

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8135

To declare an emergency regarding the cost of living in the United States and direct actions to be taken to address the cost-of-living emergency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mr. DELUZIO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To declare an emergency regarding the cost of living in the United States and direct actions to be taken to address the cost-of-living emergency, 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 “Cost-of-living Emer-  
5 gency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **AVERAGE U.S. HOUSEHOLD.**—The term  
4 “average U.S. household” means a household in the  
5 United States earning less than the median house-  
6 hold income for the prior year, as determined by the  
7 United States Census Bureau.

8 (2) **BASIC HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES.**—The  
9 term “basic household necessities” includes the fol-  
10 lowing expenditures, as defined by the Bureau of  
11 Labor Statistics on January 1, 2026:

12 (A) Food at home.

13 (B) Owned dwellings.

14 (C) Rented dwellings.

15 (D) Gasoline and other fuels.

16 (E) Medical services.

17 (F) Utilities, fuels, and public services.

18 (3) **CO-CHAIR.**—The term “co-chair” means an  
19 individual appointed to serve as a co-chair of the  
20 Commission under section 8(a)(3)(B).

21 (4) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”  
22 means the Cost-of-Living Commission established  
23 under section 8(a)(1).

24 (5) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the  
25 Council of Economic Advisers established under sec-

1       tion 10 of the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C.  
2       1023).

3           (6) LARGE CORPORATION.—The term “large  
4       corporation” means any business that is not a small  
5       business concern, as defined in section 3 of the  
6       Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

7           (7) OUTSIDE EXPERT.—The term “outside ex-  
8       pert” means an individual who is not an elected offi-  
9       cial or an officer or employee of the Federal Govern-  
10      ment or of any State.

11          (8) SPECIAL ADVISOR.—The term “Special Ad-  
12      visor” means any individual appointed to the role of  
13      Special Advisor to the President under section  
14      4(3)(A).

15          (9) STATE.—The term “State” means a State,  
16      the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of  
17      Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of  
18      the United States.

19   **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO**  
20                   **COST OF LIVING.**

21          (a) DECLARATION.—There is hereby declared an  
22      emergency with respect to the high cost of living facing  
23      the people of the United States.

24          (b) TERMINATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-  
 2           graph (2), the emergency declared under subsection  
 3           (a) shall terminate on the date that is 180 days  
 4           after the date of the enactment of this Act.

5           (2) EXTENSION.—The emergency declared  
 6           under subsection (a) may continue after the date de-  
 7           scribed in paragraph (1) if there is enacted into law  
 8           a joint resolution extending the emergency.

9           (3) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—A joint resolu-  
 10          tion described in paragraph (2) shall be considered  
 11          in accordance with the procedures set forth in sec-  
 12          tion 202(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50  
 13          U.S.C. 1622(c)).

14 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF ECO-**  
 15 **NOMIC ADVISERS DURING A COST-OF-LIVING**  
 16 **EMERGENCY.**

17          During the period that the emergency declared under  
 18          section 3 is in effect, the President, acting through the  
 19          Chair of the Council, shall undertake the following actions:

20          (1) UPDATED ADVISORY MANDATE.—In car-  
 21          rying out the duties described in section 10(c) of the  
 22          Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1023(c)), the  
 23          Council shall prioritize economic analysis and advice  
 24          addressing the following subjects:

1 (A) The affordability of basic household  
2 necessities.

3 (B) The economic pressures impacting low-  
4 and middle-income families.

5 (C) The distributional consequences of  
6 Federal economic policy.

7 (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITE HOUSE COST  
8 CUTTING COUNCIL.—Not later than 7 days after the  
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the  
10 Council shall establish within the Council a White  
11 House Cost Cutting Council that shall be responsible  
12 for coordinating whole of Government efforts to re-  
13 duce the costs of basic household necessities.

14 (3) DESIGNATION OF PERSONNEL.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the au-  
16 thority under section 10(b) of the Employment  
17 Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1023(b)), the Chair of  
18 the Council shall appoint personnel to serve in  
19 the following roles:

20 (i) Special Advisor to the President  
21 for Grocery Costs, who shall serve as the  
22 principal advisor to the President for all  
23 issues relating to the costs of food at home  
24 in the United States.

