

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

(1)(a). Short Title—This section sets forth the short title of this bill as the “Washington, D.C. Admission Act.”

(1)(b). Table of Contents—This section sets forth the table of contents of this bill.

TITLE I—STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Subtitle A—Procedures for Admission.

Section 101. Admission Into the Union.

101(a). In General—This section declares that the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth (State) is admitted on an equal footing, subject to the provisions of this bill.

101(b). Constitution of State—This section declares that the State constitution always be republican in form and not be repugnant to the U.S. Constitution or the Declaration of Independence.

101(c). Nonseverability—This section declares that, if any provision of Section 101 is held invalid, this bill is invalid.

Section 102. Election of Senators and Representative.

102(a). Issuance of Proclamation—This section requires that the Mayor of the District of Columbia (District), after the enactment of this bill, issue a proclamation for the first elections for two Senators and one Representative. It also declares that, with respect to the Senate offices, no person may be a candidate for both offices, no term of office may be referred to, and the Senate determines the class of each of the Senators.

102(b). Rules for Conducting Elections—This section requires primary and general elections for the first elections, officers chosen by qualified District voters, and certification of the results, including by the Mayor to the President.

102(c). Assumption of Duties—This section declares that, upon the admission of the State, the officers are entitled to seats in Congress and to the rights and privileges of other officers.

102(d). Effect of Admission on House of Representatives Membership—This section declares that, upon the admission of the State, the size of the House of Representatives is permanently increased to 436 Members. It also declares that the State is entitled to one Representative until the next apportionment.

Section 103. Issuance of Presidential Proclamation.

103(a). In General—This section requires that the President, after receiving certification of the election results, issue a proclamation announcing such results.

103(b). Admission of State Upon Issuance of Proclamation—This section declares that, upon such issuance, the State is admitted.

Subtitle B—Seat of Government of the United States.

Section 111. Territory and Boundaries.

111(a). In General—This section declares that the State consists of all of the territory of the District, except a small portion.

111(b). Exclusion of Portion Remaining as Seat of Government of United States—This section declares that such excluded portion is the seat of the U.S. government and is known as the “Capital.”

111(c). Metes and Bounds Survey—This section requires that the President conduct a metes and bounds survey of the Capital.

Section 112. Description of Capital.

112(a). In General—This section describes the property of the Capital.

112(b). General Description—This section sets forth the boundaries of the Capital.

112(c). Exclusion of Building Serving as State Capitol—This section declares that the John A. Wilson Building is excluded from the Capital.

112(d). Clarification of Treatment of Frances Perkins Building—This section declares that the Frances Perkins Building is included in the Capital.

Section 113. Retention of Title to Property.

113(a). Retention of Federal Title—This section declares that the United States retains title to or jurisdiction over all property it holds before the admission of the State.

113(b). Retention of State Title—This section declares that the State retains title to or jurisdiction over all property the District holds before the admission of the State.

Section 114. Effect of Admission on Current Laws of Seat of Government of United States.

This section declares that District laws apply in the Capital and are deemed federal laws in the Capital.

Section 115. Capital National Guard.

115(a). Establishment—This section amends title 32 of the U.S. Code to rename the District National Guard as the Capital National Guard. The Capital National Guard is the National Guard for the Capital and is an exclusively federal entity.

115(b). Conforming Amendments—This section amends titles 10 and 32 of the U.S. Code to make conforming amendments.

Section 116. Termination of Legal Status of Seat of Government of United States as Municipal Corporation.

This section declares that the Capital is neither a government nor a body corporate for municipal purposes.

Subtitle C—General Provisions Relating to Laws of State.

Section 121. Effect of Admission on Current Laws.

121(a). Legislative Power—This section declares that State legislative power extends to all rightful subjects.

121(b). Continuation of Authority and Duties of Members of Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Offices—This section deems that members of District executive, legislative, and judicial offices are members of the respective State offices.

121(c). Treatment of Federal Laws—This section declares that federal laws that apply to states generally apply to the State.

121(d). No Effect on Existing Contracts—This section declares that the admission of the State does not affect District or U.S. contracts.

121(e). Succession in Interstate Compacts—This section deems that the State is the successor to the District for interstate compacts.

