

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6399

To establish the United States Working Group on Inflation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2022

Mr. EMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish the United States Working Group on Inflation.

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 “Inflation Working
5 Group Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
8 legislative branch the United States Working Group on In-
9 flation (in this Act referred to as the “Working Group”).

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Working Group shall be
11 composed of 17 members. Members of the Working Group
12 shall be appointed in accordance with the following:

1 (1) Four members shall be appointed by the
2 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3 (2) Four members shall be appointed by the mi-
4 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

5 (3) Four members shall be appointed by the
6 majority leader of the Senate.

7 (4) Four members shall be appointed by the mi-
8 nority leader of the Senate.

9 (5) One member, who shall serve as the Chair-
10 person of the Working Group, shall be jointly ap-
11 pointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-
12 tives, the minority leader of the House of Represent-
13 atives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the mi-
14 nority leader of the Senate.

15 (c) QUALIFICATIONS; INITIAL MEETING.—

16 (1) QUALIFICATION.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that individuals appointed to the Working
18 Group should be prominent United States citizens
19 with national recognition and significant depth of ex-
20 perience in macroeconomic policy.

21 (2) INITIAL MEETING.—The Working Group
22 shall meet and begin the initial operation of the
23 Working Group as soon as practicable, but not ear-
24 lier than 15 days after the date of the enactment of
25 this Act.

1 (d) TIMING FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members of the
2 Working Group shall be appointed not later than 10 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 (e) QUORUM; VACANCIES.—After its initial meeting,
5 the Working Group shall meet upon the call of the Chair-
6 person or a majority of its members. A majority of mem-
7 bers of the Working Group shall constitute a quorum. Any
8 vacancy in the Working Group shall not affect its powers,
9 but shall be promptly filled in the same manner in which
10 the original appointment was made.

11 (f) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Working
12 Group who is not an officer or employee of the Federal
13 Government may be compensated at a rate not to exceed
14 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in ef-
15 fect for a position at level III of the Executive Schedule
16 under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, for each
17 day during which the member is engaged in the actual
18 performance of the duties of the Working Group.

19 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Work-
20 ing Group shall receive travel expenses, including per diem
21 in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provi-
22 sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
23 States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. POWERS.**

2 (a) CONTRACTING.—The Working Group may, to
3 such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appro-
4 priations Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Working
5 Group to discharge its duties under this Act.

6 (b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group may se-
8 cure directly from any Federal department or agency
9 information that is necessary to enable it to carry
10 out its purposes and functions under this Act. Upon
11 request of the Chairperson, the head of such depart-
12 ment or agency shall furnish such information to the
13 Working Group.

14 (2) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-
15 SEMINATION.—Information obtained by the Working
16 Group shall only be received, handled, stored, and
17 disseminated by members of the Working Group or
18 its staff consistent with all applicable statutes, regu-
19 lations, and Executive orders.

20 (c) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

21 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—
22 Upon the request of the Working Group, the Archi-
23 tect of the Capitol shall provide to the Working
24 Group, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative
25 support services and office space necessary for the

1 Working Group to carry out its purposes and func-
2 tions under this Act.

3 (2) OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
4 AGENCIES.—In addition to the assistance prescribed
5 in paragraph (1), Federal departments and agencies
6 may provide to the Working Group such services,
7 funds, facilities, staff, and other support services as
8 determined advisable and authorized by law.

9 (d) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Working Group may
10 use the United States mail in the same manner and under
11 the same conditions as Federal departments and agencies.

12 **SEC. 4. STAFF.**

13 (a) APPOINTMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson may ap-
15 point and fix the compensation of a Staff Director
16 and such other personnel as may be necessary to en-
17 able the Working Group to carry out its purposes
18 and functions, without regard to the provisions of
19 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments
20 in the competitive service, and without regard to the
21 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-
22 ter 53 of such title relating to classification and
23 General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of
24 pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the
25 equivalent of that payable for a position at level IV

1 of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title
2 5, United States Code.

3 (2) COVERAGE UNDER CONGRESSIONAL AC-
4 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—For purposes of the
5 Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (18 U.S.C.
6 1301 et seq.)—

7 (A) the Working Group shall be considered
8 an employing office; and

9 (B) the personnel of the Working Group
10 shall be considered covered employees.

11 (b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Working
12 Group is authorized to procure temporary and intermit-
13 tent services under section 3109 of title 5, United States
14 Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily
15 equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay under
16 level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
17 title 5, United States Code.

18 (c) DETAILEES.—The head of any Federal depart-
19 ment or agency may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis,
20 any of the personnel of that department or agency to the
21 Working Group to assist the Working Group in carrying
22 out its purposes and functions.

23 **SEC. 5. SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR MEMBERS AND STAFF.**

24 The appropriate Federal departments or agencies
25 shall cooperate with the Working Group in expeditiously

1 providing to the Working Group members and staff appro-
2 priate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant
3 to existing procedures and requirements, except that no
4 person may be provided with access to classified informa-
5 tion under this Act without the appropriate security clear-
6 ances.

7 **SEC. 6. DUTIES.**

8 (a) INVESTIGATION.—The Working Group shall in-
9 vestigate the recent causes of elevated inflation, as well
10 as the relationships between inflation and the following:

11 (1) Gross domestic product growth.

12 (2) The labor market, workforce development,
13 and hiring.

14 (3) Poverty.

15 (4) Crime.

16 (5) Other factors of major societal concern.

17 (b) REPORT.—

18 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after
19 the date on which a majority of the members of the
20 Working Group have been appointed, the Working
21 Group shall submit a report to Congress and the
22 President setting forth the results of the investiga-
23 tion conducted under subsection (a), as well as rec-
24 ommendations for Congressional or other govern-

1 ment action to mitigate the threat of sustained infla-
2 tion.

3 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report under
4 paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available and
5 accessible.

6 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

7 The Working Group shall terminate 4 months after
8 the date on which it submits the report under section 6(b).

9 **SEC. 8. RECORDS.**

10 The records of the Working Group shall be trans-
11 ferred to the Center for Legislative Archives at the Na-
12 tional Archives and Records Administration upon termi-
13 nation of the Working Group pursuant to section 7.

14 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

15 Of the amounts used to carry out this Act—

16 (1) 50 percent shall be derived from the exist-
17 ing balance of the applicable accounts of the House
18 of Representatives as of the date of the enactment
19 of this Act; and

20 (2) 50 percent shall be derived from the exist-
21 ing balance of the contingent fund of the Senate as
22 of the date of the enactment of this Act.

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