

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2909

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved method to measure poverty so as to enable a better assessment of the effects of programs under the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT 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

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## A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved method to measure poverty so as to enable a better assessment of the effects of programs under the Social Security Act, 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 “Measuring American  
5 Poverty Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Poverty imposes substantial costs on all  
4 Americans that can be addressed through effective  
5 poverty reduction.

6 (2) States and cities throughout the country  
7 have acknowledged the need to reduce poverty and  
8 the role of the Federal Government as an essential  
9 partner.

10 (3) On January 22, 2008, the House of Rep-  
11 resentatives, by voice vote, passed House Concurrent  
12 Resolution 198 of the 110th Congress expressing the  
13 sense of the Congress that the United States should  
14 set a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the  
15 next 10 years.

16 (4) The poverty rate is a critical indicator of  
17 how widely shared prosperity is in the economy, and  
18 a key benchmark for targeting resources towards the  
19 most disadvantaged.

20 (5) The poverty measure is critical for efforts  
21 to strengthen and enlarge the middle class, as it in-  
22 dicates who falls from or struggles to join the middle  
23 class.

24 (6) The official poverty measure, while helpful,  
25 is based on outdated assumptions and fails to accu-

1 rately measure economic deprivation or take into ac-  
2 count the availability of many economic resources.

3 (7) The official poverty measure offers inad-  
4 equate guidance about the effectiveness of public  
5 anti-poverty efforts.

6 (8) In 1995, the National Academy of Sciences'  
7 Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance rec-  
8 ommended adoption of an improved poverty meas-  
9 ure, which addresses many shortcomings of the offi-  
10 cial poverty measure and which remains relevant  
11 and offers a starting point for an improved measure.

12 (9) Since even an improved poverty measure re-  
13 mains a measure of deprivation, not of adequacy, a  
14 measure of adequate income needed to reach a de-  
15 cent living standard is also necessary.

16 (10) Since an inability to access needed medical  
17 care is an important indicator of economic insecu-  
18 rity, a medical care risk measure would further en-  
19 hance understanding of Americans' well-being.

20 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

21 The purpose of this Act is to provide for an improved  
22 and updated method for measuring the extent to which  
23 families and individuals in the United States have suffi-  
24 cient income to allow a minimal level of consumption  
25 spending that meets their basic physical needs, including

1 food, shelter (including utilities), clothing, and other nec-  
2 essary items, in order to better assess the effects of certain  
3 policies and programs in reducing the prevalence and  
4 depth of poverty, to accurately gauge the level of economic  
5 deprivation, and to improve understanding of the tar-  
6 geting of public resources, without directly affecting the  
7 distribution of, or eligibility for, any Federal benefits or  
8 assistance.

9 **SEC. 4. MODERNIZATION OF THE MEASUREMENT OF POV-**  
10 **ERTY.**

11 Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 1301—1320b-21) is amended by adding at the  
13 end the following:

14 **“SEC. 1150A. MODERNIZATION OF THE MEASUREMENT OF**  
15 **POVERTY.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of the Census, in  
17 collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after  
18 consultation about methodology with other Federal statis-  
19 tical agencies and outside experts, shall, to the extent pos-  
20 sible and based on the best available data, calculate mod-  
21 ern poverty thresholds, and modern poverty rates as pro-  
22 vided for in subsection (d), for each calendar year (includ-  
23 ing any calendar year before the first year for which the  
24 first annual report is published, for which the information  
25 needed to perform the calculations is available or can be

1 estimated with a reasonable degree of confidence, as deter-  
2 mined by the Bureau of the Census) in accordance with  
3 this section.

4 “(b) NO EFFECT ON BENEFIT PROGRAMS.—This  
5 section shall not be interpreted to modify or authorize  
6 modification of eligibility of any entity for, or the amount  
7 or kind of benefits or assistance to be provided to any enti-  
8 ty under, any program or activity funded, in whole or in  
9 part, with Federal funds.