121(f). Continuation of Service of Federal Members on Boards and Commissions—This section declares that federal representatives on District boards and commissions may serve on the respective State boards and commissions, as permitted by the State.

121(g). Special Rule Regarding Enforcement Authority of United States Capitol Police, United States Park Police, and United States Secret Service Uniformed Division—This section declares that the U.S. Capitol Police, the U.S. Park Police, and the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division may not enforce State laws, except as authorized by the State.

Section 122. Pending Actions and Proceedings.

122(a). State as Legal Successor to District of Columbia—This section declares that the State is the legal successor to the District.

122(b). No Effect on Pending Proceedings—This section declares that all legal proceedings and rights are unaffected by the admission of the State.

Section 123. Limitation on Authority to Tax Federal Property.

This section prohibits the State from taxing federal property.

Section 124. United States Nationality.

This section declares that this bill does not affect nationality.

TITLE II—INTERESTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Subtitle A—Federal Property.

Section 201. Treatment of Military Lands.

201(a). Reservation of Federal Authority—This section reserves in Congress exclusive legislation over federally controlled or owned land in the State that, before the admission of the State, was held for defense or Coast Guard purposes, so long as such land is held for such purposes.

201(b). Authority of State—This section declares that such reservation does not exclude such lands from the State or prevent the State from exercising, concurrently with the United States, jurisdiction over such lands that it otherwise would have and that is consistent with laws hereafter enacted by Congress pursuant to such reservation. It also declares that the State may serve process in such lands in matters arising in the State but outside of such lands.

Section 202. Waiver of Claims to Federal Property.

202(a). In General—This section declares that the State disclaims all right and title to federally controlled or owned property.

202(b). Effect on Claims Against United States—This section declares that this bill does not affect claims against the United States and that applicable federal law governs any such claim. It also clarifies that this bill does not constitute a finding by Congress of the validity of any such claim.

Subtitle B—Federal Courts.

Section 211. Residency Requirements for Certain Federal Officials.

211(a). Circuit Judges—This section amends 28 U.S.C. § 44(c) to require that circuit judges of the judicial circuit comprising the Capital and the State reside in the circuit. It also requires that circuit judges of the federal judicial circuit reside within 50 miles of the Capital.

211(b). District Judges—This section amends section 134(b) of such title to require that district judges of the judicial district comprising the Capital and the State reside in the district.

211(c). United States Attorneys—This section amends section 545(a) of such title to require that the U.S. attorney of the judicial district comprising the Capital and the State reside in the district.

211(d). United States Marshals—This section amends section 561(e)(1) of such title to require that the U.S. marshal of the judicial district comprising the Capital and the State reside in the district.

211(e). Clerks of District Courts—This section amends section 751(c) of such title to require that the clerk of the judicial district comprising the Capital and the State reside in the district.

211(f). Effective Date—This section declares that the amendments made by Section 211 apply only to individuals appointed after the admission of the State.

Section 212. Renaming of Federal Courts.

212(a). Renaming—This section amends 28 U.S.C. § 41 to rename the District judicial circuit as the Capital judicial circuit, which consists of the Capital and the State. It also amends section 88 of such title to rename the District judicial district as the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital judicial district and to declare that the court of such district is held in the Capital.

212(b). Conforming Amendments Relating to Court of Appeals—This section amends various sections of such title to make conforming changes to the name of the judicial circuit. It also amends section 48(a) of such title to designate the Capital as the place for the Capital judicial circuit and the federal judicial circuit to hold regular sessions.

212(c). Conforming Amendments Relating to District Court—This section amends various sections of such title to make conforming changes to the name of the judicial district.

212(d). Conforming Amendments Relating to Other Courts—This section amends section 152(a)(2) of such title to make a conforming change to the name of the judicial district. It also amends section 173 of such title to make the principal office of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims the Capital. It also amends section 175 of such title to make the Capital the official duty station of the judges of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and to require such judges to reside within 50 miles of the Capital. It also amends section 456(b) of such title to make the Capital the

official duty station of the U.S. Chief Justice, the U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and the judges of the federal circuit. The judges of the Capital judicial circuit and of the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital judicial district are treated in the same manner as other circuit and district court judges for purposes of duty station. It also amends section 462(d) of such title to make permanent accommodations for the federal circuit and for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the Capital. It also amends section 798(a) of such title to authorize the U.S. Court of Federal Claims to use facilities and hold court in the Capital and to use facilities of the federal courts and other federal facilities for trials and other proceedings outside of the Capital.

