

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2163

AN ACT

To establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Commission on the
3 Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**

5 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Commission on the So-
6 cial Status of Black Men and Boys (hereinafter in this
7 Act referred to as “the Commission”) is established within
8 the United States Commission on Civil Rights Office of
9 the Staff Director.

10 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of
11 19 members appointed as follows:

12 (1) The Senate majority leader shall appoint
13 one member who is not employed by the Federal
14 Government and is an expert on issues affecting
15 Black men and boys in America.

16 (2) The Senate minority leader shall appoint
17 one member who is not employed by the Federal
18 Government and is an expert on issues affecting
19 Black men and boys in America.

20 (3) The House of Representatives majority
21 leader shall appoint one member who is not em-
22 ployed by the Federal Government and is an expert
23 on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

24 (4) The House of Representatives minority
25 leader shall appoint one member who is not em-

1 ployed by the Federal Government and is an expert
2 on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

3 (5) The Chair of the Congressional Black Cau-
4 cus shall be a member of the Commission, as well
5 as 5 additional Members of the Congressional Black
6 Caucus who shall be individuals that either sit on
7 the following committees of relevant jurisdiction or
8 are experts on issues affecting Black men and boys
9 in the United States, including—

10 (A) education;

11 (B) justice and Civil Rights;

12 (C) healthcare;

13 (D) labor and employment; and

14 (E) housing.

15 (6) The Staff Director of the United States
16 Commission on Civil Rights shall appoint one mem-
17 ber from within the staff of the United States Com-
18 mission on Civil Rights who is an expert in issues
19 relating to Black men and boys.

20 (7) The Chair of the United States Equal Em-
21 ployment Opportunity Commission shall appoint one
22 member from within the staff of the United States
23 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission who is
24 an expert in equal employment issues impacting
25 Black men.

1 (8) The Secretary of Education shall appoint
2 one member from within the Department of Edu-
3 cation who is an expert in urban education.

4 (9) The Attorney General shall appoint one
5 member from within the Department of Justice who
6 is an expert in racial disparities within the criminal
7 justice system.

8 (10) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
9 ices shall appoint one member from within the De-
10 partment of Health and Human Services who is an
11 expert in health issues facing Black men.

12 (11) The Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
13 velopment shall appoint one member from within the
14 Department of Housing and Urban Development
15 who is an expert in housing and development in
16 urban communities.

17 (12) The Secretary of Labor shall appoint one
18 member from within the Department of Labor who
19 is an expert in labor issues impacting Black men.

20 (13) The President of the United States shall
21 appoint 2 members who are not employed by the
22 Federal Government and are experts on issues af-
23 fecting Black men and boys in America.

24 (c) MEMBERSHIP BY POLITICAL PARTY.—If after the
25 Commission is appointed there is a partisan imbalance of

1 Commission members, the congressional leaders of the po-
 2 litical party with fewer members on the Commission shall
 3 jointly name additional members to create partisan parity
 4 on the Commission.

5 **SEC. 3. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT; RE-**
 6 **MOVAL.**

7 (a) **TIMING OF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Each ini-
 8 tial appointment to the Commission shall be made no later
 9 than 90 days after the Commission is established. If any
 10 appointing authorities fail to appoint a member to the
 11 Commission, their appointment shall be made by the Staff
 12 Director of the Commission on Civil Rights.

13 (b) **TERMS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this
 14 section, the term of a member of the Commission shall
 15 be 4 years. For the purpose of providing staggered terms,
 16 the first term of those members initially appointed under
 17 paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2 shall be appointed
 18 to 2-year terms with all other terms lasting 4 years. Mem-
 19 bers are eligible for consecutive reappointment.

20 (c) **REMOVAL.**—A member of the Commission may
 21 be removed from the Commission at any time by the ap-
 22 pointing authority should the member fail to meet Com-
 23 mission responsibilities. Once the seat becomes vacant, the
 24 appointing authority is responsible for filling the vacancy
 25 in the Commission before the next meeting.