10 “(c) MODERN POVERTY THRESHOLDS.—

11 “(1) CONSUMPTION DISTRIBUTION FOR REF-  
12 ERENCE FAMILY.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 12 months  
14 after the date of the enactment of this section,  
15 the Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Labor  
16 Statistics shall choose—

17 “(i) the most appropriate distribution  
18 of consumption expenditures (including the  
19 value of relevant amounts described in sub-  
20 section (d)(3) or that would otherwise be  
21 described in subsection (d)(3) if included  
22 in the distribution) on food, clothing, and  
23 shelter (including utilities), which may, if  
24 appropriate, exclude families receiving sub-

1                   sidies for food, clothing, or shelter (includ-  
2                   ing utilities); and

3                   “(ii) the reference family for the mod-  
4                   ern poverty measure.

5                   “(B) CALCULATION FOR REFERENCE FAM-  
6                   ILY.—The modern poverty threshold for a ref-  
7                   erence family, as determined under subpara-  
8                   graph (A), shall be an amount equal to the av-  
9                   erage of 120 percent of the 33rd percentile of  
10                  the distribution chosen under subparagraph (A)  
11                  allowing for calculations to rely on a limited  
12                  band converging on this percentile, during 4 or  
13                  more of the most recent years for which data  
14                  is available from the Consumer Expenditure  
15                  Survey, a superior Federal Government source  
16                  of data, or some combination of such sources as  
17                  determined by the Bureau of the Census and  
18                  the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The threshold  
19                  shall be updated no less often than annually  
20                  using this method.

21                  “(C) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding  
22                  any other provision of this section, insofar as  
23                  the amounts described in subparagraphs (F)  
24                  and (G) of subsection (d)(3) are not easily in-  
25                  cluded in the distribution referred to in sub-

1 paragraph (B) of this paragraph, the Bureau of  
2 the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
3 shall develop methods for including, and shall  
4 include, the actual or estimated amounts in the  
5 distribution.

6 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR FAMILY SIZE AND COM-  
7 POSITION, AND FOR GEOGRAPHIC COST VARI-  
8 ATION.—The Bureau of the Census, in collaboration  
9 with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau  
10 of Economic Analysis, and in consultation with other  
11 relevant Federal statistical agencies, shall adjust the  
12 modern poverty threshold calculated under para-  
13 graph (1) of this subsection—

14 “(A) for other family sizes and composi-  
15 tions, using the best available equivalence scales  
16 that consider economies of scale and any special  
17 needs of children, including young children; and

18 “(B) to the maximum extent possible and  
19 not earlier or later than the inclusion of State  
20 and local taxes and transfers as described in  
21 subsection (e)(4), for differences in the costs for  
22 the goods and services included in the threshold  
23 among States, sub-State non-metropolitan  
24 areas, and metropolitan areas.

1           “(3) ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSING STATUS.—

2           To the maximum extent possible, the calculation for  
3           the threshold for the reference family described in  
4           paragraph (1) and the adjustments to the modern  
5           poverty thresholds for varied family sizes and com-  
6           positions under paragraph (2)(A) shall be made sep-  
7           arately for each of the following categories of fami-  
8           lies:

9                   “(A) Families who own their primary resi-  
10                  dence and do not have a mortgage secured by  
11                  the residence.

12                  “(B) All other families, or for any sub-  
13                  groups of all other families if the Bureau of  
14                  Labor Statistics determines that reliable data  
15                  indicates substantial variation in the amounts  
16                  of money needed by the subgroups to purchase  
17                  similar quality shelter.

18           “(4) ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF WEIGHTED AV-  
19           ERAGE POVERTY THRESHOLDS.—Not less often than  
20           annually, the Bureau of the Census, in collaboration  
21           with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall publish—

22                   “(A) the average poverty threshold for  
23                  each family size, determined by weighting each  
24                  threshold by the proportion of families of that  
25                  size to which the threshold applies, and

1           “(B) the average poverty threshold for  
2 each family size in each category described in  
3 paragraph (3), determined by weighting each  
4 threshold by the proportion of families of that  
5 size in that category and to which the threshold  
6 applies.

