

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 655

To establish a commission to study the culture and glorification of violence
in America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a commission to study the culture and
glorification of violence in America.

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 to Study
5 the Culture of Violence in America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 Commission to Study the Culture of Violence in America
9 (hereinafter the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

2 The Commission shall—

3 (1) examine the glorification of violence in the
4 United States;

5 (2) examine the relationship between psycho-
6 logical stress and increased violence;

7 (3) examine the role of the media in the violent
8 atmosphere prevalent today;

9 (4) examine the correlation, if any, between
10 ease of access to firearms and increased violence;

11 (5) examine the role of the school system in
12 identifying potential perpetrators of violence; and

13 (6) make findings and conclusions, and rec-
14 ommend potential solutions (including recommenda-
15 tions for legislation and administrative action) to al-
16 leviate the problems of glorification of violence in the
17 United States.

18 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

19 (a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission
20 shall be composed of 22 members (hereinafter the “mem-
21 bers”) who shall be appointed as follows:

22 (1) 10 members appointed by the President.

23 (2) 3 members appointed by the majority leader
24 of the House of Representatives.

25 (3) 3 members appointed by the minority leader
26 of the House of Representatives.

1 (4) 3 members appointed by the majority leader
2 of the Senate.

3 (5) 3 members appointed by the minority leader
4 of the Senate.

5 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Members shall have special
7 knowledge of or experience in the issue of violence
8 in America, and may include sociologists, psycholo-
9 gists, clergy, school counselors, law enforcement offi-
10 cials, victims of violence, and representatives from
11 the media and the entertainment and gun industries.

12 (2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Political affili-
13 ation shall not be a determining factor in the ap-
14 pointment of members.

15 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Every original
16 member shall be appointed to the Commission not later
17 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 (d) TERMS AND VACANCIES.—Each member shall be
19 appointed for the life of the Commission. A vacancy in
20 the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the
21 original appointment was made.

22 (e) BASIC PAY.—Members shall not be paid by rea-
23 son of their service as members.

24 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
25 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,

1 in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

3 (g) QUORUM.—Nine members shall constitute a
4 quorum for conducting the business of the Commission,
5 but a lesser number may hold hearings.

6 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The members shall elect one
7 member to act as the Chairperson of the Commission
8 (hereinafter the “Chairperson”).

9 (i) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
10 call of the Chairperson.

11 **SEC. 5. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

12 (a) STAFF.—The Chairperson may appoint and fix
13 the pay of the Commission personnel as the Chairperson
14 considers appropriate.

15 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
16 LAWS.—The staff of the Commission shall be appointed
17 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,
18 governing appointments in the competitive service, and
19 shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter
20 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating
21 to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

22 (c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
23 of the Chairperson, the head of any Federal department
24 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the

1 personnel of the department or agency to assist the Com-
2 mission in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

4 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
5 may hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take
6 testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission con-
7 siders appropriate to carry out this Act.

8 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—The Com-
9 mission may delegate to a member or agency any authority
10 of the Commission under subsection (c) or (e).

11 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
12 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
13 United States information necessary to enable the Com-
14 mission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-
15 person, the head of the department or agency shall furnish
16 the information to the Commission.

17 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
18 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
19 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
20 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
21 essary for the Commission to carry out its duties.

22 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
23 contract with and compensate Government or private
24 agencies or persons for supplies or services, without regard
25 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

1 **SEC. 7. REPORT OF COMMISSION.**

2 The Commission shall transmit a report to the Presi-
3 dent and the Congress not later than one year after the
4 date that all original members have been appointed to the
5 Commission. The report shall contain a detailed statement
6 of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the
7 Commission.

8 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

9 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after sub-
10 mitting the report required by section 7.

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