



[Draft – Submission-Ready Version of the Bipartisan Priority Reform Commission Act (BPRCA)]

117th CONGRESS

2nd Session

H.R. ____ / S. ____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES / SENATE

[Date]

Mr./Ms. [Sponsor] introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on [Committee Name].

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “**Bipartisan Priority Reform Commission Act**”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

Congress finds that:

1. Long-standing national issues have not been resolved due to legislative gridlock. Issues urgently in need of effective legislation include (i) comprehensive immigration reform, (ii) comprehensive social security reform, (iii) Medicare and Medicaid reform, (iv) comprehensive health-care reform, (v) comprehensive federal election reform (primary elections, congressional redistricting, and anti-fraud measures), and (vi) sensible gun regulation (collectively Priority Issues).

2. An independent, bipartisan reform process can improve congressional efficiency while preserving institutional safeguards.
 3. Mechanisms that provide transparency, public hearings, minority reporting, and failsafe procedural authority are essential to maintain public trust in governance.
 4. Congress has historically adopted procedural innovations, such as budget reconciliation and trade promotion authority, to bypass deadlock while protecting core institutional rules.
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TITLE I — PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

SEC. 101. PURPOSE

The purposes of this Act are to:

- (a) Establish bicameral, independent, and bipartisan Reform Commissions to develop recommendations for national Priority Issues;
- (b) Ensure public hearings, transparency, and public comment;
- (c) Require Congress to consider Commission recommendations under expedited procedures for selected Priority Issues;
- (d) Allow Members of Congress to submit amendments during Amendment Windows consistent with Commission findings;
- (e) Guarantee independent oversight of Commission operations through an empowered Oversight Board;
- (f) Provide a nuclear-option procedural exception in the Senate for legislation implementing Commission recommendations on Priority Issues ; and
- (g) Permit Congress to select one or two Priority Issues per two-year session for Commission consideration and ensure timely action even in cases of failure to meet deadlines.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS

(a) **Priority Issue** — Any of the following:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform,
2. Comprehensive Social Security reform,
3. Comprehensive Medicare and Medicaid reform,
4. Comprehensive health care reform,
5. Fiscal responsibility, including deficit and debt management,

6. Comprehensive federal election reform (primary elections, congressional redistricting, and anti-fraud measures), and
7. Sensible gun control legislation.

(b) **Commission** — A Reform Commission established under Title II for the selected priority issue(s).

(c) **Implementing Bill** — Legislation containing Commission-approved statutory language and administrative actions necessary to carry out the reform.

(d) **Amendment Window** — The period during which Members of Congress may submit amendments to the Commission’s draft implementing bill.

(e) **Fallback Bill** — A bill submitted under Title IV if the Commission fails to approve a proposal. All fallback proposals must be based upon legislative proposals, or some combination thereof, included in the Commission report to Congress.

(f) **Oversight Board** — The independent supervisory entity established under Title V.

TITLE II — SELECTION OF PRIORITY ISSUE(S) AND COMMISSIONS

SEC. 201. SELECTION OF PRIORITY ISSUE(S)

(a) At the beginning of each two-year congressional session, Congress shall select one or two Priority Issues for Commission review **not later than sixty (60) days** after the first day of the session.

(b) Expedited selection procedures:

1. House: Debate limited to 10 hours; no amendments in order.
2. Senate: Debate limited to 10 hours; no amendments; Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall not apply.

(c) **Automatic designation** if Congress fails to act within the required 60 days, the first unaddressed priority issue on the list in SEC. 102(a) shall automatically be designated for Commission review. Absent congressional agreement to the contrary, subsequent sessions shall consider remaining Priority Issues sequentially.

SEC. 202. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

(a) Each Commission shall consist of 12 members:

1. Eight non-officeholding experts appointed on a bipartisan basis.
2. Four legislators (one Democrat and one Republican from each chamber).

(b) Members must be pre-endorsed by party leadership to promote early consensus and disclose conflicts of interest. In the event party leadership fails to designate members, members shall be chosen by party ranking on the congressional committee having jurisdiction over the issue.

(c) **First Commission Meeting:** The Commission must meet within 14 days of membership is determined.