7           “(d) MODERN POVERTY RATES.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of the Census  
9 shall use the modern poverty thresholds calculated  
10 under subsection (c) to calculate, at a minimum—

11           “(A) the number and percentage of fami-  
12 lies in the United States whose adjusted market  
13 income does not exceed the applicable modern  
14 poverty threshold, and the number and percent-  
15 age of individuals in the United States who are  
16 members of such families;

17           “(B) the number and percentage of fami-  
18 lies in the United States whose adjusted dispos-  
19 able income does not exceed the applicable mod-  
20 ern poverty threshold, and the number and per-  
21 centage of individuals in the United States who  
22 are members of such families; and

23           “(C) the numbers and percentages de-  
24 scribed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for var-  
25 ious demographic, geographic, and other sub-

1 groups of families in the United States, and for  
2 individuals who are members of such subgroups  
3 of families.

4 “(2) ADJUSTED MARKET INCOME.—For pur-  
5 poses of this section, the adjusted market income of  
6 a family is—

7 “(A) the total of the amounts received by  
8 any member of the family during a calendar  
9 year from wages, salaries, and self-employment  
10 income, interest income, dividend income, real-  
11 ized capital gains, rents, royalties, estate and  
12 trust income, a qualified retirement plan (as de-  
13 fined in section 4974(c) of the Internal Revenue  
14 Code of 1986), a plan described in section  
15 457(b) of such Code, or any other plan, con-  
16 tract, annuity, or account payments or distribu-  
17 tions from which are in the nature of a retire-  
18 ment benefit, survivor and disability pensions  
19 and annuities, paid-up insurance policies, ali-  
20 mony payments, child support payments, pri-  
21 vate workers’ compensation, regular contribu-  
22 tions from persons not living with the family,  
23 and other relevant income as determined by the  
24 Bureau of the Census except for income de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (C), (D), (E), or (F)  
2 of paragraph (3) of this subsection; minus

3 “(B) the total of the amounts paid by any  
4 member of the family during the calendar year  
5 for—

6 “(i) alimony or the support or mainte-  
7 nance of a noncustodial child;

8 “(ii) medical expenses; and

9 “(iii) necessary work-related expenses,  
10 including—

11 “(I) dependent care expenses;

12 “(II) transportation expenses;

13 and

14 “(III) if there is reliable data  
15 therefor, work-search expenses.

16 “(3) ADJUSTED DISPOSABLE INCOME.—For  
17 purposes of this section, the Bureau of the Census  
18 shall define the adjusted disposable income of a fam-  
19 ily as follows, excluding any amounts that are not  
20 taken into account in determining poverty thresholds  
21 under this section:

22 “(A) the adjusted market income of the  
23 family; minus

24 “(B) the total of the amounts paid by any  
25 member of the family during the calendar year

1 to cover Federal income tax liability or Federal  
2 payroll tax liability, or if such information is  
3 not available, the total of any such liabilities  
4 that are payable by any member of the family  
5 during the calendar year; plus

6 “(C) the total of the amounts received by  
7 any member of the family during the calendar  
8 year from refundable Federal tax credits, or if  
9 such information is not available, the total of  
10 any such credits that are expected by any mem-  
11 ber of the family to be received during the cal-  
12 endar year; plus

13 “(D) the total of the amounts received by  
14 any member of the family during the calendar  
15 year which may be used to meet food, clothing,  
16 or shelter (including utilities) needs—

17 “(i) referred to in section  
18 459(h)(1)(A)(ii) of this Act; or

19 “(ii) paid under a State or local pro-  
20 gram funded under part A of title IV of  
21 this Act, the supplemental security income  
22 program under title XVI of this Act, or  
23 any other Federal program or activity the  
24 eligibility for which is based, in whole or in  
25 part, on need; plus

1           “(E) the total dollar value of any food as-  
2           sistance benefit (as defined in section 3(d) of  
3           the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) received  
4           by any member of the family during the cal-  
5           endar year under section 8 of the Food and Nu-  
6           trition Act of 2008; plus