1           (ii) Special Advisor to the President  
2           for Housing Costs, who shall serve as the  
3           principal advisor to the President for all  
4           issues relating to the costs of owned or  
5           rented dwellings for individuals in the  
6           United States.

7           (iii) Special Advisor to the President  
8           for Utility Costs, who shall serve as the  
9           principal advisor to the President for all  
10          issues relating to the cost of utilities, fuels,  
11          and public services for individuals in the  
12          United States.

13          (iv) Special Advisor to the President  
14          for Health Care Costs, who shall serve as  
15          the principal advisor to the President for  
16          all issues relating to the cost of health in-  
17          surance, health care services, and medica-  
18          tions for individuals in the United States.

19          (v) Special Advisor to the President  
20          for Transportation Costs, who shall serve  
21          as the principal advisor to the President  
22          for all issues relating to—

23                (I) the cost of gasoline and other  
24                transportation fuels for individuals in  
25                the United States;

(II) costs associated with owning or leasing a personal vehicle for individuals in the United States; and

(III) other costs relating to transportation to or from work, school, or other essential activities for individuals in the United States.

(vi) Special Advisor to the President for Wages, who shall serve as the principal advisor to the President for all issues relating to wages of individuals in the United States.

(B) DUTIES.—Each Special Advisor appointed to a role under subparagraph (A) shall carry out the following duties:

(i) Assemble and lead a task force to be made up of members of the Cabinet (or the designees of such members), the heads of independent regulatory agencies, as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, and other senior executive branch officials who shall meet not less frequently than weekly to discuss actions that may be taken to reduce the costs of the goods and services and strengthen house-

1 hold wages within the purview of the Spe-  
2 cial Advisor.

3 (ii) Prepare a weekly report to be dis-  
4 tributed to the President, Vice President,  
5 the Chief of Staff to the President, the Di-  
6 rector of the Office of Management and  
7 Budget, each member of the Cabinet, and  
8 other senior employees serving in the Exec-  
9 utive Office of the President that—

10 (I) provides details on the costs  
11 of goods and services within the pur-  
12 view of the Special Advisor; and

13 (II) identifies actions that may  
14 be taken to lower those costs.

15 (iii) Host regional listening sessions  
16 focused on the costs of the goods and serv-  
17 ices within the purview of the Special Advi-  
18 sor that—

19 (I) are held in geographically di-  
20 verse regions of the United States;

21 (II) allow members of the public  
22 to participate and share concerns re-  
23 lated to the costs of goods and serv-  
24 ices within the purview of the Special  
25 Advisor; and



1 (III) occur not less frequently  
2 than 3 times per year.

3 (iv) Prepare a summary report of  
4 each regional listening session held under  
5 clause (iii) and share the report with the  
6 Council, the Joint Economic Committee,  
7 the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
8 tives, and the President of the Senate.

9 (v) Provide testimony to the Joint  
10 Economic Committee not less frequently  
11 than once a year to identify actions that  
12 may be taken to reduce the costs of the  
13 goods and services within the purview of  
14 the Special Advisor.

15 (4) STATE OF HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS RE-  
16 PORT.—Every 3 months, the Council shall submit a  
17 State of Household Budgets report to the President,  
18 the Commission, and the Joint Economic Committee  
19 that includes information relating to the following  
20 metrics:

21 (A) The median household purchasing  
22 power in the United States.

23 (B) The real wage growth net of housing  
24 and health costs in the United States.

1 (C) Household debt-to-income burdens in  
2 the United States.

3 (D) Regional affordability indexes in the  
4 United States.

5 (E) Basic household necessities inflation  
6 measures.

