited to—

9 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or
10 the designee of the Secretary;

11 (B) the Assistant Secretary of Health, De-
12 partment of Defense, or the designee of the As-
13 sistant Secretary;

14 (C) the Secretary of Health and Human
15 Services or the designee of the Secretary; and

16 (D) the Attorney General or the designee
17 of the Attorney General.

18 (b) CHAIR.— The Commission shall designate a vot-
19 ing member of the Commission to serve as the chair of
20 the Commission.

21 (c) TERMS.—The term of a member of the Commis-
22 sion is the duration of the Commission.

23 (d) VACANCIES.—

24 (1) AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION.—A vacancy in
25 the membership of the Commission does not affect

1 the power of the remaining members to carry out
2 the duties under section 3.

3 (2) APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSORS.—A vacancy
4 in the membership of the Commission shall be filled
5 in the manner in which the original appointment was
6 made.

7 (3) INCOMPLETE TERM.—If a member of the
8 Commission does not serve the full term applicable
9 to the member, the individual appointed to fill the
10 resulting vacancy shall be appointed for the remain-
11 der of the term of the predecessor of the individual.

12 (e) MEETINGS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet
14 at the call of the Chair or a majority of the mem-
15 bers, except that not less than two meetings shall be
16 held each year for the duration of the Commission.

17 (2) QUORUM.—A quorum for meetings of the
18 Commission is constituted by the presence of 7
19 members, except that a lesser number may conduct
20 hearings under section 6(a).

21 (f) COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT OF EX-
22 PENSES.—

23 (1) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-
24 sion may not receive compensation for service on the
25 Commission, subject to paragraph (2).

1 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—Members of the Com-
2 mission may, in accordance with chapter 57 of title
3 5, United States Code, be reimbursed for travel,
4 subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
5 in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

6 **SEC. 5. STAFF AND CONSULTANTS.**

7 (a) STAFF.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may ap-
9 point and determine the compensation of such staff
10 as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the
11 Commission, including an executive director. Such
12 appointments and compensation may be made with-
13 out regard to the provisions of title 5, United States
14 Code, that govern appointments in the competitive
15 services, and the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
16 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title that relate to
17 classifications and the General Schedule pay rates.

18 (2) LIMITATION.—Staff members appointed
19 under paragraph (1) may not be compensated in ex-
20 cess of the maximum rate of basic pay payable for
21 GS–15, except that the executive director may not
22 be compensated in an amount exceeding the maxi-
23 mum rate of basic pay payable under the General
24 Schedule for positions above GS–15.

1 (b) CONSULTANTS.—The Commission may procure
2 such temporary and intermittent services of consultants
3 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, as
4 the Commission may determine to be useful in carrying
5 out the duties under section 3. The Commission may not
6 procure services under this subsection at any rate in ex-
7 cess of the daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate
8 of basic pay payable under the General Schedule for posi-
9 tions above GS–15. Consultants under this subsection
10 may, in accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United
11 States Code, be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and
12 other necessary expenses incurred for activities carried out
13 on behalf of the Commission pursuant to section 3.

14 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out
16 the duties of the Commission under section 3, the Com-
17 mission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times
18 and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence
19 as the Commission considers appropriate.

20 (b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL INFORMATION.—Upon the
21 request of the Commission, the heads of Federal agencies
22 shall furnish directly to the Commission information nec-
23 essary for the Commission to carry out the duties under
24 section 3.

1 (c) USE OF MAILS.—The Commission may use the
2 United States mails in the same manner and under the
3 same conditions as Federal agencies.

4 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
5 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
6 eral Services shall provide to the Commission on a reim-
7 bursable basis such administrative support, including
8 quarters for the Commission, as may be necessary for the
9 Commission to carry out the duties under section 3.

10 (e) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—The Commission may
11 accept cash and in-kind contributions to the Commission
12 for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Com-
13 mission.

14 **SEC. 7. DURATION OF COMMISSION.**

15 The Commission terminates upon the expiration of
16 the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the final
17 report is submitted under section 3(b).

18 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there is au-
20 thorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000. Amounts appro-
21 priated under the preceding sentence are available until
22 the termination of the Commission under section 7.

1 **SEC. 9. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

2 Section 18 of Public Law 96–180 (93 Stat. 1306; 42

3 U.S.C. 4541 note) is repealed.

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