7           “(F) the total of the amounts received by  
8           any member of the family during the calendar  
9           year as described in section 2605(b)(2) of the  
10          Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of  
11          1981; plus

12          “(G) the total of the amounts received by  
13          any member of the family during the calendar  
14          year as government-funded nonmedical in-kind,  
15          cash and near cash benefits that help families  
16          meet food, clothing, and shelter (including utili-  
17          ties) needs and are not intended to reimburse  
18          or subsidize other expenses, including nutrition  
19          programs, housing subsidies, and the value of  
20          public housing, not to exceed to the lesser of  
21          the share of the threshold defined in subsection  
22          (c) attributable to the component of the thresh-  
23          old towards which the benefit may be used or  
24          the estimated monetary value of the benefit to  
25          the recipient, to the extent possible.

1           “(4) INCLUSION OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES  
2           AND TRANSFERS.—Within 5 years after the date of  
3           the enactment of this section, the Bureau of the  
4           Census, in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor  
5           Statistics, and after consultation with other relevant  
6           statistical agencies, shall modify the calculation  
7           under paragraph (3) to take account of State and  
8           local taxes and transfers.

9           “(e) FAMILIES.—For purposes of this section, the  
10          term ‘family’ includes—

11           “(1) an individual who is living alone;

12           “(2) all members of a household who are re-  
13          lated by blood, marriage, adoption, or other legal ar-  
14          rangement; and

15           “(3) any unrelated individuals living together  
16          whom the Bureau of the Census, in collaboration  
17          with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after assessing  
18          existing research and undertaking any necessary new  
19          research, determines should be treated as a family  
20          for purposes of this section.

21           “(f) REPORT ON POVERTY RATES.—Not less fre-  
22          quently than annually, the Bureau of the Census shall  
23          produce, release simultaneously with publication and an-  
24          nouncement of poverty thresholds and rates under the tra-  
25          ditional poverty measure, and make readily accessible to

1 the public, a report which contains detailed tables and ex-  
2 planations of poverty rates—

3 “(1) as determined on the basis of adjusted  
4 market income;

5 “(2) as determined on the basis of adjusted dis-  
6 posable income; and

7 “(3) as determined on the basis of the tradi-  
8 tional poverty measure referred to in subsection (g).

9 “(g) REFERENCES TO EXISTING POVERTY MEASURE  
10 AS THE ‘TRADITIONAL POVERTY MEASURE’.—To the ex-  
11 tent practicable, whenever an officer or employee of the  
12 Federal Government refers to the poverty measure out-  
13 lined in Office of Management and Budget Statistical Pol-  
14 icy Directive 14, the officer or employee, as the case may  
15 be, shall refer to that measure as the ‘traditional poverty  
16 measure’. Any reference in a law, regulation, document,  
17 paper, or other record of the United States to the poverty  
18 measure outlined in Office of Management and Budget  
19 Statistical Policy Directive 14 is deemed to be a reference  
20 to the ‘traditional poverty measure’.

21 “(h) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION BASED ON MOD-  
22 ERN POVERTY THRESHOLDS AND RATES IN PUBLISHED  
23 DOCUMENTS CONTAINING INFORMATION BASED ON TRA-  
24 DITIONAL POVERTY THRESHOLDS AND RATES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent possible, a  
2 relevant Federal statistical agency that publishes a  
3 document which contains information about a sub-  
4 ject, which was produced using the poverty measure  
5 outlined in Office of Management and Budget Sta-  
6 tistical Policy Directive 14, shall include in the docu-  
7 ment information about the subject, which is pro-  
8 duced using the modern poverty thresholds and mod-  
9 ern poverty rates calculated under this section.

