

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2266

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum annual cost-of-living increase for Social Security benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

Mr. WALBERG 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 amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum annual cost-of-living increase for Social Security benefits, 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 “Certainty for Older
5 Living Americans Act of 2021” or the “COLA Act of
6 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPUTATION OF COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(i) of the Social Secu-
3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “with re-
5 spect to which the applicable increase percentage is
6 greater than zero;”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) in clause (ii), in the matter fol-
10 lowing subclause (III), by striking “appli-
11 cable increase percentage” and inserting
12 “the increase percentage determined under
13 clause (iv) for such year”; and

14 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(iv) The increase percentage determined under this
17 clause for a year shall be the greater of—

18 “(I) the applicable increase percentage with re-
19 spect to a cost-of-living computation quarter in such
20 year; or

21 “(II) the arithmetical mean of the increase per-
22 centages determined under this clause for each of
23 the years in the 10-year period ending with the year
24 before such year.”; and

25 (B) in the first sentence of subparagraph

26 (D), by striking “and the percentage thereof”

1 and inserting “, the percentage thereof, and the
2 increase percentage determined under subpara-
3 graph (A)(iv) for the following year”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply with respect to cost-of-living com-
6 putation quarters ending on or after September 30, 2021.

7 **SEC. 3. WORKING GROUP ON USE OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**
8 **DATA.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor and
10 the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a working group
11 (in this section referred to as the “Working Group”) to
12 provide recommendations to the Bureau of Labor Statis-
13 tics on incorporating national accounts data to produce—

14 (1) an accurate, timely, and relevant Consumer
15 Price Index; and

16 (2) up-to-date expenditure weights.

17 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Labor
19 and the Secretary of Commerce shall appoint to the
20 Working Group individuals with expertise relating to
21 statistical and computational methods, survey re-
22 search, and economic, social, and demographic meas-
23 urement.

24 (2) REPRESENTATION.—In appointing rep-
25 resentatives to the Working Group, the Secretary of

1 Labor and the Secretary of Commerce shall consider
2 appointing members from relevant Federal agencies
3 and non-Federal stakeholder groups, including—

4 (3) the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

5 (4) the Bureau of Economic Analysis; and

6 (5) the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory
7 Committee.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall
10 submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the
11 House of Representatives and the Committee on Health,
12 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report
13 that includes the findings and recommendations of the
14 Working Group under subsection (a).

15 (d) TERMINATION.—The Working Group shall termi-
16 nate upon submission of the report required under sub-
17 section (c).

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