

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Memorial 1**

Ordered by the Senate April 10  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Senator CARTER

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges Congress to pass legislation directing federal agency to establish accurate measure of poverty for determination of eligibility for federal programs. Urges Secretary of United States Department of Agriculture to issue guidelines to implement section 4141 of Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

**SENATE MEMORIAL**

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2 To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled, and the Secretary of the United States Department  
4 of Agriculture:

5 We, your memorialists, the Senate of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, re-  
6 spectfully represent as follows:

7 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health  
8 and Human Services rely upon a measure of poverty formulated on the basis of 1963 household  
9 consumption patterns and budgets, adjusted only by increases in the cost of living; and

10 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines do not account for the enormous growth in the cost of  
11 energy and in the costs of households with two working adults, including the costs of child care and  
12 adequate nutrition, or for an eightfold increase in the cost of housing and a thirteenfold increase in  
13 the cost of medical care; and

14 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines do not measure the effectiveness of noncash public ben-  
15 efit programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, in meeting the  
16 needs of low-income families; and

17 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines provide the basis for eligibility for Medicaid, the Sup-  
18 plemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, the Special Supplemental  
19 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program,  
20 the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, the Weatherization Assistance Program,  
21 Head Start, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the State Children's Health Insur-  
22 ance Program, Community Development Block Grant funds awarded to municipalities, local govern-  
23 ments and neighborhoods and the Job Corps; and

24 Whereas there is widespread agreement that the federal poverty guidelines do not accurately  
25 measure economic deprivation in these times; and

26 Whereas federal agencies that administer public benefits programs have developed alternative  
27 measures of well-being which are regularly updated and improved, such as the United States De-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 partment of Agriculture's measure of food insecurity, the United States Department of Health and  
2 Human Services' measures of child well-being and rates of uninsurance and the United States De-  
3 partment of Housing and Urban Development's measure of housing quality; and

4 Whereas despite Oregon's high Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation rate  
5 of 79 percent of all eligible households, the United States Department of Agriculture rates food in-  
6 security in Oregon higher than the national average, with Oregon being the third hungriest state  
7 in the nation; and

8 Whereas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are based on a Thrifty Food Plan  
9 that meets the most basic nutritional requirements but does not adequately account for the higher  
10 costs of fresh fruits, vegetables and healthful food; and

11 Whereas the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) authorizes the Secretary  
12 of the United States Department of Agriculture to carry out pilot projects to provide incentives to  
13 encourage households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to purchase  
14 fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods, but the secretary has not yet issued guidance for  
15 the pilot projects; now, therefore,

16 **Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:**

17 That the Congress of the United States of America is urged to pass legislation directing an  
18 agency of the federal government to establish a measure of poverty for use in the determination of  
19 eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other federal anti-poverty pro-  
20 grams that truly reflects economic deprivation based on current costs for housing and basic needs,  
21 current patterns of household consumption and the prevalence of families with two parents working  
22 outside of the home; and be it further

23 Resolved, That the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture is urged to issue  
24 guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects under section 4141 of the Food, Conservation, and  
25 Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) and specifically to approve projects that encourage households to  
26 purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods; and be it further

27 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
28 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the chair of the  
29 Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support of the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
30 United States House of Representatives, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agri-  
31 culture and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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