

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 715

To require a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to develop a methodology for measuring the cost of living in each State, and to require a study by the General Accounting Office to determine how Federal benefits would be increased in each State if the determination of such benefits were based on such methodology.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WEINER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Financial Services, 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 require a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to develop a methodology for measuring the cost of living in each State, and to require a study by the General Accounting Office to determine how Federal benefits would be increased in each State if the determination of such benefits were based on such methodology.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cost of Living Meas-  
3 urement and Index Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. STUDY BY BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—To improve Government manage-  
6 ment and the economy, efficiency, and management of  
7 Government operations and activities that rely on accurate  
8 economic information, the Commissioner of Labor Statis-  
9 tics shall conduct a study to develop a methodology for  
10 determining the cost of living in each State, that accounts  
11 for the costs of housing, goods, and services.

12 (b) ELEMENTS OF METHODOLOGY.—The method-  
13 ology developed under subsection (a) shall include indices  
14 for measuring the cost of living in a State.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act the Commissioner shall sub-  
17 mit to the Congress and the Comptroller General of the  
18 United States a report that contains the methodology de-  
19 veloped under this section.

20 **SEC. 3. STUDY BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
22 United States shall conduct a study in which the method-  
23 ology contained in the report submitted under section 2  
24 is applied to determine how Federal benefits provided to  
25 beneficiaries in each State would be increased if—

1           (1) determination of such benefits were based  
2           on the cost of living in each State, as determined  
3           under the methodology; and

4           (2) the methodology were applied subject to a  
5           hold harmless provision, so that Federal benefits  
6           vary under the methodology only by increasing for  
7           beneficiaries in States having a higher cost of living,  
8           in proportion to such higher cost.

9           (b) INCLUDED FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS.—The  
10          study under subsection (a) shall include determination of  
11          increases in benefits provided under the following:

12           (1) The Elementary and Secondary Education  
13          Act of 1965.

14           (2) Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
15          1986, relating to the earned income tax credit.

16           (3) All Federal housing assistance programs.

17          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date  
18          of receipt of the report from the Commissioner of Labor  
19          Statistics under section 2 the Comptroller General shall  
20          submit a report to the Congress that contains the fol-  
21          lowing:

22           (1) The determinations required under sub-  
23          sections (a) and (b).

1           (2) A description of any additional data that  
2           should be obtained and considered to confirm or im-  
3           prove those determinations.

4           (3) Recommendations for any changes in the  
5           methodology developed under section 2 that would  
6           ensure more accurate determination of the cost of  
7           living in a State, including any appropriate changes  
8           in the indices that should be used to measure such  
9           cost.

10          (4) The anticipated costs to the Federal Gov-  
11          ernment of using the methodology developed under  
12          section 2 in determining Federal benefits under the  
13          programs referred to in subsection (b), including any  
14          change in such costs that would result from imple-  
15          menting the recommendations under paragraph (3).

16          (5) Recommendations for any changes in law  
17          that are necessary or appropriate to ensure that the  
18          determination of Federal benefits provided to bene-  
19          ficiaries in a State is based on the cost of living in  
20          that State, except to the extent such determination  
21          would result in a reduction of benefits to bene-  
22          ficiaries in a State.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

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