212(e). Other Conforming Amendments—This section amends section 1608(a)(4) of such title to make service of process made upon a foreign state available in certain circumstances through the U.S. Secretary of State in the Capital. It also amends section 2410(b) of such title to declare that, in actions in state courts affecting property on which the United States has or claims a lien, service of process upon the United States requires sending copies to the U.S. Attorney General in the Capital.

212(f). Definition—This section amends section 451 of such title to add the defined term Capital, as such term is used in this bill.

212(g). References in Other Laws—This section deems that references in federal law to the District judicial district and circuit refer to the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital district and the Capital circuit, respectively.

212(h). Effective Date—This section declares that Section 212 takes effect upon the admission of the State.

Section 213. Conforming Amendments Relating to Department of Justice.

213(a). Appointment of United States Trustees—This section amends 28 U.S.C. § 581(a)(4) to make a conforming change to the name of the judicial district.

213(b). Independent Counsels—This section amends section 594(c) of such title to make a conforming change to the name of the U.S. attorney for the judicial district and to make the State the basis of a pay adjustment. It also amends section 596(a)(3) of such title to make a conforming change to the name of the judicial district.

213(c). Effective Date—This section declares that the amendments made by Section 213 take effect upon the admission of the State.

Section 214. Treatment of Pretrial Services in United States District Court.

This section amends 18 U.S.C. § 3152 to provide that the District Pretrial Services Agency provides pretrial services for the judicial district until the State certifies it has in effect laws providing for it to provide pretrial services in State court.

Subtitle C—Federal Elections.

Section 221. Permitting Individuals Residing in Capital to Vote in Federal Elections in State of Most Recent Domicile.

221(a). Requirement for States to Permit Individuals to Vote by Absentee Ballot—This section requires states to permit absent Capital voters to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections and to accept any otherwise valid voter registration application from such voter, if the application is received by the State not less than 30 days before such election. It also defines absent Capital voter as a resident of the Capital who is qualified to vote in the state, including the State (or who would be qualified to vote in the state but for residing in the Capital), but only if the state is the last place the Capital resident was domiciled before residing in the Capital.

221(b). Recommendations to States to Maximize Access to Polls by Absent Capital Voters—This section expresses the sense of Congress that states should afford maximum access to the polls by such voters.

221(c). Enforcement—This section declares that the U.S. Attorney General may seek relief in federal court to carry out Section 221.

221(d). Effect on Certain Other Laws—This section declares that registration or voting by such voter does not affect the residence or domicile of such voter for tax purposes.

221(e). Effective Date—This section declares that Section 221 applies to elections taking place on or after the admission of the State.

Section 222. Repeal of Office of District of Columbia Delegate.

222(a). In General—This section repeals sections 202 and 204 of the District Delegate Act to abolish the office of Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District.

222(b). Conforming Amendments to District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955—This section amends the District Elections Code of 1955 to make conforming changes.

222(c). Effective Date—This section declares that the amendments made by Section 222 take effect upon the admission of the State.

Section 223. Repeal of Law Providing for Participation of Seat of Government in Election of President and Vice President.

223(a). In General—This section amends chapter 1 of title 3 of the U.S. Code by repealing section 21, which defines the District as a state.

223(b). Effective Date—This section declares that the amendments made by Section 223 apply to elections taking place on or after the admission of the State.

Section 224. Expedited Procedures for Consideration of Constitutional Amendment Repealing 23rd Amendment.

224(a). Joint Resolution Described—This section defines joint resolution as a joint resolution to repeal the 23rd Amendment.

224(b). Expedited Consideration in House of Representatives—This section provides for expedited consideration of the joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

224(c). Expedited Consideration in Senate—This section provides for expedited consideration of the joint resolution in the Senate.

224(d). Rules Relating to Senate and House of Representatives—This section describes the treatment by one chamber of the joint resolution received from the other chamber.

224(e). Rules of House of Representatives and Senate—This section declares that Section 224 is an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and Senate.

TITLE III—CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Subtitle A—Employee Benefits.

Section 301. Federal Benefit Payments Under Certain Retirement Programs.

