

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2625

To establish the Independent Commission on Intelligence about Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. FROST, Mr. KIND, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FORD, Mr. HILL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select)

A BILL

To establish the Independent Commission on Intelligence
about Iraq.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

4 There is established in the legislative branch the
5 Independent Commission on Intelligence about Iraq (in
6 this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

7 **SEC. 2. DUTIES.**

8 The Commission shall carry out the following duties:

1 (1) Examine and evaluate executive branch ef-
2 forts to collect intelligence regarding the threats
3 posed by Iraq, including Iraq's attempts to reconsti-
4 tute its nuclear weapons program, develop and de-
5 ploy chemical and biological weapons, and provide
6 support for al Qaeda and other terrorist organiza-
7 tions.

8 (2) Examine and evaluate executive branch ef-
9 forts to assess the credibility and accuracy of intel-
10 ligence regarding such threats, including the inter-
11 pretation and conclusions developed by the intel-
12 ligence community regarding such threats.

13 (3) Examine and evaluate public representa-
14 tions and representations to Congress made by exec-
15 utive branch officials regarding such threats, includ-
16 ing assessing the accuracy and completeness of such
17 representations.

18 (4) Examine and evaluate the effectiveness of
19 collaborative arrangements between the United
20 States and other countries and international organi-
21 zations in collecting, assessing, and interpreting such
22 threats.

23 (5) Examine the extent to which Congress has
24 imposed restrictions on the collection of intelligence
25 that have limited the ability of the intelligence com-

1 munity to obtain complete and accurate intelligence
2 regarding such threats, and evaluate whether the
3 benefits of those restrictions outweigh the costs.

4 (6) Review the findings, conclusions, and rec-
5 ommendations of other congressional, executive
6 branch, or independent commission investigations, in
7 a manner to build upon such related investigations
8 and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

9 (7) Report to Congress and the President on its
10 findings and conclusions, as well as make rec-
11 ommendations to Congress and the President on
12 measures that can be taken to enhance the accuracy
13 of intelligence and the accuracy of representations of
14 such intelligence.

15 **SEC. 3. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.**

16 (a) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed
17 of 10 members, of whom—

18 (1) 1 member shall be appointed by the Presi-
19 dent, who shall serve as chairman of the Commis-
20 sion;

21 (2) 1 member shall be jointly appointed by the
22 minority leader of the Senate and the minority lead-
23 er of the House of Representatives, who shall serve
24 as vice chairman of the Commission;

1 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the major-
2 ity leader of the Senate;

3 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-
4 er of the House of Representatives;

5 (5) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
6 ity leader of the Senate; and

7 (6) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
8 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

9 (b) QUALIFICATIONS; INITIAL MEETING.—

10 (1) NONGOVERNMENTAL APPOINTEES.—An in-
11 dividual appointed to the Commission may not be an
12 officer or employee of the Federal Government or
13 any State or local government.

14 (2) OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals that
15 shall be appointed to the Commission should be
16 prominent United States citizens, with national rec-
17 ognition and significant depth of experience in such
18 professions as governmental service, law enforce-
19 ment, the armed services, law, public administration,
20 intelligence gathering, commerce (including aviation
21 matters), and foreign affairs.

22 (3) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All mem-
23 bers of the Commission shall be appointed within 45
24 days following the enactment of this Act.

1 (4) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet
2 and begin the operations of the Commission as soon
3 as practicable. After its initial meeting, the Commis-
4 sion shall meet upon the call of the chairman or a
5 majority of its members.

6 (c) QUORUM; VACANCIES.—Six members of the Com-
7 mission shall constitute a quorum. Any vacancy in the
8 Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled
9 in the same manner in which the original appointment was
10 made.

11 (d) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Each member ap-
12 pointed to the Commission shall submit a financial diselo-
13 sure report pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of
14 1978, notwithstanding the minimum required rate of com-
15 pensation or time period employed.

16 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—

18 (1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commis-
19 sion or, on the authority of the Commission, any
20 subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the pur-
21 pose of carrying out this title—

22 (A) hold such hearings and sit and act at
23 such times and places, take such testimony, re-
24 ceive such evidence, administer such oaths; and

1 (B) subject to paragraph (2)(A), require,
2 by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and
3 testimony of such witnesses and the production
4 of such books, records, correspondence, memo-
5 randa, papers, and documents,
6 as the Commission or such designated subcommittee
7 or designated member may determine advisable.

