

Independence Study Commission Act

Model template, not a finished bill. Every state's constitution and rules differ. Adapt this to your state, cite your state's own constitutional clause, and have a lawyer licensed in your state review it before it is filed. USexit supplies the template. You and your legislator file it.

A bill that directs the state to study, officially and honestly, the costs, benefits, and mechanics of independence, and to report back. It commits the state to no outcome, and it is very hard to vote against.

An Act

relating to the establishment of the [STATE] Self-Determination Study Commission to study the implications of [STATE] independence and to report its findings to the Legislature and the people.

Be it enacted by the [Legislature of STATE]:

Section 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the [STATE] Self-Determination Study Commission Act.

Section 2. Findings.

The [Legislature of STATE] finds that:

1. All political power is inherent in the people of [STATE], who have the right to alter or reform their government. *[adapt: cite your state's constitutional clause by article and section]*
2. [STATE] is, by *[adapt: population or gross state product]*, comparable in scale to a *[adapt: e.g. mid-sized sovereign nation]*, yet no current, unbiased, official study exists of what independence would mean for its people.
3. The people of [STATE] are entitled to accurate, non-partisan information on a question of this magnitude, prepared by their own government rather than by advocates on any side.
4. A sober public accounting of the costs, the benefits, and the practical steps of independence serves the public interest whatever conclusion it reaches.

Section 3. Commission established.

There is established the [STATE] Self-Determination Study Commission, consisting of [N] members appointed as follows: *[adapt: e.g. appointments by the Governor and the presiding officer of each chamber, plus non-voting subject-matter experts; conform to your state's commission and open-meetings practice]*.

Section 4. Charge.

The Commission shall study and report on, at a minimum:

1. **Fiscal and economic effects:** the state's revenues, expenditures, and net fiscal balance with the federal government; effects on trade, currency, banking, and the state economy.

2. **Assets and obligations:** federal facilities and lands within [STATE]; the state's share of federal debt and assets; pensions and entitlements owed to residents.
3. **Pathway:** the lawful and peaceful process by which [STATE] could give effect to a decision of its people to pursue independence, including the negotiation of terms.
4. **Governance and continuity:** currency, defense, border, citizenship, courts, and the continuity of essential services and existing contracts.
5. **Transition:** a realistic timeline and the principal risks and safeguards.

Section 5. Report.

The Commission shall deliver a public written report of its findings to the [Legislature of STATE], the [Governor], and the people of [STATE] not later than [adapt: date] . The report and the Commission's proceedings shall be public.

Section 6. Funding.

[adapt: appropriate a sum, or direct the Commission to operate within the existing resources of a named agency; the "within existing resources" version passes more easily]

Section 7. Severability.

If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 8. Effective date.

[adapt: per your state's default effective-date rule]