301(a). Continuation of Entitlement to Payments—This section declares that any individual who, before the admission of the State, is entitled to a federal benefit payment under the District Retirement Protection Act of 1997 (Retirement Act) is entitled to such a payment after admission.

301(b). Obligations of Federal Government—This section declares that any obligation of the federal government under the Retirement Act to any individual or to the District before the admission of the State is a federal obligation to such an individual and to the State after admission. It also declares that any obligation of the federal government under the Retirement Act to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund before admission is a federal obligation after admission.

301(c). Obligations of State—This section declares that any obligation of the District under the Retirement Act to any individual or to the federal government before the admission of the State is a State obligation after admission.

Section 302. Continuation of Federal Civil Service Benefits for Employees First Employed Prior to Establishment of District of Columbia Merit Personnel System.

302(a). Obligations of Federal Government—This section declares that any obligation of the federal government under title 5 of the U.S. Code to an individual described in Section 302(c) or to the District before the admission of the State is a federal obligation to such individual and to the State after admission.

302(b). Obligations of State—This section declares that any obligation of the District under such title to an individual described in Section 302(c) or to the federal government before the admission of the State is a State obligation after admission.

302(c). Individuals Described—An individual described in Section 302 is an individual first employed by the District before October 1, 1987.

Section 303. Obligations of Federal Government Under Judges' Retirement Program.

303(a). Continuation of Obligations—This section declares that any obligation of the federal government under subchapter III of chapter 15 of title 11 of the District Code to any individual and the District for service accrued before the admission of the State is a federal obligation to such an individual and to the State after admission. It also declares that the federal obligation under such subchapter exists to any individual and the State for service accrued after admission and before the date described in Section 303(b).

303(b). Termination Date—This section declares that the termination date is the date the State certifies that it has in effect laws requiring it to appropriate and make available funds for the retirement of its judges.

Subtitle B—Agencies

Section 311. Public Defender Service.

311(a). Continuation of Operations and Funding—This section declares that title III of the District Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970 (Court Act) applies to the State and its public defender service after the admission of the State as such title applied to the District and the District Public Defender Service before admission. It also declares that the federal government is treated as the employing agency for the benefits provided to a State public defender service employee who, pursuant to the Court Act, is treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits.

311(b). Renaming of Service—This section declares that, upon the admission of the State, the State may rename its public defender service.

311(c). Continuation of Federal Benefits for Employees—This section declares that any employee of the State public defender service before the date described in Section 311(d) who, pursuant to the Court Act, is treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits continues to be treated as such, notwithstanding the termination of the provisions of Section 311(a) under Section 311(d). It also declares that, beginning on the date described in Section 311(d), the State is treated as the employing agency for the benefits provided to such employees.

311(d). Termination—This section declares that Section 311(a) terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws requiring it to appropriate and make available funds for the operation of the State public defender service.

Section 312. Prosecutions.

312(a). Assignment of Assistant United States Attorneys—This section requires that, in accordance with subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Attorney General, with the concurrence of the District or the State (as the case may be), assign assistant U.S. attorneys to the State to carry out the functions described in Section 312(b). It also declares that, in accordance with section 3373 of such title, such an attorney is deemed under subsection (a) of such section on detail to a regular work assignment in the Department of Justice and that the assignment is made without reimbursement by the State.

312(b). Functions Described—This section provides that the functions are criminal prosecutions conducted in the name of the State that would have been conducted in the name of the United States, as provided under section 23-101(c) of the District Code, but for the admission of the State.

312(c). Minimum Number Assigned—This section declares that the number of attorneys may not be less than the number who prosecuted in the name of the United States under such section before the admission of the State.

312(d). Termination—This section declares that the obligation to assign attorneys terminates upon certification by the State that it has appointed State attorneys for such prosecutions.

312(e). Clarification Regarding Clemency Authority—This section declares that, upon the admission of the State, the authority to grant clemency for offenses against the District or the State is exercised by the State.

Section 313. Service of United States Marshals.

313(a). Provision of Services for Courts of State—This section requires that the U.S. Marshals Service provide the services to the State courts and court system that it provided to the District courts and court system before the admission of the State, except the President may not appoint a U.S. Marshal under 28 U.S.C. § 561 for any State court.

