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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To establish an independent statutory commission within the legislative branch responsible for ensuring oversight, transparency, and accountability over the Department of Justice operations and handling of the Epstein Files, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To establish an independent statutory commission within the legislative branch responsible for ensuring oversight, transparency, and accountability over the Department of Justice operations and handling of the Epstein Files, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Prosecutorial  
5 Scrutiny, Transparency, and Equal Impartiality Nation-  
6 wide Act” or the “EPSTEIN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2       There is established in the legislative branch a com-  
3 mission to be known as the Epstein Transparency and Ac-  
4 countability Commission (in this Act referred to as the  
5 “Commission”) to examine and investigate all materials  
6 in the possession, custody, or control of the Department  
7 of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
8 and United States Attorneys’ Offices, that are required  
9 to be preserved, disclosed, or maintained under Public  
10 Law 119–38.

11 **SEC. 3. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.**

12       (a) MEMBERSHIP.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be  
14 composed of 8 members, of whom—

15           (A) 2 shall be appointed by the majority  
16 leader of the Senate, in consultation with the  
17 appropriate committees of jurisdictions;

18           (B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of  
19 the House of Representatives, in consultation  
20 with the appropriate committees of jurisdic-  
21 tions;

22           (C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority  
23 leader of the Senate, in consultation with the  
24 appropriate committees of jurisdictions; and

25           (D) 2 shall be appointed by the minority  
26 leader of the House of Representatives, in con-

1           sultation with the appropriate committees of ju-  
2           risdictions.

3           (2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Initial appoint-  
4           ments to the Commission shall be made not later  
5           than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this  
6           Act.

7           (3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Commission  
8           shall be filled in the same manner as the initial ap-  
9           pointment.

10          (b) QUALIFICATIONS; LIMITATIONS.—

11           (1) QUALIFICATIONS.—It is the sense of the  
12           Congress that individuals appointed to the Commis-  
13           sion should be prominent United States citizens with  
14           national recognition and significant depth of experi-  
15           ence in fields related to human trafficking, forced  
16           labor, sexual exploitation, and coercion.

17           (2) LIMITATION.—No person who is a Member  
18           of Congress (including a Delegate or Resident Com-  
19           missioner to the Congress) or an officer, official, or  
20           employee of the Department of Justice may serve as  
21           a member of the Commission or provide consultation  
22           services to the Commission.

23          (c) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—At the initial meeting of the  
25           Commission, the Commission shall select a Chair-

1 person and a Vice-Chairperson from among its mem-  
2 bers.

3 (2) POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.—The  
4 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commis-  
5 sion may not be from the same political party.

6 (d) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission may  
7 procure the services of experts and consultants in accord-  
8 ance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and  
9 shall allow the referral of credible evidence of crimes to  
10 those contracted, who may be but are not limited to—

11 (1) experts on sex and labor trafficking;

12 (2) State and Federal law enforcement;

13 (3) the chief legal officer of a State; and

14 (4) former Federal law enforcement.

15 **SEC. 4. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

17 (1) conduct an independent, impartial, and  
18 comprehensive investigation into any criminal viola-  
19 tions committed by Jeffrey Epstein and any accom-  
20 plices or associated individuals;

21 (2) ensure rigorous, independent investigation  
22 and oversight regarding the review and analysis of  
23 all materials commonly referred to as the “Epstein  
24 files”;

1           (3) consult with and refer matters to appro-  
2           priate legal, prosecutorial, and subject-matter ex-  
3           perts to determine recommended next steps for any  
4           violations identified;

5           (4) review all unredacted information and data  
6           relating to Jeffrey Epstein's actions, activities, com-  
7           munications, and interactions with others, to the  
8           fullest extent permitted by law;

9           (5) promote and ensure public transparency in  
10          the Department of Justice's enforcement of Federal  
11          human trafficking laws, consistent with protecting  
12          victims and ongoing investigations;

13          (6) exercise any additional oversight authority  
14          deemed necessary by the Commission, including au-  
15          thority carried out directly or through contracted ex-  
16          perts; and

17          (7) issue quarterly reports to Congress detailing  
18          investigative progress, findings, recommendations,  
19          and any identified compliance or enforcement con-  
20          cerns.