7 **SEC. 5. HOUSEHOLD BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—During the period that the emer-  
9 gency declared under section 3 is in effect, the Adminis-  
10 trator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
11 of the Office of Management and Budget shall require  
12 each agency head to include a household budget impact  
13 statement in any major regulatory action submitted to the  
14 Administrator.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—A household budget impact state-  
16 ment shall include—

17 (1) the estimated effects of the regulatory ac-  
18 tion for an average U.S. household;

19 (2) the regional variation in cost burdens on the  
20 average U.S. household;

21 (3) the estimated benefits that a large corpora-  
22 tion might see from the regulatory action; and

23 (4) an analysis determining whether the regu-  
24 latory action would provide more benefits for the av-  
25 erage U.S. household or large corporations.

1 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each agency head shall  
2 make any household budget impact statement submitted  
3 under subsection (a) publicly available unless national se-  
4 curity prohibits disclosure.

5 **SEC. 6. EMERGENCY ENFORCEMENT OF PRICE GOUGING**  
6 **LAWS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—During the period that the  
8 emergency declared under section 3 is in effect, the Attor-  
9 ney General and the Chair of the Federal Trade Commis-  
10 sion shall jointly establish a task force to be known as  
11 the “Joint Task Force on Consumer Costs” (in this sec-  
12 tion referred to as the “Task Force”).

13 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be com-  
14 posed of—

15 (1) the Attorney General (or a designee), who  
16 shall serve as a Co-Chair;

17 (2) the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission  
18 (or a designee), who shall serve as a Co-Chair; and

19 (3) such other officers and employees of the De-  
20 partment of Justice and the Federal Trade Commis-  
21 sion as the Co-Chairs may jointly designate, includ-  
22 ing—

23 (A) attorneys from the Antitrust Division  
24 of the Department of Justice;

1 (B) attorneys from the Bureau of Competi-  
2 tion and the Bureau of Consumer Protection of  
3 the Federal Trade Commission; and

4 (C) economists and investigators with ex-  
5 pertise in supply chain dynamics and retail  
6 pricing.

7 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall coordinate the ef-  
8 forts of the Federal Government to prevent and prosecute  
9 price gouging and other anticompetitive practices during  
10 the period that the emergency declared under section 3  
11 is in effect, including by—

12 (1) monitoring retail and wholesale price in-  
13 creases for essential goods and services;

14 (2) sharing information and evidence between  
15 the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade  
16 Commission regarding potential violations of Federal  
17 law;

18 (3) investigating business and industry prac-  
19 tices that inflate costs for households;

20 (4) initiating joint investigations into suspected  
21 anticompetitive practices, unfair or deceptive acts or  
22 practices, and unfair and illegal pricing practices  
23 such as price gouging, price-fixing, and price dis-  
24 crimination;

1           (5) providing guidance to State attorneys gen-  
2           eral to ensure a coordinated national response to lo-  
3           calized unfair and illegal pricing practices; and

4           (6) establishing a centralized public portal for  
5           consumers and whistleblowers to report suspected  
6           anticompetitive, unfair or deceptive practices, and  
7           unfair and illegal pricing practices.

8           (d) ENFORCEMENT POWERS.—In carrying out its du-  
9           ties under subsection (c), the Task Force shall utilize all  
10          authorities available to the Department of Justice and the  
11          Federal Trade Commission, including authorities under—

12           (1) the Federal Trade Commission Act (15  
13          U.S.C. 41 et seq.);

14           (2) the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.);

15           (3) the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12 et seq.); and

16           (4) any other Federal statute prohibiting fraud,  
17          hoarding, or the manipulation of prices in interstate  
18          commerce.

19          (e) RESOURCE SHARING.—The Attorney General and  
20          the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission may—

21           (1) detail personnel to the Task Force on a  
22          non-reimbursable basis; and

23           (2) notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
24          share investigative files, data, and technical re-  
25          sources if—

1 (A) such sharing is necessary for the per-  
2 formance of the duties of the Task Force under  
3 subsection (c); and

4 (B) appropriate protections for confidential  
5 business information are maintained.

6 (f) REPORTING.—Not later than 60 days after the  
7 establishment of the Task Force, and every 90 days there-  
8 after until the Task Force is terminated pursuant to sub-  
9 section (g), the Co-Chairs shall submit a report on the  
10 activities of the Task Force, including the number of in-  
11 vestigations opened and the status of enforcement actions,  
12 to—

13 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
14 ate;

15 (2) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
16 Transportation of the Senate;

17 (3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
18 House of Representatives; and

19 (4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
20 the House of Representatives.

