

#### 116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H. R. 5672

To establish the Commission on Sustaining Medicare and Social Security, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 24, 2020

Mr. Bilirakis introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 the Commission on Sustaining Medicare and Social Security, 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 Sus-
- 5 taining Medicare and Social Security Act of 2020".
- 6 SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.
- 7 There is established in the legislative branch a com-
- 8 mission to be known as the "Commission on Sustaining

- 1 Medicare and Social Security' (in this Act referred to as
- 2 the "Commission").

#### 3 SEC. 3. DUTY OF THE COMMISSION.

- 4 Not later than 1 year after the initial meeting of the
- 5 Commission, the Commission shall submit to Congress a
- 6 report on the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
- 7 program under title II of the Social Security Act and the
- 8 Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security
- 9 Act, including—
- 10 (1) the impact of using alternative indexes on
- beneficiaries and the Trust Funds, including the
- 12 Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI–E);
- 13 (2) the impact of using alternative premium
- formulas for the Medicare program under title
- 15 XVIII of the Social Security Act on beneficiaries
- and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance
- 17 Trust Fund, including premium formulas that con-
- sider financial hardships and socioeconomic status;
- 19 (3) program reforms to increase the sustain-
- ability of the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability In-
- 21 surance program under title II of the Social Security
- Act and the Medicare program under title XVIII of
- 23 the Social Security Act; and
- 24 (4) program reforms to prevent fraud, increase
- integrity, and reduce improper payments.

### 1 SEC. 4. MEMBERS.

2	(a) Number and Appointment.—The Commission
3	shall be composed of 11 members. Of the members of the
4	Commission—
5	(1) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in-
6	cluding—
7	(A) the Commissioner of the Social Secu-
8	rity Administration or a designee of the Com-
9	missioner; and
10	(B) the Administrator of the Centers for
11	Medicare and Medicaid Services or a designee
12	of the Administrator;
13	(2) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
14	House of Representatives, consisting of—
15	(A) 1 nongovernmental expert in the Old-
16	Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance pro-
17	gram under title II of the Social Security Act;
18	and
19	(B) 1 nongovernmental expert of the Medi-
20	care program under title XVIII of the Social
21	Security Act;
22	(3) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader
23	of the House of Representatives; consisting of—
24	(A) 1 nongovernmental expert in the Old-
25	Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance pro-

1	gram under title II of the Social Security Act
2	and
3	(B) 1 nongovernmental expert of the Medi-
4	care program under title XVIII of the Social
5	Security Act;
6	(4) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader
7	of the Senate, consisting of—
8	(A) 1 nongovernmental expert in the Old-
9	Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance pro-
10	gram under title II of the Social Security Act;
11	and
12	(B) 1 nongovernmental expert of the Medi-
13	care program under title XVIII of the Social
14	Security Act; and
15	(5) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader
16	of the Senate, consisting of—
17	(A) 1 nongovernmental expert in the Old-
18	Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance pro-
19	gram under title II of the Social Security Act
20	and
21	(B) 1 nongovernmental expert of the Medi-
22	care program under title XVIII of the Social
23	Security Act.

- 1 (b) Timing of Appointments.—Each of the ap-
- 2 pointments under subsection (a) shall be made not later
- 3 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.
- 4 (c) Terms; Vacancies.—Each member shall be ap-
- 5 pointed for the life of the Commission, and a vacancy in
- 6 the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the
- 7 original appointment was made.
- 8 (d) Compensation.—
- 9 (1) In general.—Members of the Commission
- shall serve without pay.
- 11 (2) Prohibition on compensation of fed-
- 12 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Commission
- who are full-time officers or employees of the United
- 14 States may not receive additional pay, allowances, or
- benefits by reason of their service on the Commis-
- sion.
- 17 (3) Travel expenses.—Each member shall
- receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
- subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
- 20 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
- 21 States Code.
- 22 SEC. 5. OPERATION AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.
- 23 (a) Co-Chairs.—The Commission shall have two co-
- 24 chairs who shall be elected from the members of the Com-
- 25 mission during the first meeting of the Commission.

- 1 (b) Meetings.—The Commission shall meet not
- 2 later than 30 days after the members of the Commission
- 3 have been appointed, and at such times thereafter as the
- 4 co-chairs shall determine.
- 5 (c) Rules of Procedure.—The co-chairs shall,
- 6 with the approval of a majority of the members of the
- 7 Commission, establish written rules of procedure for the
- 8 Commission, which shall include a quorum requirement to
- 9 conduct the business of the Commission.
- 10 (d) Hearings.—The Commission may, for the pur-
- 11 pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act
- 12 at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence
- 13 as the Commission considers appropriate.
- 14 (e) Obtaining Official Data.—The Commission
- 15 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
- 16 United States, including the Congressional Budget Office
- 17 and the Government Accountability Office, any informa-
- 18 tion or technical assistance necessary to enable the Com-
- 19 mission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the co-
- 20 chairs of the Commission, the head of that department
- 21 or agency shall furnish that information or technical as-
- 22 sistance to the Commission.
- 23 (f) Contract Authority.—To the extent or in the
- 24 amounts provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the
- 25 Commission may contract with and compensate govern-

- 1 ment and private agencies or persons for any purpose nec-
- 2 essary to enable the Commission to carry out this Act.
- 3 (g) Mails.—The Commission may use the United
- 4 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
- 5 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
- 6 States.

#### 7 SEC. 6. PERSONNEL.

- 8 (a) Director.—The Commission shall have a Director.
- 9 tor who shall be appointed by the Commission. The Direc-
- 10 tor shall be paid at the rate of basic pay for level V of
- 11 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,
- 12 United States Code.
- 13 (b) STAFF.—The Director may appoint and fix the
- 14 pay of additional staff as the Director considers appro-
- 15 priate.
- 16 (c) Experts and Consultants.—The Commission
- 17 may procure temporary and intermittent services under
- 18 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates
- 19 for individuals not to exceed the maximum rate of basic
- 20 pay for GS-15 of the General Schedule.
- 21 (d) Staff of Federal Agencies.—Upon request
- 22 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department
- 23 or agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the
- 24 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission

- 1 to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under
- 2 this Act.
- 3 (e) Administrative Support Services.—Upon
- 4 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
- 5 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
- 6 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
- 7 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
- 8 under this Act.

#### 9 SEC. 7. TERMINATION.

- The Commission shall terminate not later than 60
- 11 days after the submission of the report required by section
- 12 3.

#### 13 SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- There is authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to
- 15 carry out this Act.

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