8 (2) SUBPOENAS.—

9 (A) ISSUANCE.—

10 (i) IN GENERAL.—A subpoena may be
11 issued under this subsection only—

12 (I) by the agreement of the
13 chairman and the vice chairman; or

14 (II) by the affirmative vote of 6
15 members of the Commission.

16 (ii) SIGNATURE.—Subject to clause
17 (i), subpoenas issued under this subsection
18 may be issued under the signature of the
19 chairman or any member designated by a
20 majority of the Commission, and may be
21 served by any person designated by the
22 chairman or by a member designated by a
23 majority of the Commission.

24 (B) ENFORCEMENT.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of con-
2 tumacy or failure to obey a subpoena
3 issued under this subsection, the United
4 States district court for the judicial district
5 in which the subpoenaed person resides, is
6 served, or may be found, or where the sub-
7 poena is returnable, may issue an order re-
8 quiring such person to appear at any des-
9 ignated place to testify or to produce docu-
10 mentary or other evidence. Any failure to
11 obey the order of the court may be pun-
12 ished by the court as a contempt of that
13 court.

14 (ii) ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—In
15 the case of any failure of any witness to
16 comply with any subpoena or to testify
17 when summoned under authority of this
18 subsection, the Commission may, by major-
19 ity vote, certify a statement of fact consti-
20 tuting such failure to the appropriate
21 United States attorney, who may bring the
22 matter before the grand jury for its action,
23 under the same statutory authority and
24 procedures as if the United States attorney
25 had received a certification under sections

1 102 through 104 of the Revised Statutes
2 of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192
3 through 194).

4 (3) SCOPE.—In carrying out its duties under
5 this Act, the Commission may examine the actions
6 and representations of the current Administration as
7 well as prior Administrations.

8 (b) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such
9 extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropria-
10 tion Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission
11 to discharge its duties of this Act.

12 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
14 directly from any executive department, bureau,
15 agency, board, commission, office, independent es-
16 tablishment, or instrumentality of the Federal Gov-
17 ernment, information, suggestions, estimates, and
18 statistics for the purposes of this Act. Each depart-
19 ment, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,
20 independent establishment, or instrumentality shall,
21 to the extent authorized by law, furnish such infor-
22 mation, suggestions, estimates, and statistics di-
23 rectly to the Commission, upon request made by the
24 chairman, the chairman of any subcommittee cre-

1 ated by a majority of the Commission, or any mem-
2 ber designated by a majority of the Commission.

3 (2) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-
4 SEMINATION.—Information shall only be received,
5 handled, stored, and disseminated by members of
6 the Commission and its staff consistent with all ap-
7 plicable statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders.

8 (d) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—
10 The Administrator of General Services shall provide
11 to the Commission on a reimbursable basis adminis-
12 trative support and other services for the perform-
13 ance of the Commission’s functions.

14 (2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In
15 addition to the assistance prescribed in paragraph
16 (1), departments and agencies of the United States
17 may provide to the Commission such services, funds,
18 facilities, staff, and other support services as they
19 may determine advisable and as may be authorized
20 by law.

21 (e) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and
22 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

23 (f) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
24 the United States mails in the same manner and under

1 the same conditions as departments and agencies of the
2 United States.

3 **SEC. 5. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-**
4 **MITTEE ACT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee
6 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

7 (b) PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RELEASE OF PUBLIC
8 VERSIONS OF REPORTS.—The Commission shall—

9 (1) hold public hearings and meetings to the ex-
10 tent appropriate; and

11 (2) release public versions of the reports re-
12 quired under section 10.

13 (c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Any public hearings of the
14 Commission shall be conducted in a manner consistent
15 with the protection of information provided to or developed
16 for or by the Commission as required by any applicable
17 statute, regulation, or Executive order.

