

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8600

To provide an emergency cost-of-living increase for social security beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2020

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 provide an emergency cost-of-living increase for social security beneficiaries, 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 “COVID–19 Emergency
5 Social Security Cost of Living Increase Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective with the month of No-
8 vember 2020, the Commissioner of Social Security shall

1 increase each of the amounts described in subclauses (I)
2 through (III) of section 215(i)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Se-
3 curity Act by not less than 3 percent.

4 (b) TREATMENT OF INCREASE.—For purposes of ap-
5 plying subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 215(i)(1) of
6 the Social Security Act in calendar year 2020, the increase
7 under subsection (a) shall be treated as a general benefit
8 increase under title II of the Social Security Act.

9 **SEC. 3. COMPUTATION OF COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES**
10 **BASED ON CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR EL-**
11 **DERLY CONSUMERS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(i)(1) of the Social Se-
13 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(1)) is amended by adding
14 at the end the following new subparagraph:

15 “(H) the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means
16 the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers
17 (CPI–E, as published by the Bureau of Labor Sta-
18 tistics of the Department of Labor).”.

19 (b) APPLICATION TO PRE-1979 LAW.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(i)(1) of the So-
21 cial Security Act as in effect in December 1978, and
22 as applied in certain cases under the provisions of
23 such Act as in effect after December 1978, is
24 amended by adding at the end the following new
25 subparagraph:

1 “(D) the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means
2 the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers
3 (CPI–E, as published by the Bureau of Labor Sta-
4 tistics of the Department of Labor).”.

5 (2) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Section 215(i)(4)
6 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(4)) is
7 amended—

8 (A) by striking “and by section 9001” and
9 inserting “, section 9001”; and

10 (B) by inserting “and section 3 of the
11 COVID–19 Emergency Social Security Cost of
12 Living Increase Act of 2020,” after “1986,”.

13 (c) PUBLICATION OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR
14 ELDERLY CONSUMERS.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics
15 of the Department of Labor shall prepare and publish the
16 index authorized by section 191 of the Older Americans
17 Amendments Act of 1987 (29 U.S.C. 2 note) for each cal-
18 endar month, beginning with the date of enactment of this
19 Act, and such index shall be known as the “Consumer
20 Price Index for Elderly Consumers”.

21 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 subsection (a) shall apply to determinations made with re-
23 spect to cost-of-living computation quarters (as defined in

- 1 section 215(i)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
- 2 415(i)(1)(B))) ending on or after September 30, 2021.

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