

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4563

OFFERED BY M . _____

Insert after title VI the following new title (and re-designate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

1 **TITLE VII—FREDERICK**
2 **DOUGLASS COMMISSION**

3 **SEC. 701. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is established in the legislative branch the
5 Frederick Douglass Commission (hereafter in this title re-
6 ferred to as the “Commission”).

7 **SEC. 702. DUTIES.**

8 (a) **STUDY.**—The Commission shall study the dis-
9 parity in turnout and voting experience between Black and
10 White voters in elections for public office.

11 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the ap-
12 pointment of all of its members, the Commission shall and
13 submit a report to Congress and the Election Assistance
14 Commission on the findings of the study under subsection
15 (a), and shall include in the report its recommendations
16 for actions to eliminate the disparities and improve access
17 to voting and the experience of voting.

1 **SEC. 703. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
3 shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

4 (1) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-
5 er of the House of Representatives.

6 (2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Minor-
7 ity Leader of the House of Representatives.

8 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the Major-
9 ity Leader of the Senate.

10 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the Minor-
11 ity Leader of the Senate.

12 (5) 1 member shall be appointed by the Chair
13 of the Committee on House Administration of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 (6) 1 member shall be appointed by the ranking
16 minority member of the Committee on House Ad-
17 ministration of the House of Representatives.

18 (7) 1 member shall be appointed by the Chair
19 of the Committee on Rules and Administration of
20 the Senate.

21 (8) 1 member shall be appointed by the ranking
22 minority member of the Committee on Rules and
23 Administration of the Senate.

24 (b) TERMS.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
26 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 (c) NO PAY FOR SERVICE.—Members of the Commis-
5 sion shall [serve without pay, but shall receive travel ex-
6 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
7 cordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of
8 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

9 (d) QUORUM.—8 members of the Commission shall
10 constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hear-
11 ings.

12 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON.—The
13 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission
14 shall be elected by the members of the Commission.

15 **SEC. 704. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION; EXPERTS**
16 **AND CONSULTANTS.**

17 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Direc-
18 tor who shall be appointed by the Commission, and who
19 shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum annual
20 rate of pay established by the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives pursuant to the Speaker's authority under
22 section 311(d) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations
23 Act, 1988 (as enacted into law by section 101(i) of Public
24 Law 100–202 (101 Stat. 1329–290)) (2 U.S.C. 4532) to

1 issue an order adjusting rates of pay for personnel of the
2 House.

3 (b) STAFF.—In consultation with the Vice Chair-
4 person, the Chairperson may appoint and fix the pay of
5 additional personnel as the Chairperson considers appro-
6 priate, except that any staff appointed under this sub-
7 section may not be paid at a rate in excess of the rate
8 of pay of the Director under subsection (a).

9 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
10 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission may
11 be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
12 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
13 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the
14 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
15 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule
16 pay rates.

17 (d) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
18 of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, the head of any
19 Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimburs-
20 able basis, any of the personnel of that department or
21 agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its
22 duties under this Act.

23 **SEC. 705. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

24 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
25 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-

1 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
2 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

3 (b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
4 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
5 United States information necessary to enable the Com-
6 mission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair-
7 person or Vice Chairperson, the head of that department
8 or agency shall furnish that information to the Commis-
9 sion.

10 (c) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Commis-
11 sion may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or
12 devises of services or property, both real and personal, for
13 the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Com-
14 mission.

15 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
16 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
17 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
18 States.

19 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
20 the request of the Commission, the Architect of the Cap-
21 itol shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable
22 basis, the administrative support services necessary for the
23 Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

1 **SEC. 706. TERMINATION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after sub-
3 mitting the report required under section 702(b).

4 **SEC. 707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
6 as are necessary for the operation of the Commission, of
7 which—

8 (1) 50 percent shall be derived from the appli-
9 cable accounts of the House of Representatives; and

10 (2) 50 percent shall be derived from the contin-
11 gent fund of the Senate.