1 (d) VACANCIES.—The appointing authority of a
 2 member of the Commission shall either reappoint that
 3 member at the end of that member’s term or appoint an-
 4 other person meeting the qualifications for that appoint-
 5 ment. In the event of a vacancy arising during a term,
 6 the appointing authority shall, before the next meeting of
 7 the Commission, appoint a replacement to finish that
 8 term.

9 **SEC. 4. LEADERSHIP ELECTION.**

10 At the first meeting of the Commission each year,
 11 the members shall elect a Chair and a Secretary. A va-
 12 cancy in the Chair or Secretary shall be filled by vote of
 13 the remaining members. The Chair and Secretary are eli-
 14 gible for consecutive reappointment.

15 **SEC. 5. COMMISSION DUTIES AND POWERS.**

16 (a) STUDY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall con-
 18 duct a systematic study of the conditions affecting
 19 Black men and boys, including homicide rates, ar-
 20 rest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, fa-
 21 therhood, mentorship, drug abuse, death rates, dis-
 22 parate income and wealth levels, school performance
 23 in all grade levels including postsecondary education
 24 and college, and health issues.

1 (2) TRENDS.—The Commission shall document
2 trends regarding the topics described in paragraph
3 (1) and report on the community impacts of relevant
4 government programs within the scope of such top-
5 ics.

6 (b) PROPOSAL OF MEASURES.—The Commission
7 shall propose measures to alleviate and remedy the under-
8 lying causes of the conditions described in subsection (a),
9 which may include recommendations of changes to the
10 law, recommendations for how to implement related poli-
11 cies, and recommendations for how to create, develop, or
12 improve upon government programs.

13 (c) SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS.—The Commis-
14 sion shall accept suggestions or comments pertinent to the
15 applicable issues from members of Congress, governmental
16 agencies, public and private organizations, and private
17 citizens.

18 (d) STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The
19 Office of the Staff Director of the United States Commis-
20 sion on Civil Rights shall provide staff and administrative
21 support to the Commission. All entities of the United
22 States Government shall provide information that is other-
23 wise a public record at the request of the Commission.

1 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION MEETING REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) **FIRST MEETING.**—The first meeting of the Com-
3 mission shall take place no later than 30 days after the
4 initial members are all appointed. Meetings shall be fo-
5 cused on significant issues impacting Black men and boys,
6 for the purpose of initiating research ideas and delegating
7 research tasks to Commission members to initiate the first
8 annual report described in section 7.

9 (b) **QUARTERLY MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall
10 meet quarterly. In addition to all quarterly meetings, the
11 Commission shall meet at other times at the call of the
12 Chair or as determined by a majority of Commission mem-
13 bers.

14 (c) **QUORUM; RULE FOR VOTING ON FINAL AC-**
15 **TIONS.**—A majority of the members of the Commission
16 constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority
17 of the members present is required for final action.

18 (d) **EXPECTATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE BY MEM-**
19 **BERS.**—Members are expected to attend all Commission
20 meetings. In the case of an absence, members are expected
21 to report to the Chair prior to the meeting and allowance
22 may be made for an absent member to participate re-
23 motely. Members will still be responsible for fulfilling prior
24 commitments, regardless of attendance status. If a mem-
25 ber is absent twice in a given year, he or she will be re-
26 viewed by the Chair and appointing authority and further

1 action will be considered, including removal and replace-
2 ment on the Commission.

3 (e) MINUTES.—Minutes shall be taken at each meet-
4 ing by the Secretary, or in that individual’s absence, the
5 Chair shall select another Commission member to take
6 minutes during that absence. The Commission shall make
7 its minutes publicly available and accessible not later than
8 one week after each meeting.

9 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT GUIDELINES.**

10 The Commission shall make an annual report, begin-
11 ning the year of the first Commission meeting. The report
12 shall address the current conditions affecting Black men
13 and boys and make recommendations to address these
14 issues. The report shall be submitted to the President, the
15 Congress, members of the President’s Cabinet, and the
16 chairs of the appropriate committees of jurisdiction. The
17 Commission shall make the report publicly available online
18 on a centralized Federal website.

1 **SEC. 8. COMMISSION COMPENSATION.**

2 Members of the Commission shall serve on the Com-
 3 mission without compensation.

Passed the Senate June 25, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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