

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5891

To direct the Bureau of the Census to publish improved annual measures of family income for use in more accurately determining the extent of poverty in the United States and the anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and tax programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2010

Mr. LINDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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

A BILL

To direct the Bureau of the Census to publish improved annual measures of family income for use in more accurately determining the extent of poverty in the United States and the anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and tax programs, 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 “Poverty Measurement
5 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED MEASURES OF INCOME AND POVERTY.**

2 Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1301—1320b–21) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1150A. IMPROVED MEASURES OF INCOME AND POV-**
6 **ERTY.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to more accurately de-
8 termine the extent of poverty in the United States, and
9 the anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and
10 tax programs, the Bureau of the Census shall publish an-
11 nually statistics on levels of family income in the United
12 States. Such statistics shall take into account, at a min-
13 imum, the full benefits poverty income measure and the
14 partial benefits poverty income measure, as follows:

15 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) FULL BENEFITS POVERTY INCOME MEAS-
17 URE.—The term ‘full benefits poverty income meas-
18 ure’ means the sum of the partial benefits poverty
19 income measure and other noncash benefits (includ-
20 ing supplemental nutrition assistance benefits, hous-
21 ing subsidies, the actuarial value of health insurance
22 coverage, and any other State or Federal means-
23 tested benefits) attributable to the members of the
24 household involved, including non-related members.
25 In calculating the sum, the Bureau of the Census

1 shall apply its current disposable income method-
2 ology, which includes—

3 “(A) earnings, unemployment compensa-
4 tion under Federal or State law, worker’s com-
5 pensation, social security benefits, supplemental
6 security income benefits, public assistance (in-
7 cluding TANF or other welfare benefits), vet-
8 erans’ payments, survivor benefits, disability
9 benefits, retirement income, interest, dividends,
10 rent, other income, alimony, child support, edu-
11 cation assistance, capital gains, the market
12 value of supplemental nutrition assistance bene-
13 fits, the market value of school lunch program
14 benefits, housing subsidies, and estimated re-
15 turn to home equity;

16 “(B) the net Federal tax liability or re-
17 fund, after taking account of any refundable
18 credits such as the earned income credit or the
19 child tax credit; and

20 “(C) capital losses, State income tax
21 liability after State refundable credits, Federal
22 Insurance Contributions Act taxes, retirement
23 contributions (including Federal retirement
24 payroll contributions), property taxes, and esti-

1 mated work expenses (such as child care and
2 work-related transportation expenses).

3 “(2) PARTIAL BENEFITS POVERTY INCOME
4 MEASURE.—In this section, the term ‘partial bene-
5 fits poverty income measure’ means money income,
6 as defined by the Bureau of the Census for purposes
7 of any survey relating to income or poverty in the
8 United States.

9 “(c) RATES AND OTHER DATA.—The Bureau of the
10 Census shall produce corresponding tables and graphs
11 showing for each year the following:

12 “(1) The poverty rate (and related data), deter-
13 mined by using the full benefits poverty income
14 measure.

15 “(2) The poverty rate (and related data), deter-
16 mined by using the partial benefits poverty income
17 measure.”.

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