21 (g) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate  
22 on the date that is 30 days after the expiration or rescis-  
23 sion of the emergency declared under section 3.

24 (h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
25 shall be construed as authorizing the Department of Jus-

1 tice or the Federal Trade Commission to suspend, termi-  
 2 nate, or deprioritize any ongoing investigation, enforce-  
 3 ment action, or litigation initiated by the Task Force that  
 4 is ongoing at the time the Task Force terminates pursuant  
 5 to subsection (g).

6 **SEC. 7. USE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER DEFENSE PRODUC-**  
 7 **TION ACT OF 1950.**

8 (a) COVERED AGENCY HEAD DEFINED.—In this sec-  
 9 tion, the term “covered agency head” means the head of  
 10 an agency to whom the President delegated, under section  
 11 201(a) of Executive Order 13603 (77 Fed. Reg. 16651;  
 12 relating to national defense resources preparedness), au-  
 13 thorities under section 101 of the Defense Production Act  
 14 of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511).

15 (b) MANDATORY UTILIZATION.—During the period  
 16 the emergency declared under section 3 is in effect, the  
 17 President shall use the authorities provided under title III  
 18 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531  
 19 et seq.) to expand productive capacity with respect to and  
 20 supply of basic household necessities.

21 (c) COORDINATION WITH COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC  
 22 ADVISERS.—

23 (1) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 15 days  
 24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Presi-  
 25 dent, acting through each covered agency head, shall

1 develop a strategic plan for the expenditure of funds  
2 from the Defense Production Act Fund (50 U.S.C.  
3 4534) to increase the domestic supply of basic  
4 household necessities.

5 (2) ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS.—Each cov-  
6 ered agency head shall conduct a continuous assess-  
7 ment of the domestic industrial base within the pur-  
8 view of the covered agency head to identify supply  
9 chain bottlenecks that contribute to price volatility  
10 for basic household necessities.

11 (3) EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENT FOR PROJECT  
12 EXECUTION.—The President may not execute a con-  
13 tract, loan, or purchase commitment under this sec-  
14 tion unless a relevant covered agency head submits  
15 a written certification to the President that the pro-  
16 posed activity supported by the contract, loan, or  
17 purchase commitment—

18 (A) is directly supported by empirical eco-  
19 nomic data; and

20 (B) can be reasonably proven to result in  
21 a reduction of the retail or wholesale cost of a  
22 specific basic household necessity within 180  
23 days of the commencement of the activity.



1           (4) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.—In carrying out  
2           subsection (a), the President may carry out the fol-  
3           lowing actions:

4                   (A) LOAN GUARANTEES AND LOANS.—  
5           Issue guarantees and make loans under sections  
6           301 and 302 of the Defense Production Act of  
7           1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531, 4532) to small- and me-  
8           dium-sized businesses to modernize facilities for  
9           the production of basic household necessities.

10                   (B) PURCHASE COMMITMENTS.—Execute  
11           purchase commitments under section 303 of the  
12           Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C.  
13           4533) to make available basic household neces-  
14           sities at a consistent price to individuals in the  
15           United States for the duration of the agree-  
16           ment.

17                   (C) PRODUCTION COST OFFSET.—Provide  
18           for subsidy payments under section 303(c) of  
19           the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C.  
20           4533(c)) to offset the costs of domestically pro-  
21           duced raw materials essential to the production  
22           of basic household necessities.

23           (d) EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE RE-  
24           QUIREMENT.—Under subsections (b) and (c), the Presi-  
25           dent shall exercise the authorities provided under title III

1 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531  
2 et seq.) without regard to any requirement of that Act  
3 that the exercise of such authorities be for the national  
4 defense.

5 **SEC. 8. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON COST-OF-LIVING**  
6 **EMERGENCY.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COST-OF-LIVING COMMIS-  
8 SION.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-  
10 lished in Congress a Cost-of-Living Commission.

