

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.

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

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.

○