313(b). Termination—This section declares that the obligation to provide such services terminates upon certification by the State that it has appointed State personnel to provide such services.

Section 314. Designation of Felons to Facilities of Bureau of Prisons.

314(a). Continuation of Designation—This section declares that chapter 1 of subtitle C of title XI of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act) applies to individuals convicted of offenses under District law before the admission of the State. It also declares that such chapter applies to individuals convicted of offenses under State law after admission.

314(b). Termination—This section declares that Section 314 terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws for housing such individuals in correctional facilities.

Section 315. Parole and Supervision.

315(a). United States Parole Commission—This section requires that the U.S. Parole Commission (Parole Commission) exercise parole authority over felons imprisoned under District law before the admission of the State, as provided under section 11231 of the Revitalization Act, and to exercise the same authority over felons imprisoned under State law after admission. It also declares that such authority terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws providing for it to exercise such authority. It also requires that the Parole Commission exercise supervision authority over District offenders released before admission, as provided under section 11233(c)(2) of the Revitalization Act, and to exercise the same authority over State offenders released after admission. It also declares that such authority terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws providing for it to exercise such authority. It also declares that any Parole Commission employee as of the later of the day before the termination dates described above who, on or after such date, is an employee of the State office that exercises such authority continues to be treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits. It also declares that, beginning on the later of the termination dates described above, the State is treated as the employing agency for the benefits provided to such employees.

315(b). Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency—This section, upon the admission of the State, renames the District offender supervision agency and the District pretrial services agency as the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth Pretrial Services Agency, respectively. It also requires that these agencies provide such services for individuals convicted or charged under District and State law, as provided under section 11233 of the Revitalization Act. It also declares that these requirements terminate upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws providing for it to provide such services. It also declares that an employee of either agency before the termination date described above who, on or after such date, is an employee of the State office that provides such services continues to be treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits. It also declares that, beginning on the termination date described above, the State is treated as the employing agency for the benefits provided to such employees.

Section 316. Courts.

316(a). Continuation of Operations—This section declares that title 11 of the D.C. Code, as in effect before the admission of the State, applies to the State courts and court system as such title applied to the District court and court system before admission. It also declares that the federal government is treated as the employing agency for benefits provided under such title to an employee of the State courts and court system who, pursuant to such title, is treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits. It also declares that the State selects judges

for any vacancy on the State courts, and clarifies that this authority does not affect the service of any sitting judge before admission or require the State to select such a judge for a vacancy or waive any of the requirements regarding the appointment and service of judges of the State courts. It also declares that the State may rename the State courts and court system.

316(b). Continuation of Federal Benefits for Employees—This section declares that any employee of the State courts or court system before the date described in Section 316(e) who, pursuant to such title, is treated as a federal employee for purposes of receiving benefits continues to be treated as such, notwithstanding the termination of the provisions of Section 316 under Section 316(e). It also declares that, beginning on the date described in Section 316(e), the State is treated as the employing agency for the benefits provided to such employees.

316(c). Continuation of Funding—This section declares that section 11241 of the Revitalization Act applies to the State courts and court system after the admission of the State as such section applied to the District court and court system before admission.

316(d). Treatment of Court Receipts—This section declares that all money received by the State courts and court system be deposited in the U.S. Treasury, except section 16 of the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act of 1996 applies to the State courts and court system as such section applied to the District court and court system before the admission of the State.

316(e). Termination—This section declares that Section 316 terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws requiring it to appropriate and make available funds for the operation of the State court and court system, except with respect to the State's authority to select judges and rename the court and court system and as provided under Section 316(b).

Subtitle C—Other Programs and Authorities.

Section 321. Application of the College Access Act.

321(a). Continuation—This section declares that the District College Access Act of 1999 (College Access Act) applies to the State and the public institution of higher education designated by the State as the successor to the University of the District after the admission of the State as the College Access Act applied to the District and the University of the District before admission.

321(b). Termination—This section declares that Section 321, other than with respect to the successor university, terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws requiring it to provide assistance substantially similar to the assistance provided under the College Access Act.

Section 322. Application of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act.

322(a). Continuation—This section declares that the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (SOAR Act) applies to the State after the admission of the State as the SOAR Act applied to the District before admission.