10           “(2) PUBLIC RELEASE OF MICRODATA FILE  
11 AND ONLINE TOOLS.—On releasing a document de-  
12 scribed in paragraph (1), the Bureau of the Census  
13 shall release to the public, while maintaining privacy  
14 and confidentiality standards required by Federal  
15 law—

16           “(A) microdata files (modified as necessary  
17 to avoid unduly increasing the risk of serious  
18 primary and secondary disclosure problems)  
19 containing all of the individual variables that  
20 are necessary to compute the published modern  
21 poverty rates, as well as poverty rates deter-  
22 mined on the basis of the traditional poverty  
23 measure referred to in subsection (g), and to  
24 calculate poverty rates using different defini-  
25 tions of income and poverty thresholds;

1           “(B) other public online tools that enable  
2 detailed poverty rates to be calculated using dif-  
3 ferent definitions of income and poverty and  
4 adequacy thresholds, including  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{5}$  of  
5 median income; and

6           “(C) the definitions of income set forth in,  
7 and the poverty thresholds established under,  
8 this section.

9           “(i) CONSULTATION ON IMPROVING CALCULATION  
10 OF THE MODERN POVERTY THRESHOLDS OR MODERN  
11 POVERTY RATES; REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—From  
12 time to time, and no less frequently than every 5 years,  
13 the Bureau of the Census, in collaboration with the Bu-  
14 reau of Labor Statistics, shall—

15           “(1) consult with other relevant Federal statis-  
16 tical agencies and outside experts on whether the  
17 method of, and sources of data for, calculating the  
18 modern poverty thresholds or modern poverty rates  
19 provided for in this section could be improved so as  
20 to better measure, including through adjustments  
21 for any underreporting or other misreporting of in-  
22 come and adjustments for families with greater in-  
23 come needs (such as those including persons with  
24 disabilities), the extent to which families in the  
25 United States are able to secure sufficient income to

1 allow a minimal level of consumption that meets  
2 their basic physical needs, including food, clothing,  
3 shelter (including utilities), and other necessary  
4 items; and

5 “(2) report to the Congress on any need for any  
6 such improvement.

7 “(j) RELEVANT FEDERAL STATISTICAL AGENCY.—  
8 In this section, the term ‘relevant Federal statistical agen-  
9 cy’ means a Federal agency that—

10 “(1) is listed as a major statistical program of  
11 the United States in the annual report most recently  
12 made under section 3504(e)(2) of title 44, United  
13 States Code; or

14 “(2) the Office of Management and Budget ex-  
15 pects to be so listed in the next such report.

16 “(k) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
17 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are author-  
18 ized to be appropriated—

19 “(1) to the Bureau of the Census—

20 “(A) for fiscal year 2010, not more than  
21 \$5,000,000; and

22 “(B) for each succeeding fiscal year, not  
23 more than the amount specified in subpara-  
24 graph (A), multiplied by the sum of 1 plus the  
25 percentage (if any) by which the Consumer

1 Price Index for All-Urban Consumers for Sep-  
2 tember of the fiscal year then preceding the  
3 succeeding fiscal year exceeds the index for  
4 September of the fiscal year second preceding  
5 the succeeding fiscal year; and

6 “(2) to the Bureau of Labor Statistics—

7 “(A) for fiscal year 2010, not more than  
8 \$2,500,000; and

9 “(B) for each succeeding fiscal year, not  
10 more than the amount specified in subpara-  
11 graph (A), multiplied by the sum of 1 plus the  
12 percentage (if any) by which the Consumer  
13 Price Index for All-Urban Consumers for Sep-  
14 tember of the fiscal year then preceding the  
15 succeeding fiscal year exceeds the index for  
16 September of the fiscal year second preceding  
17 the succeeding fiscal year.

18 **“SEC. 1150B. STUDY OF DECENT LIVING STANDARD.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of the Census, in  
20 collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall  
21 enter into a contract with the National Academy of  
22 Sciences which obligates the National Academy of  
23 Sciences to develop and publish a method of calculating  
24 a decent living standard threshold, including relevant vari-  
25 ations for geography, family size, and other such factors,

1 and a method of measuring the extent to which the income  
2 of families in the United States is sufficient to meet the  
3 threshold. The National Academy of Sciences shall con-  
4 sider and critically review the growing body of work in  
5 this area, comparing different underlying concepts in ex-  
6 isting approaches such as family budgets, basic needs  
7 budgets, and self-sufficiency standards, and comment on  
8 the best ways to move forward towards building con-  
9 sensus.

