

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 654

To require poverty impact statements for certain legislation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2009

Ms. LEE of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 require poverty impact statements for certain legislation.

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 Impact Trig-
5 ger Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. CERTAIN POVERTY IMPACT LEGISLATION SUBJECT**

7 **TO POINT OF ORDER.**

8 Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representa-
9 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new
10 clause:

1 **“ Certain legislation reported by committees**

2 “11. It shall not be in order to consider a bill or joint
3 resolution of a public nature authorizing an appropriation
4 of \$10,000,000 or more, unless—

5 “(a) the committee report accompanying the bill
6 or joint resolution includes a CBO Poverty Index Di-
7 vision impact statement; or

8 “(b) the chair of the committee reporting the
9 bill or joint resolution submits such statement to be
10 published in the Congressional Record before consid-
11 eration of the bill or joint resolution.”.

12 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE POVERTY IM-**
13 **PACT DIVISION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Congressional
15 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following new subsection:

17 “(h) CBO POVERTY IMPACT DIVISION.—

18 “(1) CREATION.—There is established within
19 the Office the CBO Poverty Impact Division (herein-
20 after in this subsection referred to as the ‘Division’).

21 “(2) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—

22 “(A) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF
23 IMPACT STATEMENT.—When a chair of a com-
24 mittee of the House of Representatives submits
25 a written request to the Division to prepare and
26 submit to the committee a CBO Poverty Index

1 Division impact statement, the Division shall
2 prepare and submit such statement to the com-
3 mittee not later than 30 days after such re-
4 quest.

5 “(B) CONTENT OF IMPACT STATEMENT.—
6 A CBO Poverty Index Division impact state-
7 ment shall include the following:

8 “(i) A projected ratio equal to the
9 amount of appropriations authorized in the
10 bill or joint resolution that will benefit in-
11 dividuals and families below the poverty
12 threshold over the total amount of appro-
13 priations authorized by the bill or joint res-
14 olution.

15 “(ii) A projection of the number of in-
16 dividual and family incomes—

17 “(I) that may decrease below the
18 poverty threshold because of the bill
19 or joint resolution; and

20 “(II) that may increase above the
21 poverty threshold because of the bill
22 or joint resolution.

23 “(iii) A projection as to how the legis-
24 lation improves access to basic human

1 services, including health care, housing,
2 and education.

3 “(C) POVERTY THRESHOLD DEFINED.—In
4 this subsection, the term ‘poverty threshold’
5 means an income level below 200 percent of the
6 poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the
7 Community Services Block Grant Act).”.

8 **SEC. 4. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.**

9 Section 2 of this Act is enacted by the House of Rep-
10 resentatives—

11 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
12 the House of Representatives and as such it shall be
13 considered as part of the rules of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and such rules shall supersede other
15 rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent
16 therewith; and

17 (2) with the full recognition of the constitu-
18 tional right of the House of Representatives to
19 change such rules at any time, in the same manner,
20 and to the same extent as in the case of any other
21 rule of the House of Representatives.

22 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any
24 bill or joint resolution reported by a committee of the

- 1 House of Representatives after the 90-day period begin-
- 2 ning on the date of enactment of this Act.

