

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8561

To establish a commission to study how Federal laws and policies affect United States citizens living in foreign countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2026

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, House Administration, Energy and Commerce, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 a commission to study how Federal laws and policies affect United States citizens living in foreign countries.

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 Ameri-
5 cans Living Abroad Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established in the executive branch a com-
3 mission to be known as the “Commission on Americans
4 Living Abroad” (in this Act referred to as the “Commis-
5 sion”).

6 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

7 (a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission
8 shall be composed of 10 members appointed by the Presi-
9 dent, of whom—

10 (1) two members shall be appointed from
11 among individuals recommended by the Speaker of
12 the House of Representatives;

13 (2) two members shall be appointed from
14 among individuals recommended by the minority
15 leader of the House of Representatives;

16 (3) two members shall be appointed from
17 among individuals recommended by the majority
18 leader of the Senate; and

19 (4) two members shall be appointed from
20 among individuals recommended by the minority
21 leader of the Senate.

22 (b) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—

23 (1) **LIMIT ON OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF**
24 **THE UNITED STATES.**—Not more than 6 members of
25 the Commission may be officers or employees of the
26 United States.

1 (2) POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.—Not more
2 than 6 members of the Commission may be of the
3 same political party or appointed by recommendation
4 of individuals belonging to the same party.

5 (3) EXPERTISE.—

6 (A) OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE
7 UNITED STATES.—Members of the Commission
8 who are officers or employees of the United
9 States shall be appointed from among individ-
10 uals whose employment is directly related to the
11 matters to be studied by the Commission under
12 section 4(a)(2).

13 (B) OTHER MEMBERS.—Members of the
14 Commission who are not officers or employees
15 of the United States shall be appointed from
16 among individuals who—

17 (i) have lived in a foreign country for
18 not fewer than 5 years;

19 (ii) are members of organizations that
20 represent United States citizens living in
21 foreign countries; or

22 (iii) have other experience that is rel-
23 evant to the matters to be studied by the
24 Commission under section 4(a)(2).

1 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
2 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any
3 vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same man-
4 ner in which the original appointment was made. Any va-
5 cancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers.

6 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall select a
7 Chairperson for the Commission from among its members.

8 (e) MEETINGS.—Not later than 60 days after the
9 date on which all members of the Commission have been
10 appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.
11 The Commission shall subsequently meet at the call of the
12 Chairperson.

13 (f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
14 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
15 ber of members may hold hearings.

16 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

17 (a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study
18 on the following matters:

19 (1) The manner and extent to which Federal
20 laws and policies affect United States citizens living
21 in foreign countries.

22 (2) The costs and burdens of such Federal laws
23 and policies on such overseas citizens.

24 (3) The lack of access to Federal benefits and
25 health care through the Department of Veterans Af-

1 fairs for veterans living abroad compared to those
2 veterans residing on United States soil.

3 (4) Federal financial reporting requirements for
4 a United States citizen living in a foreign country,
5 including the requirements under section 5314 of
6 title 31, United States Code.

7 (5) Federal policies and requirements that af-
8 fect the ability of a United States citizen living in
9 a foreign country to access foreign and domestic fi-
10 nancial institutions, including requirements under
11 chapter 4 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
12 (commonly known as the “Foreign Account Tax
13 Compliance Act”) and requirements affecting finan-
14 cial institutions imposed by the Uniting and
15 Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate
16 Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism
17 Act of 2001 (USA Patriot Act) (Public Law 107–
18 56).

19 (6) Federal requirements for a spouse, child, or
20 another family member of a United States citizen
21 living in a foreign country who is not a United
22 States citizen to become a United States citizen.

23 (7) The ability of a United States citizen living
24 in a foreign country to vote in Federal, State, and

1 local elections in the United States, and the process
2 for such a citizen to vote in such elections.

3 (8) The processes by which a United States cit-
4 izen living in a foreign country interacts with Fed-
5 eral programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

6 (9) Which Federal departments or agencies
7 have jurisdiction over each Federal program that
8 serves United States citizens who live in foreign
9 countries and possible methods to improve the col-
10 laboration of and coordination between such Federal
11 agencies.

