

Union Calendar No. 26

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 757

[Report No. 105-38]

A BILL

To develop the economy of Samoa.

MARCH 20, 1997

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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To develop the economy of Samoa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

MARCH 20, 1997

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[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To develop the economy of Samoa.

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 “American Samoa De-
5 velopment Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
3 Commission on the Economic Future of American Samoa
4 (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).
5 The Commission shall consist of six members appointed
6 by the President, three of whom shall be selected from
7 nominations made by the Governor of American Samoa,
8 and the Secretary of Interior, *ex officio*. The President
9 shall designate one of the appointed members of the Com-
10 mission to be Chairman. Members of the Commission shall
11 be appointed for the life of the Commission.

12 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission
13 appointed by the President shall be persons who, by virtue
14 of their background and experience, are particularly suited
15 to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the
16 Commission.

17 (c) EXPENSES.—Members of the Commission shall
18 serve without compensation, but ~~shall~~ *may* be reimbursed
19 for travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses in-
20 curred by them in the performance of their duties in ac-
21 cordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United
22 States Code.

23 (d) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall
24 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment
25 was made.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE AND REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose of the Commission
3 is to make recommendations to the President and Con-
4 gress on the policies and actions necessary to provide for
5 a secure and self-sustaining future for the local economy
6 of American Samoa through 2020 and on the role of the
7 Federal Government related thereto. In developing rec-
8 ommendations, the Commission shall—

9 (1) solicit and analyze information on projected
10 private sector development, including, but not lim-
11 ited to, tourism, manufacturing and industry, agri-
12 culture and transportation and shifting trends based
13 on alternative forecasts of economic, political and so-
14 cial conditions in the Pacific;

15 (2) analyze capital infrastructure, education, so-
16 cial, health and environmental needs in light of these
17 alternative forecasts;

18 (3) assemble relevant demographic, economic
19 and revenue and expenditure data from over the
20 past twenty-five years;

21 (4) review the application of Federal laws and
22 programs and the effects of such laws and programs
23 on the local economy and make such recommenda-
24 tions for changes in the application as the Commis-
25 sion deems advisable; and

1 (5) consider the impact of Federal trade and
2 other international agreements, including, but not
3 limited to those related to marine resources, on
4 American Samoa and make such recommendations
5 as may be necessary to minimize or eliminate any
6 adverse effects on the local economy.

7 (b) REPORT.—The recommendations of the Commis-
8 sion shall be transmitted in a report to the President, the
9 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Unit-
10 ed States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the
11 United States House of Representatives no later than
12 June 30, 1999. The report shall set forth the basis for
13 the recommendations and shall include an analysis of the
14 capability of American Samoa to meet projected needs
15 based on reasonable alternative economic, political and so-
16 cial conditions in the Pacific Basin. The report shall also
17 include projections of the need for direct or indirect Fed-
18 eral assistance for operations and infrastructure over the
19 next decade and what additional assistance will be nec-
20 essary to develop the local economy to a level sufficient
21 to minimize or eliminate the need for direct Federal oper-
22 ational assistance.

23 (c) INCLUSION OF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW.—As part
24 of its report, the Commission shall also include an over-
25 view of the history of American Samoa and its relationship

1 to the United States from 1872, with emphasis on those
2 events or actions that affect future economic development
3 and shall include, as an appendix to its report, copies of
4 the relevant documents, including, but not limited to, the
5 Tripartite Agreement signed on December 2, 1899, in
6 Washington, District of Columbia and the documents of
7 Cessions of 1900 and 1904.

8 **SEC. 4. POWERS AND DUTIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Commission may—

10 (A) hold such hearings, sit and act at such
11 times and places, take such testimony and receive
12 such evidence as it may deem advisable;

13 (B) use the United States mail in the same
14 manner and upon the same conditions as depart-
15 ments and agencies of the United States; and

16 (C) within available funds, incur such expenses
17 and enter into contracts or agreements for studies
18 and surveys with public and private organizations
19 and transfer funds to Federal agencies to carry out
20 the Commission's functions.

21 (2) In carrying out paragraph (1)(A), the Commis-
22 sion shall conduct public meetings in Tutuila, Ofu,
23 Olosega and Ta'u.

24 (b) OFFICE SPACE AND STAFF.—Within funds avail-
25 able for the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior

1 shall provide such office space, furnishings, equipment,
2 staff and fiscal and administrative services as the Commis-
3 sion may require.

4 (c) OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The President,
5 upon request of the Commission, may direct the head of
6 any Federal agency or department to assist the Commis-
7 sion and if so directed such head shall—

8 (1) furnish the Commission to the extent per-
9 mitted by law and within available appropriations
10 such information as may be necessary for carrying
11 out the functions of the Commission and as may be
12 available to or procurable by such department or
13 agency; and

14 (2) detail to temporary duty with the Commis-
15 sion on a reimbursable basis such personnel within
16 his administrative jurisdiction as the Commission
17 may need or believe to be useful for carrying out its
18 functions, each such detail to be without loss of se-
19 niority, pay or other employee status.

20 **SEC. 5. CHAIRMAN.**

21 Subject to general policies that the Commission may
22 adopt, the Chairman of the Commission shall be the chief
23 executive officer of the Commission and shall exercise its
24 executive and administrative powers. The Chairman may
25 make such provisions as he may deem appropriate author-

1 izing the performance of his executive and administrative
2 functions by the staff of the Commission.

3 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

4 The Department of the Interior is authorized to pro-
5 vide up to \$300,000 each in fiscal years 1997 and 1998
6 in technical assistance funding for the work of the Com-
7 mission.

8 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

9 The Commission shall terminate three months after
10 the transmission of the report and recommendations under
11 section 3(b).