11 (2) DUTIES.—

12 (A) GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
13 identify policies to—

14 (i) meaningfully improve the cost-of-  
15 living situation for the average U.S. house-  
16 hold in the short- and medium-term, in-  
17 cluding by reducing cost drivers for speci-  
18 fied sectors; and

19 (ii) achieve national economic growth  
20 that maintains a stable and sustainable  
21 cost-of-living over the long run.

22 (B) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMIT-  
23 TEES.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
24 of enactment of this Act, each committee of the  
25 Senate and the House of Representatives may

1 transmit to the Commission any recommenda-  
2 tions of the committee to further the legislative  
3 policies described in subparagraph (A).

4 (C) INTERIM REPORT.—The Commission  
5 may meet to consider, and vote on, an interim  
6 report on—

7 (i) any findings, conclusions, or rec-  
8 ommendations of the Commission relating  
9 to the policies identified under subpara-  
10 graph (A); and

11 (ii) as the Commission determines ap-  
12 propriate, any findings resulting from any  
13 hearing held or evidence received by the  
14 Commission.

15 (D) REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND  
16 LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—

17 (i) POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS; PER-  
18 MANENT ACTIONS.—

19 (I) POLICY RECOMMENDA-  
20 TIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
21 after the date of enactment of this  
22 Act, the Commission shall meet to  
23 consider and vote on—

24 (aa) a report that contains a  
25 detailed statement of the find-

1            ings, conclusions, and rec-  
2            ommendations of the Commission  
3            relating to the policies identified  
4            under subparagraph (A) and the  
5            estimate of the Congressional  
6            Budget Office required under  
7            paragraph (4)(D); and

8            (bb) legislative language to  
9            carry out the recommendations of  
10           the Commission relating to the  
11           policies identified under subpara-  
12           graph (A), which shall include a  
13           statement of the economic and  
14           budgetary effects of the rec-  
15           ommendations.

16           (II) PERMANENT ACTIONS.—Not  
17           later than 30 days before the date on  
18           which the emergency declared under  
19           section 3 terminates, the Commission  
20           shall meet to consider and vote on—

21           (aa) a report that contains a  
22           detailed statement of the actions  
23           that were taken in accordance  
24           with this Act and findings as to  
25           whether any of those actions

1 should be made continued after  
2 the date on which the emergency  
3 declared under section 3 termi-  
4 nates; and

5 (bb) if the Commission finds  
6 that the actions taken in accord-  
7 ance with this Act should be con-  
8 tinued after the date on which  
9 the emergency declared under  
10 section 3 terminates, legislative  
11 language to carry out the actions,  
12 which shall include a statement  
13 of the economic and budgetary  
14 effects of the actions.

15 (ii) APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEG-  
16 ISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—A report and legis-  
17 lative language of the Commission under  
18 subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) shall re-  
19 quire the approval of a majority of the  
20 members of the Commission, provided that  
21 such majority shall be required to include  
22 not fewer than 2 members of the Commis-  
23 sion appointed by members of the Repub-  
24 lican Party and not fewer than 2 members

1 appointed by members of the Democratic  
2 Party.

3 (iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—A member  
4 of the Commission who gives notice of an  
5 intention to file supplemental, minority, or  
6 additional views at the time of the final  
7 Commission vote on the approval of the re-  
8 port and legislative language of the Com-  
9 mission under subclause (I) or (II) of  
10 clause (i) shall be entitled to 3 days to file  
11 those views in writing with the staff direc-  
12 tor of the Commission, and such report  
13 shall be included in the report of the Com-  
14 mission published under clause (iv).

15 (iv) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LAN-  
16 GUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the  
17 approval or disapproval by the Commission  
18 of a report and legislative language under  
19 subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i), the Com-  
20 mission shall promptly, and not more than  
21 24 hours after the approval or disapproval  
22 or, if timely notice is given under clause  
23 (iii), not more than 24 hours after addi-  
24 tional views are filed under that clause,  
25 make the report, the legislative language,

1 and a record of the vote on the report and  
2 legislative language available to the public.

