

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1150

To establish the Commission on Economic Indicators to conduct a study and submit a report containing recommendations concerning the appropriateness and accuracy of the methodology, calculations, and reporting used by the Government relating to certain economic indicators.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. DREIER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SHULER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To establish the Commission on Economic Indicators to conduct a study and submit a report containing recommendations concerning the appropriateness and accuracy of the methodology, calculations, and reporting used by the Government relating to certain economic indicators.

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 “Commission on Eco-  
5 nomic Indicators Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Federal and State governments and pri-  
4 vate sector entities depend on the economic statistics  
5 published by the Federal Government;

6 (2) questions have been raised about the accu-  
7 racy of various measures including productivity, pov-  
8 erty, inflation, employment and unemployment, and  
9 wages and income; and

10 (3) it is essential that these indicators accu-  
11 rately reflect underlying economic activity and condi-  
12 tions.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Com-  
15 mission on Economic Indicators (in this Act referred to  
16 as the “Commission”).

17 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be  
19 composed of 8 members of whom—

20 (A) 2 shall be appointed by the majority  
21 leader of the Senate, in consultation with the  
22 chairmen and ranking members of the Com-  
23 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
24 of the Senate, the Committee on Finance of the  
25 Senate, and the Joint Economic Committee;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Joint Economic Committee;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Economic Committee; and

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Economic Committee.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission shall be—

(A) appointed on a nonpartisan basis; and

(B) experts in the fields of economics, statistics, or other related professions.

1           (3) DATE.—The appointments of the members  
2           of the Commission shall be made not later than 60  
3           days after the date of enactment of this Act.

4           (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-  
5           bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any  
6           vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but  
7           shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-  
8           ment.

9           (d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after  
10          the date on which all members of the Commission have  
11          been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meet-  
12          ing.

13          (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the  
14          call of the Chairman.

15          (f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the  
16          Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-  
17          ber of members may hold hearings.

18          (g) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Commis-  
19          sion shall select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from  
20          among its members.

21       **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

22          (a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study  
23          of—

24                (1) economic statistics collected and reported by  
25          United States Government agencies, including na-

1        tional income, employment and unemployment,  
2        wages, personal income, wealth, savings, debt, pro-  
3        ductivity, inflation, and international trade and cap-  
4        ital flows; and

5            (2) ways to improve the related statistical  
6        measurements.

7        (b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under  
8 this section, the Commission shall consult with—

9            (1) the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board  
10        of Governors;

11            (2) the Secretary of Commerce;

12            (3) the Secretary of Labor;

13            (4) the Secretary of the Treasury;

14            (5) the Chairman of the Council of Economic  
15        Advisers; and

16            (6) the Comptroller General of the United  
17        States.

18        (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
19 of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission  
20 shall submit a report to Congress which shall contain a  
21 detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the  
22 Commission, together with recommendations for such leg-  
23 islation and administrative actions as the Commission con-  
24 siders appropriate, including a recommendation of the ap-

1 propriateness of establishing a similar commission after  
2 the termination of the Commission.

3 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such  
5 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such  
6 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission  
7 considers advisable to carry out this Act.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
9 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-  
10 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-  
11 siders necessary to carry out this Act. Upon request of  
12 the Chairman of the Commission, the head of such depart-  
13 ment or agency shall furnish such information to the Com-  
14 mission. The Commission shall maintain the same level of  
15 confidentiality for such information made available under  
16 this subsection as is required of the head of the depart-  
17 ment or agency from which the information was obtained.

18 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use  
19 the United States mails in the same manner and under  
20 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of  
21 the Federal Government.

22 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

23 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of  
24 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the  
25 Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal

1 to the daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate of  
2 basic pay for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule under  
3 section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day  
4 (including travel time) during which such member is en-  
5 gaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.  
6 All members of the Commission who are officers or em-  
7 ployees of the United States shall serve without compensa-  
8 tion in addition to that received for their services as offi-  
9 cers or employees of the United States.

10 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-  
11 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per  
12 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-  
13 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title  
14 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or  
15 regular places of business in the performance of services  
16 for the Commission.

17 (c) STAFF.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairman of the Com-  
19 mission may, without regard to the civil service laws  
20 and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive  
21 director and such other additional personnel as may  
22 be necessary to enable the Commission to perform  
23 its duties. The employment of an executive director  
24 shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

1           (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairman of the  
2       Commission may fix the compensation of the execu-  
3       tive director and other personnel without regard to  
4       chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title  
5       5, United States Code, relating to classification of  
6       positions and General Schedule pay rates, except  
7       that the rate of pay for the executive director and  
8       other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for  
9       level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316  
10      of such title.

11           (3) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

12           (A) IN GENERAL.—The executive director  
13       and any personnel of the Commission who are  
14       employees shall be employees under section  
15       2105 of title 5, United States Code, for pur-  
16       poses of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89,  
17       89A, 89B, and 90 of that title.

18           (B) MEMBERS OF BOARD.—Subparagraph  
19       (A) shall not be construed to apply to members  
20       of the Commission.

21           (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any  
22       Federal Government employee may be detailed to the  
23       Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall  
24       be without interruption or loss of civil service status or  
25       privilege.

1       (e) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-**  
2 **TENT SERVICES.**—The Chairman of the Commission may  
3 procure temporary and intermittent services under section  
4 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individ-  
5 uals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual  
6 rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive  
7 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

8 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

9       The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the  
10 date on which the Commission submits its report under  
11 section 4.

12 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
14 as necessary to carry out this Act.

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