18 **SEC. 6. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—

20 (1) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—The
21 chairman, in consultation with vice chairman, in ac-
22 cordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission,
23 may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff di-
24 rector and such other personnel as may be necessary
25 to enable the Commission to carry out its functions,

1 without regard to the provisions of title 5, United
2 States Code, governing appointments in the competi-
3 tive service, and without regard to the provisions of
4 chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such
5 title relating to classification and General Schedule
6 pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this
7 subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable
8 for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule
9 under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

10 (2) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The staff director and
12 any personnel of the Commission who are em-
13 ployees shall be employees under section 2105
14 of title 5, United States Code, for purposes of
15 chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, and 90 of
16 that title.

17 (B) MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Subpara-
18 graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to
19 members of the Commission.

20 (b) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee
21 may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement
22 from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the
23 rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employ-
24 ment without interruption.

1 (c) **CONSULTANT SERVICES.**—The Commission is au-
2 thORIZED to procure the services of experts and consultants
3 in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States
4 Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a per-
5 son occupying a position at level IV of the Executive
6 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States
7 Code.

8 **SEC. 7. COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

9 (a) **COMPENSATION.**—Each member of the Commis-
10 sion may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the daily
11 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for
12 a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-
13 tion 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day dur-
14 ing which that member is engaged in the actual perform-
15 ance of the duties of the Commission.

16 (b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—While away from their
17 homes or regular places of business in the performance
18 of services for the Commission, members of the Commis-
19 sion shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
20 in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons em-
21 ployed intermittently in the Government service are al-
22 lowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United
23 States Code.

1 **SEC. 8. SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSION MEM-**
2 **BERS AND STAFF.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the ap-
4 propriate Federal agencies or departments shall cooperate
5 with the Commission in expeditiously providing to the
6 Commission members and staff appropriate security clear-
7 ances to the extent possible pursuant to existing proce-
8 dures and requirements.

9 (b) EXCEPTION.— No person shall be provided with
10 access to classified information under this title without the
11 appropriate required security clearance access.

12 **SEC. 9. REPORTS OF COMMISSION; TERMINATION.**

13 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission may sub-
14 mit to Congress and the President interim reports con-
15 taining such findings, conclusions, and recommendations
16 for corrective measures as have been agreed to by a major-
17 ity of Commission members.

18 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
20 shall submit to Congress and the President a final report
21 containing such findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
22 tions for corrective measures as have been agreed to by
23 a majority of Commission members.

24 (c) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report prepared under
25 this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but
26 may contain a classified annex.

1 (d) RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE PUBLIC CERTAIN
2 CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—If the Commission deter-
3 mines that it is in the public interest that some or all of
4 the information contained in a classified annex of a report
5 under this section be made available to the public, the
6 Commission shall make a recommendation to the congres-
7 sional intelligence committees to make such information
8 public, and the congressional intelligence committees shall
9 consider the recommendation pursuant to the procedures
10 under subsection (e).

11 (e) PROCEDURE FOR DECLASSIFYING INFORMA-
12 TION.—

13 (1) The procedures referred to in subsection (d)
14 are the procedures described in—

15 (A) with respect to the Permanent Select
16 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives, clause 11(g) of Rule X of the
18 Rules of the House of Representatives, One
19 Hundred Eighth Congress; and

20 (B) with respect to the Select Committee
21 on Intelligence of the Senate, section 8 of Sen-
22 ate Resolution 400, Ninety-Fourth Congress.

23 (2) In this section, the term “congressional in-
24 telligence committees” means—

1 (A) the Permanent Select Committee on
2 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;
3 and

4 (B) the Select Committee on Intelligence
5 of the Senate.

6 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and all the au-
8 thorities of this Act, shall terminate 60 days after the date
9 on which the final report is submitted under subsection
10 (b).

11 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMI-
12 NATION.—The Commission may use the 60-day period re-
13 ferred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding
14 its activities, including providing testimony to committees
15 of Congress concerning its reports and disseminating the
16 final report.

17 **SEC. 11. FUNDING.**

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated funds not to exceed
20 \$5,000,000 for purposes of the activities of the Commis-
21 sion under this Act.

22 (b) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made
23 available to the Commission under subsection (a) shall re-
24 main available until the termination of the Commission.

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