

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2797

To establish a commission to study and develop proposals for expanding the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2025

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a commission to study and develop proposals for expanding the House of Representatives, 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 “House Expansion
5 Commission Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) For nearly a century, the number of mem-
9 bers of the House of Representatives has been set at
10 the 1929 cap of 435 members.

1 (2) The number of constituents represented by
2 each member of the House of Representatives has
3 dramatically increased since the number of members
4 of the House of Representatives was arbitrarily
5 capped in 1929.

6 (3) The 1929 cap on the number of members
7 of the House of Representatives was instituted when
8 the United States population was 123 million. Since
9 then, the United States population has tripled to
10 about 346 million which means the average congressional
11 district now represents nearly 800,000 constituents,
12 according to data from the Bureau of the
13 Census.

14 (4) With current population growth estimates,
15 the average congressional district could have approximately
16 829,000 constituents by 2050.

17 (5) A growing movement in Congress, and in
18 think tanks, seeks to increase the number of members
19 of the House of Representatives to increase
20 public access to members, improve diversity, and enhance
21 Member ability to serve their constituents.

22 (6) Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.)
23 introduced House bill 622, the Restoring Equal and
24 Accountable Legislators in the House Act, in the
25 One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, which would

1 add 150 seats to the House of Representatives, in-
2 creasing it to 585 members.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is established a commission to be known as the
5 “U.S. House of Representatives Expansion Commission”
6 (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

7 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

8 (a) STUDY.—The Commission shall study—

9 (1) the current size of the membership of the
10 House of Representatives considering—

11 (A) the correlation between the current
12 size of the House and fair representation and
13 efficacy; and

14 (B) whether an expanded House of Rep-
15 resentatives can better serve Congress’ core Ar-
16 ticle 1 function;

17 (2) the option of a one-time expansion com-
18 pared to the feasibility of recurring expansions;

19 (3) the so called “Cube Root Law”, “Wyoming
20 Rule”, and other relevant methods to increase the
21 size of the House of Representatives;

22 (4) the cost implications and practical chal-
23 lenges to the House of Representatives associated
24 with expanding the number of members of the

1 House of Representatives including the logistics
2 for—

3 (A) offices and meeting spaces;

4 (B) congressional support entities;

5 (C) hiring congressional staff;

6 (D) voting by members of the House of
7 Representatives;

8 (E) House administration offices; and

9 (F) funding;

10 (5) how countries with similar legislative struc-
11 tures expanded their legislative bodies and the out-
12 comes of such expansions;

13 (6) the historical context of the last time the
14 number of members of the House of Representatives
15 was changed and key motivations behind the amend-
16 ments made by the Act entitled “An Act to provide
17 for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial census
18 and to provide for apportionment of Representatives
19 in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C.
20 2a);

21 (7) whether an expanded House of Representa-
22 tives can better exercise the powers vested in Article
23 I of the Constitution;

24 (8) how expanding the number of members of
25 the House of Representatives may affect district size

1 variance across States and impact underrepresented
2 constituencies; and

3 (9) the potential effects of an expanded House
4 of Representative on the ability of the House to
5 enact laws.

6 (b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
7 subsection (a), the Commission shall consult with the Ar-
8 chitect of the Capitol, the Administrator of General Serv-
9 ices, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representa-
10 tives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of
11 Representatives, the Clerk of the House of Representa-
12 tives, and such other persons as the Commission considers
13 appropriate.

14 (c) REPORT AND PROPOSALS.—Not later than 2
15 years after the first meeting of the Commission, the Com-
16 mission shall submit to the President and to the Congress
17 a report of the study of the Commission, and shall include
18 in the report proposals based on such study for—

19 (1) expanding the size of the membership of the
20 House of Representatives;

21 (2) potential ways to expand the House of Rep-
22 resentatives to bolster the key role of the House of
23 Representatives in representing the American people
24 in Congress; and

1 (3) solutions to any identified challenges that
2 may arise from such expansion.

3 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

4 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
5 shall be composed of 13 members who are not Members
6 of Congress at the time of appointment, and who shall
7 be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of the
8 enactment of this Act, as follows:

9 (1) 5 members appointed by the Speaker of the
10 House of Representatives.

11 (2) 5 members appointed by the minority leader
12 of the House of Representatives.

13 (3) 1 individual, appointed by the majority lead-
14 er of the Senate, who previously served in the House
15 of Representatives.

16 (4) 1 individual, appointed by the minority
17 leader of the Senate, who previously served in the
18 House of Representatives.

19 (5) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives and the minority leader of
21 the House of Representatives to serve as Chair-
22 person of the Commission.

23 (b) TERMS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
25 pointed for the life of the Commission.

1 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
2 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
3 appointment was made.

4 (3) PRIORITY.—In making appointments under
5 this section, the appointing authorities shall seek to
6 appoint individuals who are particularly qualified to
7 perform the functions of the Commission, by reason
8 of either practical experience or academic expertise
9 in politics, government, mathematics, or statistics.

10 (c) BASIC PAY.—

11 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in
12 paragraph (2), Members shall serve without pay.

13 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
14 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
15 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
16 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
17 States Code.

18 (d) QUORUM.—7 members of the Commission shall
19 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-
20 ings.

21 (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
22 call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

23 **SEC. 6. PERSONNEL OF COMMISSION.**

24 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
25 tor who shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Com-

1 mission. To the extent or in the amounts provided in ad-
2 vance in appropriation Acts, the Director shall be paid at
3 a rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay for level IV of
4 the Executive Schedule.

5 (b) STAFF.—The Director, with the approval of the
6 Commission, and the Commission may appoint such per-
7 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to
8 carry out its duties, without regard to the provisions of
9 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the
10 competitive service, and without regard to the provisions
11 of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such
12 title relating to classification and General Schedule pay
13 rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this sub-
14 section may exceed—

15 (1) the equivalent of that payable to a person
16 occupying a position at level IV of the Executive
17 Schedule, in the case of an employee appointed by
18 the Director; and

19 (2) the equivalent of that payable to a person
20 occupying a position at level V of the Executive
21 Schedule, in the case of an employee appointed by
22 the Commission.

23 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
24 proval of the Commission, the Director may procure tem-

1 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
2 title 5, United States Code.

3 (d) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Upon
4 the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal
5 agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the per-
6 sonnel of such agency to the Commission to assist in car-
7 rying out the duties of the Commission. Any such detail
8 shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service sta-
9 tus or privileges of the personnel.

10 **SEC. 7. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

11 (a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission
12 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
13 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
14 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

15 (b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND GROUPS OF MEM-**
16 **BERS.**—Any member or group of members may, if author-
17 ized by the Commission, take any action which the Com-
18 mission is authorized to take by this section.

19 (c) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—The Commission
20 may secure directly from any Federal agency information
21 necessary to enable it to carry out its duties, if the infor-
22 mation may be disclosed under section 552 of title 5,
23 United States Code. Upon request of the Chairperson of
24 the Commission, the head of such agency shall furnish
25 such information to the Commission.

1 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
2 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
3 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
4 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
5 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
6 under this Act.

7 (e) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding 1342
8 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may ac-
9 cept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the
10 Commission determines necessary.

11 (f) POSTAL SERVICE.—The Commission may use the
12 United States mails in the same manner and under the
13 same conditions as departments and agencies of the
14 United States.

15 (g) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
16 enter into contracts for the acquisition of administrative
17 supplies and equipment for use by the Commission, to the
18 extent that funds are available for such purpose.

19 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

20 The Commission shall terminate 90 days after sub-
21 mitting the report under section 4(c).

22 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
24 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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