3 (v) SUBMISSION OF REPORT AND LEG-  
4 ISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If a report and leg-  
5 islative language are approved by the Com-  
6 mission under subclause (I) or (II) of  
7 clause (i), not later than 3 days after the  
8 date on which the report and legislative  
9 language are made available to the public  
10 under clause (iv), the Commission shall  
11 submit the report and legislative language  
12 to the President, the Vice President, the  
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
14 and the majority and minority leaders of  
15 each House of Congress.

16 (vi) EXTENSION.—

17 (I) IN GENERAL.—The Commis-  
18 sion may extend the deadline set forth  
19 in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i),  
20 if the Commission determines that ad-  
21 ditional time is necessary to complete  
22 the duties of the Commission under  
23 this section.

24 (II) APPROVAL.—An extension  
25 under subclause (I) shall require the

1 approval of a majority of the members  
2 of the Commission, provided that such  
3 majority shall be required to include  
4 not fewer than 2 members of the  
5 Commission appointed by members of  
6 the Republican Party and not fewer  
7 than 2 members appointed by mem-  
8 bers of the Democratic Party.

9 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
12 with due consideration to the chairs and rank-  
13 ing members of the committees and subcommit-  
14 tees of Congress that maintain subject matter  
15 jurisdiction, as applicable, the Commission shall  
16 be composed of 12 members appointed as fol-  
17 lows:

18 (i) 2 individuals from among the  
19 Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-  
20 pert, appointed by the majority leader of  
21 the Senate.

22 (ii) 2 individuals from among the  
23 Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-  
24 pert, appointed by the minority leader of  
25 the Senate.



1 (iii) 2 individuals from among the  
2 Members of the House of Representatives,  
3 and 1 outside expert, appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5 (iv) 2 individuals from among the  
6 Members of the House of Representatives,  
7 and 1 outside expert, appointed by the mi-  
8 nority leader of the House of Representa-  
9 tives.

10 (B) CO-CHAIRS.—Not later than 14 days  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, with re-  
12 spect to the Commission—

13 (i) the leadership of the Senate and  
14 House of Representatives of the same po-  
15 litical party as the President shall appoint  
16 1 individual among the members of the  
17 Commission who shall serve as a co-chair  
18 of the Commission; and

19 (ii) the leadership of the Senate and  
20 House of Representatives of the opposite  
21 political party as the President shall ap-  
22 point 1 individual among the members of  
23 the Commission who shall serve as a co-  
24 chair of the Commission.

1 (C) STAFF DIRECTOR.—With respect to  
 2 the Commission, the co-chairs, acting jointly,  
 3 shall hire the staff director of the Commission.

4 (D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—The  
 5 members of the Commission shall be appointed  
 6 for the life of the Commission.

7 (E) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Com-  
 8 mission shall not affect the powers of the Com-  
 9 mission, but shall be filled not later than 14  
 10 days after the date on which the vacancy oc-  
 11 curs, in the same manner as the original ap-  
 12 pointment was made.

13 (F) INELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—If a member  
 14 of the Commission who was appointed as a  
 15 Member of the Senate or the House Represent-  
 16 atives ceases to be a Member of the Senate or  
 17 the House of Representatives, as applicable—

18 (i) the member shall no longer be a  
 19 member of the Commission; and

20 (ii) a vacancy in the Commission ex-  
 21 ists.

22 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the  
 24 Commission, to exercise the powers, functions,  
 25 and duties of the Commission, there are author-

1            ized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual  
2            and necessary expenses of the Commission ap-  
3            proved by the co-chairs of the Commission, sub-  
4            ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

5            (B) EXPENSES.—With respect to the Com-  
6            mission, in carrying out the functions of the  
7            Commission, the Commission is authorized to  
8            incur expenses in the same manner and under  
9            the same conditions as the Joint Economic  
10          Committee is authorized under section 11(d) of  
11          the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C.  
12          1024(d)).

13          (C) QUORUM.—

14            (i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the  
15            Commission, 7 members of the Commis-  
16            sion shall constitute a quorum for purposes  
17            of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

18            (ii) OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—Outside ex-  
19            perts shall not count for purposes of deter-  
20            mining whether there is a quorum under  
21            this subparagraph.