(d) **Failure-to-appoint clause:** If any appointing authority fails to appoint non-congressional officeholders as members within 30 days, the Oversight Board shall appoint remaining members from approved candidate lists submitted by party leaders. In the absence of the submission of approved candidate lists, the Oversight Board shall pick the members. If the Oversight Board does not act within 15 days, the members shall be picked by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SEC. 203. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL

Commission-approved proposals require 7 of 12 votes, including bipartisan legislative support, *i.e.*, at least one legislator from each party must vote in favor of the proposal. Tie votes shall be broken by the Oversight Board chair, who shall consider all proposals including proposals favored by minority members.

SEC. 204. TIMELINE

Commissions shall submit a report to Congress and an implementing bill **not later than ten (10) months** after the first meeting. If the Commission fails to do so, the Oversight Board shall produce a draft based on Commission hearings, comments, findings, and proposals.

SEC. 205. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENT

At least three public hearings and a 60-day public comment period are required. Hearings must be completed within six months from formation. If these hearings are not held by the Commission, the Oversight Board shall convene and conduct the hearings.

SEC. 206. AMENDMENT WINDOW

A 10-day Amendment Window allows Members of Congress to submit amendments consistent with Commission findings or, in the case of fallback bills, consistent with the proposals and findings included in the Commission's report. Any proposed amendment that is rejected by the Commission must be accompanied with a written explanation of the reasons for denial. If the Commission does not open the window on time, the Oversight Board shall administer it.

SEC. 207. MINORITY REPORT

All Commission proposals must be accompanied by a report to Congress including minority views and minority proposals.

TITLE III — EXPEDITED FLOOR PROCEDURES

SEC. 301. HOUSE PROCEDURES

Implementing or fallback bills are automatically introduced and referred to committee for no more than 30 days. Upon reporting or upon expiration of the committee review period, the bill shall be placed immediately on the appropriate calendar and shall be considered on the floor not later than two legislative days without requiring a rule, motion to proceed, or unanimous consent. A motion to recommit is not in order. Debate limited to 20 hours; only Commission-approved amendments allowed. Final passage requires a simple majority. Failure-to-transmit: Oversight Board transmits the bill if necessary.

SEC. 302. SENATE PROCEDURES AND NUCLEAR OPTION

This section is enacted pursuant to the rulemaking power of the Senate. Implementing bills or fallback bills are automatically introduced and referred to committee for no more than 30 days. Consideration shall begin automatically at noon on the next legislative day. A motion to recommit is not in order. The motion to proceed to consideration of an implementing bill or fallback bill is not debatable. Debate limited to 20 hours; only Commission-approved amendments allowed. Bill subject to simple-majority passage; Rule XXII does not apply.

TITLE IV — FALLBACK MECHANISM

(a) If the Commission fails to approve a proposal within 10 months it must nevertheless submit a report of its findings to Congress within that time period. Such report must include proposals that failed to garner a majority approval:

1. House: Any bill supported by 25 Representatives (including at least one from each party) may be fast-tracked.
2. Senate: Any bill supported by 10 Senators (including at least one from each party) may be fast-tracked.

(b) Fallback bills must be **based upon legislative proposals, or some combination thereof, included in the Commission report**. The fallback bill is also subject to the 10-day Amendment Window.

(c) Failure-to-certify: If required certifications are not issued by chamber clerks, the Oversight Board shall certify the fallback bill's eligibility.

TITLE V — IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

SEC. 501. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing bills will include statutory provisions, administrative guidance, and necessary appropriations.

SEC. 502. OVERSIGHT BOARD

- (a) Establishment: Independent Board supervises compliance with all deadlines, procedures, transparency, and reporting obligations.
 - (b) Membership: Five members appointed jointly by the Speaker, Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and Comptroller General of the United States with no more than three members from one party. In the absence of agreement within 60 days of the beginning of the session of Congress, the members will be chosen by the Comptroller General of the United States.
 - (c) Powers: Monitor Commission activities; publish compliance reports; perform Commission procedural functions in case of non-action (appoint members, open Amendment Window, conduct hearings, issue drafts, transmit bills); issue binding procedural directives; refer obstruction to congressional ethics.
 - (d) Transparency: Annual public report; all Board actions posted publicly within 72 hours.
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TITLE VI — SUNSET

Authority under this Act expires **seven (7) years** after enactment. Any implementing bills submitted to Congress before sunset continue under the expedited procedures of this Act.