322(b). Termination—This section declares that Section 322 terminates upon certification by the State that it has in effect laws requiring the State to provide tuition assistance substantially similar to the assistance provided under the SOAR Act and to provide supplemental funds to the State public schools and public charter schools in the amounts provided in the most recent fiscal year for public and public charter schools of the State or the District (as the case may be) under the SOAR Act.

Section 323. Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage.

323(a). Continuation—This section declares that the federal medical assistance percentage for the State under title XIX of the Social Security Act is the federal medical assistance percentage for the District before the admission of the State.

323(b). Termination—This section declares that Section 323 terminates upon certification by the State that, during each of the first five fiscal years beginning after certification, estimated State revenues are sufficient to cover any reduction in revenues that may result from the termination of Section 323.

Section 324. Federal Planning Commissions.

324(a). National Capital Planning Commission—This section declares that chapter 87 of title 40 of the U.S. Code applies to the Capital as such chapter applied to the District before the admission of the State and applies to the State as such chapter applied to Maryland and Virginia before admission. It also declares that the number of members appointed by the President to the National Capital Planning Commission is increased by one and that one such member is a State resident.

324(b). Commission of Fine Arts—This section amends section 9102(a)(1) of such title to limit the authority of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) to the Capital. It also amends section 9101(d) of such title to make a conforming change to the location of CFA meetings for reimbursement of travel expenses.

324(c). Commemorative Works Act—This section amends section 8902 of such title to declare that the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) applies only in the Capital and its environs. The CWA does not apply in the State. It also makes conforming changes to other sections of such title.

324(d). Effective Date—This section declares that Section 324 takes effect upon the admission of the State.

Section 325. Role of Army Corps of Engineers in Supplying Water.

325(a). Continuation of Role—This section amends chapter 95 of title 40 of the U.S. Code to declare that any reference in such chapter to the District is deemed to refer to the Capital or the State, as the case may be.

325(b). Clerical Amendment—This section makes a conforming change in the table of sections of such chapter.

Section 326. Requirements to be Located in District of Columbia.

This section declares that the location of any person in the Capital or the State on the day after the admission of the State is deemed to satisfy any requirement under any law before admission that such person be located in the District.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 401. General Definitions.

This section defines terms used throughout this bill.

Section 402. Statehood Transition Commission.

402(a). Establishment—This section establishes the Statehood Transition Commission (Statehood Commission).

402(b). Composition—This section declares that the Statehood Commission is composed of 18 members. Seventeen of the members are appointed by the President, the bipartisan leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the District. One member is the District Chief Financial Officer. It also declares that the appointments are made not later than 90 days after the enactment of this bill, that the authority to make such appointments expires if not exercised by such date, and that the number of members is reduced by the number equal to the number of appointments so not made. It also declares that members serve for the life of the Statehood Commission, that vacancies be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, that members serve without pay but receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, and that the members elect the chair and vice chair from among the members appointed by the federal government and the District, respectively.

402(c). Staff—This section declares that there is a director, who is appointed by the chair, that the director may appoint and fix the pay of additional staff, that the appointment and pay of the director and staff are exempt from certain civil service laws, and that the Statehood Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services of experts and consultants.

402(d). Duties—This section declares that the Statehood Commission advises the President, Congress, and the District or the State (as the case may be) concerning an orderly transition to statehood and to a reduced size of the federal district.

402(e). Powers—This section declares that the Statehood Commission may hold hearings, take testimony, receive evidence, obtain information from federal departments and agencies, use the U.S. mails in the same manner as federal departments and agencies, and receive administrative support services from the Administrator of General Services.

402(f). Meetings—This section declares that the Statehood Commission meets at the call of the chair and holds its first meeting not later than the earlier of 30 days after all members are appointed or, if the number of members is reduced, 90 days after the enactment of this bill. It also declares that a majority of the members constitutes a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

402(g). Reports—This section declares that reports are submitted as the Statehood Commission considers appropriate or as may be requested by the President, Congress, the District, or the State.

402(h). Termination—This section declares that the Statehood Commission ceases to exist two years after the admission of the State.

Section 403. Certification of Enactment by President.

This section requires that the President certify the enactment of this bill to the District Mayor.

Section 404. Severability.

This section declares that, except as provided in Section 101(c), if any provision of this bill is held invalid, the remaining provisions are not affected.