21          (b) **EXPLICIT REFERRAL AUTHORITY.**—The Com-  
22          mission has the authority to refer matters to relevant enti-  
23          ties recommending prosecution under chapter 77 of title  
24          18, United States Code, and to a State attorney general  
25          recommending prosecution under relevant State law upon

1 findings indicating potential criminal conduct and may  
2 hold public hearings about potential violations of applica-  
3 ble requirements.

4 (c) REPORT ON RESULTS OF REFERRAL.—An entity  
5 that receives a referral under subsection (b) shall submit  
6 to Congress a report on each prosecution, conviction, reso-  
7 lution, or other disposition that results from a referral  
8 made.

9 (d) AUTHORITY TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE INFOR-  
10 MATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure  
12 directly from any Federal agency such information,  
13 relevant to its functions, as may be necessary to en-  
14 able the Commission to carry out this section.

15 (2) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—Upon re-  
16 quest of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the  
17 Commission, the head of a Federal agency shall fur-  
18 nish such information to the Commission in a pub-  
19 licly available, searchable and downloadable format  
20 with all unclassified records, documents, communica-  
21 tions, and investigative materials.

22 (e) POWER TO SUBPOENA.—Subpoenas may be  
23 issued under the signature of both the Chairperson and  
24 the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission or by the affirma-

1 tive vote of 5 members of the Commission and may be  
2 served by any person designated by such co-chairs.

3 (f) ENFORCEMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of contumacy or  
5 failure to obey a subpoena issued under this section,  
6 the United States district court for the judicial dis-  
7 trict in which the subpoenaed person resides, is  
8 served, or may be found, or where the subpoena is  
9 returnable, may issue an order requiring such person  
10 to appear at any designated place to testify or to  
11 produce documentary or other evidence. Any failure  
12 to obey the order of the court may be punished by  
13 the court as a contempt of that court.

14 (2) ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—If any wit-  
15 ness fails to comply with any subpoena issued under  
16 this section or to testify when summoned under au-  
17 thority of this section, the Commission may, by ma-  
18 jority vote, certify a statement of fact constituting  
19 such failure to the appropriate United States attor-  
20 ney, who may bring the matter before the grand jury  
21 for its action, under the same statutory authority  
22 and procedures as if the United States attorney had  
23 received a certification under sections 102 through  
24 104 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2  
25 U.S.C. 192 through 194).

1 **SEC. 5. FINAL CLASSIFICATION AND PUBLIC RELEASE RE-**  
2 **PORT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall, not later  
4 than 18 months after the date of the establishment of the  
5 Commission, submit to Congress a report on the results  
6 of the investigation conducted under section 4(a) and such  
7 report shall—

8 (1) be submitted in unclassified form, to the  
9 greatest extent possible, with a classified annex only  
10 if necessary;

11 (2) in the case of the unclassified portion of the  
12 report, be posted on a public website established and  
13 maintained by the Commission and such other Fed-  
14 eral agencies as may be appropriate; and

15 (3) include—

16 (A) updates on cases pending on perpetra-  
17 tors of human trafficking crimes;

18 (B) a description of Federal efforts to esti-  
19 mate the prevalence of human trafficking at the  
20 national and regional levels in regards to the  
21 Epstein investigation;

22 (C) an examination of the effectiveness of  
23 current policies and procedures to address the  
24 needs of victims of trafficking;

1 (D) an analysis of demographic character-  
2 istics of victims of trafficking in different re-  
3 gions of the United States; and

4 (E) recommendations for how to address  
5 the unique vulnerabilities of different victims.

6 (b) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS.—With respect to  
7 the report submitted under subsection (a), the Commis-  
8 sion may withhold or redact the segregable portions of  
9 records that—

10 (1) contain personally identifiable information  
11 of victims or victims' personal and medical files and  
12 similar files the disclosure of which would constitute  
13 a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

14 (2) depict or contain child sexual abuse mate-  
15 rials (CSAM) as defined under section 2256 of title  
16 18, United States Code, and prohibited under sec-  
17 tions 2252 and 2252A of such title; or

18 (3) depict or contain images of death, physical  
19 abuse, or injury of any person.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
22 as may be necessary for the Commission to carry out its  
23 duties under this Act.