12 (10) The impact of tax filing and information
13 reporting requirements on the ability of a United
14 States citizen living in a foreign country to save for
15 retirement and use financial products available in
16 their country of residence.

17 (11) The impact of taxation and other Federal
18 policies on the ability of a United States citizen liv-
19 ing in a foreign country to send and receive remit-
20 tances.

21 (12) The impact of Federal policy on the ability
22 of United States citizens living abroad to establish
23 and conduct a small to medium size business and
24 own it outright for the benefit of themselves, their
25 family and their future.

1 (b) CONSULTATION WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZA-
2 TIONS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the
3 Commission shall consult with organizations that rep-
4 resent United States citizens living in foreign countries.

5 (c) REPORTS.—

6 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
8 sion shall submit to the President and the Congress,
9 and transmit to the head of any Federal department
10 or agency identified in subsection (a)(9), a report
11 that contains a detailed statement of the findings
12 and conclusions of the Commission, together with
13 any recommendations for—

14 (A) reducing tax and compliance costs and
15 burdens for United States citizens who live
16 overseas;

17 (B) increasing access to Federal services
18 by such citizens; and

19 (C) any appropriate legislative and admin-
20 istrative actions to achieve the goals described
21 under subparagraph (A) and (B).

22 (2) UPDATE.—Not later than one year after the
23 date on which the Commission submits the report
24 under paragraph (1), the Commission shall submit
25 to the President and the Congress, and transmit to

1 the head of any Federal department or agency iden-
2 tified in subsection (a)(9), an update that describes
3 any administrative actions taken by the head of any
4 Federal department or agency pursuant to the rec-
5 ommendations in such report.

6 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

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

11 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
12 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
13 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
14 thorized to take by this section.

15 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Subject to section
16 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Commis-
17 sion may secure directly from any Federal department or
18 agency such information as the Commission considers nec-
19 essary to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-
20 person of the Commission, the head of such department
21 or agency shall furnish such information to the Commis-
22 sion.

23 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
24 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-

1 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

4 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of
5 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the
6 United States shall be compensated at a rate equal to the
7 daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed
8 for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315
9 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including
10 travel time) during which such member is engaged in the
11 performance of the duties of the Commission. All members
12 of the Commission who are officers or employees of the
13 United States shall serve without compensation in addi-
14 tion to that received for their services as officers or em-
15 ployees of the United States.

16 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
17 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
18 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
19 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
20 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
21 regular places of business in the performance of services
22 for the Commission.

23 (c) STAFF.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
25 Commission may, without regard to the civil service

1 laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an execu-
2 tive director and such other additional personnel as
3 may be necessary to enable the Commission to per-
4 form its duties. The employment of an executive di-
5 rector shall be subject to confirmation by the Com-
6 mission.

7 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the
8 Commission may fix the compensation of the execu-
9 tive director and other personnel without regard to
10 chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title
11 5, United States Code, relating to classification of
12 positions and General Schedule pay rates, except
13 that the rate of pay for the executive director and
14 other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for
15 level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316
16 of such title.

17 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
18 United States employee may be detailed to the Commis-
19 sion without reimbursement, and such detail shall be with-
20 out interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

21 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
22 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission
23 may procure temporary and intermittent services under
24 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates
25 for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of

1 the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the
2 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

3 **SEC. 7. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSE.**

4 Not later than 180 days after the date on which the
5 Commission submits the report required by section
6 4(c)(1), the head of any Federal department or agency
7 that is affected by a recommendation in such report shall
8 submit to the President, the Congress, and the Commis-
9 sion a response to such recommendation, including any
10 plans to take administrative action pursuant to such rec-
11 ommendation.

12 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

13 The Commission shall terminate on the date of the
14 submission of the update required by section 4(c)(2).

15 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
17 mission \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028
18 to carry out this Act.

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