22          (D) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ES-  
23          TIMATES.—The Director of the Congressional  
24          Budget Office shall, with respect to the legisla-  
25          tive language proposed by the Commission

1 under subclause (I)(bb) or (II)(bb) of para-  
2 graph (2)(D)(i), provide to the Commission—

3 (i) estimates of the legislative lan-  
4 guage in accordance with sections 308(a)  
5 and 201(f) of the Congressional Budget  
6 Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a), 601(f)); and

7 (ii) information on the budgetary ef-  
8 fects of the legislative language on the  
9 long-term fiscal outlook.

10 (E) HEARINGS.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission  
12 may, for the purpose of carrying out this  
13 section, hold such hearings, sit and act at  
14 such times and places, require attendance  
15 of witnesses and production of books, pa-  
16 pers, and documents, take such testimony,  
17 receive such evidence, and administer such  
18 oaths as the Commission considers advis-  
19 able.

20 (ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RE-  
21 SPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

22 (I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-  
23 chairs shall make a public announce-  
24 ment of the date, place, time, and  
25 subject matter of any hearing to be

1 conducted under this subparagraph  
2 not later than 7 days before the date  
3 of the hearing, unless the co-chairs  
4 determine that there is good cause to  
5 begin such hearing on an earlier date.

6 (II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A  
7 witness appearing before the Commis-  
8 sion shall file a written statement of  
9 the proposed testimony of the witness  
10 not later than 2 days before the date  
11 of the appearance of the witness, un-  
12 less the co-chairs of the Commission  
13 determine that there is good cause for  
14 the witness to not file the written  
15 statement or waive the requirement.

16 (iii) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—The  
17 Commission shall hold not less than 6  
18 hearings under this subparagraph, which  
19 shall include—

20 (I) field hearings throughout the  
21 United States;

22 (II) hearings to solicit testimony  
23 from appropriate officials of the exec-  
24 utive branch; and

1 (III) hearings to solicit testimony  
2 from Members of Congress (in this  
3 subclause defined as a member of the  
4 Senate or the House of Representa-  
5 tives, a Delegate to the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives, and the Resident Com-  
7 missioner from Puerto Rico).

8 (F) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CON-  
9 SULTATION.—Upon written request of the co-  
10 chairs of the Commission, the head of a Federal  
11 agency (including a legislative branch agency)  
12 shall provide technical assistance to, and con-  
13 sult with, the Commission in order for the  
14 members Commission to carry out the duties of  
15 the Commission.

16 (G) OUTSIDE EXPERT.—Any outside ex-  
17 pert appointed to the Commission—

18 (i) shall not be considered to be a  
19 Federal employee for any purpose by rea-  
20 son of service on the Commission; and

21 (ii) shall be allowed travel expenses,  
22 including per diem in lieu of subsistence,  
23 at rates authorized for employees of agen-  
24 cies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of  
25 title 5, United States Code, while away

1 from the home or regular place of business  
2 of the outside expert in the performance of  
3 services for the Commission.

4 (5) STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of Com-  
6 mission may jointly appoint and fix the com-  
7 pensation of staff of the Commission as the co-  
8 chairs determine necessary, in accordance with  
9 the guidelines, rules, and requirements relating  
10 to employees of the Senate.

11 (B) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—

12 (i) SENATE.—A member of the Com-  
13 mission appointed by a Member of the  
14 Senate and staff of the Commission shall  
15 adhere to the ethics rules of the Senate.

16 (ii) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A  
17 member of the Commission appointed by a  
18 Member of the House of Representatives  
19 shall be governed by the ethics rules and  
20 requirements of the House of Representa-  
21 tives.

22 (6) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall ter-  
23minate 30 days after the date the Commission sub-  
24mits the final report under paragraph (2)(D)(v).

1       (b) FUNDING.—Funding for the Commission shall be  
2 derived in equal portions from—

3           (1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the  
4 appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, sub-  
5 ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and

6           (2) the applicable accounts of the House of  
7 Representatives.

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