

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 821

To require a commission to study ways to improve the accuracy of the consumer price indexes and to immediately modify the calculation of such indexes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 15), 1995

Mr. KERREY (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require a commission to study ways to improve the accuracy of the consumer price indexes and to immediately modify the calculation of such indexes.

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. STUDY REGARDING POSSIBLE BIAS IN**
4 **CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY COMMISSION.—
6 There is established a commission of 7 members, including
7 the Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, to study
8 ways to improve the accuracy of the consumer price in-
9 dexes in stating the rate of inflation in the United States

1 economy. Of the remaining 6 members of the commission,
2 the Director of the Congressional Budget Office and the
3 Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall
4 each appoint 3 members.

5 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

6 (1) HEARINGS.—The commission may hold
7 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
8 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
9 the commission considers advisable to carry out the
10 purposes of this section.

11 (2) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each mem-
12 ber of the commission who is not an officer or em-
13 ployee of the Federal Government shall be com-
14 pensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of
15 the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV
16 of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title
17 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel
18 time) during which such member is engaged in the
19 performance of the duties of the commission. All
20 members of the commission who are officers or em-
21 ployees of the United States shall serve without com-
22 pensation in addition to that received for their serv-
23 ices as officers or employees of the United States.

24 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
25 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-

1 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
2 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of
3 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
4 away from their homes or regular places of business
5 in the performance of services for the commission.

6 (4) STAFF.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairman of the
8 commission may, without regard to the civil
9 service laws and regulations, appoint and termi-
10 nate such additional personnel as may be nec-
11 essary to enable the commission to perform its
12 duties.

13 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairman of
14 the commission may fix the compensation of the
15 other personnel without regard to the provisions
16 of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
17 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classi-
18 fication of positions and General Schedule pay
19 rates, except that the rate of pay for the other
20 personnel may not exceed the rate payable for
21 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
22 5316 of such title.

23 (5) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

24 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed
25 to the commission without reimbursement, and such

1 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil
2 service status or privilege.

3 (6) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-
4 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairman of the commis-
5 sion may procure temporary and intermittent serv-
6 ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States
7 Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed
8 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay
9 prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule
10 under section 5316 of such title.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the commission shall submit
13 a report to the Secretary of Labor and the Congress which
14 shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and con-
15 clusions of the commission, together with its recommenda-
16 tions for such legislation and administrative actions as it
17 considers appropriate.

18 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated \$250,000 to the com-
20 mission to carry out the purposes of this Act. Any sums
21 so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

22 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF CPI CALCULATION.**

23 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with re-
24 spect to calculations made after December 31, 1995, the
25 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor

1 shall reduce the annual percentage change in the
2 Consumer Price Indexes, as determined without regard to
3 this section, by .5 percentage point.