10       “(b) TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Bureau of the Cen-  
11 sus, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other relevant  
12 statistical agencies shall provide necessary technical sup-  
13 port for the efforts to develop the threshold and method  
14 referred to in subsection (a).

15       “(c) DEFINITION OF DECENT LIVING STANDARD  
16 THRESHOLD.—In subsection (a), the term ‘decent living  
17 standard threshold’ means the amount of annual income  
18 that would allow an individual to live at a safe and decent,  
19 but modest, standard of living. The decent living standard  
20 shall be a measure of income adequacy reflecting the re-  
21 sources necessary to meet basic needs and live beyond dep-  
22 rivation.

23       “(d) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
24 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are author-  
25 ized to be appropriated to the Bureau of the Census—

1           “(1) for fiscal year 2010, not more than  
2           \$500,000; and

3           “(2) for fiscal year 2011, not more than the  
4           amount specified in paragraph (1), multiplied by the  
5           sum of 1 plus the percentage (if any) by which the  
6           Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers for  
7           September 2010 exceeds the index for September  
8           2009.

9           **“SEC. 1150C. STUDY OF MEDICAL CARE RISK MEASURE.**

10          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of the Census, in  
11          collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the  
12          Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the  
13          Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shall enter  
14          into a contract with the National Academies, including the  
15          National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medi-  
16          cine, which obligates the National Academies to develop  
17          and publish a method of measuring the extent of medical  
18          care risk in the United States and calculating the number  
19          and percentage of individuals in the United States who,  
20          to varying degrees, lack adequate health insurance, plac-  
21          ing them at risk of being unable to afford needed treat-  
22          ment.

23          “(b) TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Bureau of the Cen-  
24          sus, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Agency for  
25          Healthcare Research and Quality and the Centers for

1 Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other relevant health  
2 and statistical agencies shall provide necessary technical  
3 support for the efforts to develop the method and measure  
4 referred to in subsection (a).

5 “(c) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL CARE RISK.—In sub-  
6 section (a), the term ‘medical care risk’ means the extent  
7 to which individuals are at risk of being unable to afford  
8 needed medical treatment, services, goods, and care.

9 “(d) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
10 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are author-  
11 ized to be appropriated to the Bureau of the Census—

12 “(1) for fiscal year 2010, not more than  
13 \$500,000; and

14 “(2) for fiscal year 2011, not more than the  
15 amount specified in paragraph (1), multiplied by the  
16 sum of 1 plus the percentage (if any) by which the  
17 Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers for  
18 September 2010 exceeds the index for September  
19 2009.

20 **“SEC. 1150D. STUDY TO IMPROVE STATE AND LOCAL POV-  
21 ERTY MEASUREMENT.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of the Census, in  
23 consultation with other relevant statistical agencies, shall  
24 enter into a contract with the National Academy of  
25 Sciences which obligates the National Academy of

1 Sciences to develop a set of recommendations for methods  
2 to implement annual modern poverty measurement at the  
3 State and local level and a timeframe for the implementa-  
4 tion. The methods to be examined shall include revisions  
5 to the American Community Survey questionnaire, use of  
6 administrative records, and use of modeled estimates.

7 “(b) TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Bureau of the Cen-  
8 sus and other relevant statistical agencies shall provide  
9 necessary technical support for the effort referred to in  
10 subsection (a).

11 “(c) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
12 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are author-  
13 ized to be appropriated to the Bureau of the Census—

14 “(1) for fiscal year 2010, not more than  
15 \$250,000; and

16 “(2) for fiscal year 2011, not more than the  
17 amount specified in paragraph (1); multiplied by the  
18 sum of 1 plus the percentage (if any) by which the  
19 Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers for  
20 September 2010 exceeds the index for September  
21 2009.”.

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