

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Jennifer Kellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requests Congress pass legislation establishing an accurate measure of poverty for the determination of eligibility for federal programs. Requests Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture issue guidelines to implement section 4141 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for potential review of assistance program infrastructure systems
- Local “garden” programs to assist with food assistance
- Update of four-decade-old definition of what constitutes poverty in the United States
- Existing assistance programs
- Statistics

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides clarification and technical changes on measure. Adds “President of the United States” to those entities referenced in the measure.

BACKGROUND: Each year the United States Census Bureau issues a report on poverty in the United States. The poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure and are used mainly for statistical purposes, such as in preparing the estimates of the number of Americans in poverty for each year’s report. Values of the property threshold for the years 1980-2007 for families of different sizes differ. The poverty guidelines are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes; for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs including Head Start, the National School Lunch Program, the Food Stamp Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program, the Oregon Health Plan, and the Oregon Working Families Child Care Credit. They are adjusted for families of different sizes. The Census Bureau labels its poverty thresholds by the year to which they are applied. HHS, in contrast, labels its poverty guidelines by the year in which it issues them. The 2009 poverty guidelines are the guidelines that were issued in January 2009. HHS does not try to project price changes for the current year; instead, it issues guidelines based on price changes through the most recent completed year.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, (also known as the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill, the Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007 or Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007, Food and Energy Security Act of 2007), is a \$288 billion, five-year agricultural bill that mandates the creation of a National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) which consolidates federal sector agricultural research.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.