



Bipartisan Priority Reform Commission Act (BPRCA)

117th CONGRESS — 2nd Session

H.R. / S. [Date]

[Sponsor] introduced the following bill; referred to 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) Social Security funding reform
 - (iii) Medicare and Medicaid funding reform
 - (iv) Health care insurance policy and regulation
 - (v) Housing policy and regulation
 - (vi) Structural budget imbalances
 - (vii) Federal primary and general election reform
 - (viii) Rational firearms legislation
2. Independent, bipartisan reform processes can improve congressional efficiency while preserving institutional safeguards.
3. Mechanisms providing transparency, public hearings, minority reporting, and procedural oversight are essential to maintain public trust.

4. Congress has historically adopted procedural innovations that create commissions consisting of both legislators from both parties and outside experts, such as the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commissions, Fiscal/Budget Commissions (Simpson-Bowles), and Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform to bypass deadlock while protecting core institutional rules.

TITLE I — PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

SEC. 101. PURPOSE

The purposes of this Act are to:

- (a) Establish bicameral, independent, 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 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 procedural exception in the Senate for legislation implementing Commission recommendations;
- (g) Permit Congress to select one or two Priority Issues per two-year session for Commission consideration and ensure timely action.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS

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

1. Comprehensive immigration reform
2. Social Security funding reform
3. Medicare and Medicaid funding reform
4. Health care insurance policy and regulation
5. Housing policy and regulation
6. Structural budget imbalances

7. Federal primary and general election reform
8. Rational firearms 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. Must be based on legislative proposals included in the Commission report.

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

(g) **Legislative Members** — Members of Congress serving on the Commission. Four from each chamber, equally divided by party.

TITLE II — SELECTION OF PRIORITY ISSUES AND COMMISSIONS

SEC. 201. SELECTION OF PRIORITY ISSUES

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

(b) Expedited selection procedures:

- House: Debate limited to 10 hours; no amendments in order.
- Senate: Debate limited to 10 hours; no amendments; Rule XXII shall not apply.

(c) Automatic designation: If Congress fails to act within 60 days, the first unaddressed Priority Issue is automatically designated for Commission review. Subsequent sessions shall consider remaining Priority Issues sequentially, unless Congress votes otherwise.

SEC. 202. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

(a) **Each Commission consists of 16 members:**

1. Eight non-legislative experts, appointed on a bipartisan basis.
2. Eight legislative members (4 from the House: 2 Democrats + 2 Republicans; 4 from the Senate: 2 Democrats + 2 Republicans).

(b) Appointment rules:

- Legislative members are pre-endorsed by party leadership.
- Non-legislative members are appointed by the Oversight Board based on bipartisan recommendations.

(c) Term and removal:

- All Commissioners serve terms concurrent with the two-year session.
- Legislative members may be removed and replaced by their appointing leadership only.
- Non-legislative members may be removed for cause by the Oversight Board.

(d) First meeting: The Commission must meet within 14 days of membership determination.

(e) Failure-to-appoint: If any appointing authority fails to appoint within 30 days, the Oversight Board shall select remaining members. If the Board does not act in 15 days, the Comptroller General shall appoint.

SEC. 203. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL

- (a) Commission-approved proposals require a majority of total members (i.e., at least 9 of 16 votes), including at least 2 legislative members from each party.
- (b) Tie votes are broken by the Oversight Board chair, considering all proposals including minority proposals.
- (c) If legislative members block a proposal for 30 days, the Oversight Board may transmit the bill as a fallback.

SEC. 204. TIMELINE

Commissions must submit a report to Congress and an implementing bill within 10 months of the first meeting. If not, the Oversight Board drafts a bill using Commission findings.

SEC. 205. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENT

- Minimum three public hearings and a 60-day public comment period.
- Hearings must be completed within six months.

- If the Commission fails, the Oversight Board conducts hearings.

SEC. 206. AMENDMENT WINDOW

- 10-day Amendment Window for Members to submit amendments consistent with Commission findings or fallback proposals.
- Any amendments approved by the Commission under this section shall be subject to the approval rules in SEC. 203, including the requirement that at least 2 legislative members from each party vote in favor.
- If the Commission fails to open the window, the Oversight Board administers it.

SEC. 207. MINORITY REPORT

- All Commission proposals must include minority views and minority proposals.

TITLE III — EXPEDITED FLOOR PROCEDURES

SEC. 301. HOUSE PROCEDURES

- Implementing/fallback bills automatically referred to committee for no more than 30 days.
- Bills placed on the floor within 2 legislative days of committee reporting.
- Debate limited to 20 hours; only Commission-approved amendments allowed.
- Motion to recommit not in order; final passage requires simple majority.

SEC. 302. SENATE PROCEDURES

- Implementing/fallback bills automatically introduced and referred to committee for no more than 30 days.
- Consideration begins automatically; motion to proceed is not debatable.
- Debate limited to 20 hours; only Commission-approved amendments allowed.
- Rule XXII does not apply; simple-majority passage.

TITLE IV — FALBACK MECHANISM

- (a) If the Commission fails to approve a proposal within 10 months, it must submit a report including proposals that did not garner majority support.
- (b) House: Any bill supported by 25 Representatives (including at least two from each party) may be fast-tracked.
- (c) Senate: Any bill supported by 10 Senators (including at least two from each party) may be fast-tracked.
- (d) Oversight Board certifies fallback bill eligibility if clerks fail to act.

TITLE V — IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

SEC. 501. IMPLEMENTATION

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

SEC. 502. OVERSIGHT BOARD

- (a) Supervises compliance with deadlines, procedures, transparency, and reporting.
- (b) Five members appointed jointly by the Speaker, Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and Comptroller General; no more than three from one party.
- (c) Powers: Monitor Commission; publish compliance reports; perform procedural functions if non-action occurs; issue binding procedural directives.
- (d) Transparency: Annual public report; all actions posted publicly within 72 hours.

TITLE VI — SUNSET

- (a) Authority under this Act expires two years after enactment.
- (b) The Act automatically renews for another two-year session unless the next Congress passes a resolution explicitly disapproving renewal.
- (c) Implementing bills submitted before sunset or renewal remain eligible under expedited procedures.