

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1645

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Commerce produce and publish, at least every 2 years, current data relating to the incidence of poverty in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 1993

Mr. SAWYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

A BILL

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Commerce produce and publish, at least every 2 years, current data relating to the incidence of poverty in the United States.

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 “Poverty Data Improve-
5 ment Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) more than \$20,000,000,000 is provided to
2 State and local governments each year, under var-
3 ious Federal programs, based on data relating to in-
4 come and poverty status;

5 (2) the infrequency with which such data is col-
6 lected diminishes their reliability and usefulness for
7 public policy purposes;

8 (3) the relative lack of intercensal data can pre-
9 vent Federal funds from reaching those populations
10 that are in greatest need, as reflected in the dra-
11 matic and often unforeseen shifts in the way Federal
12 funds are reallocated following each decennial cen-
13 sus;

14 (4) the more frequent collection of data relating
15 to income and poverty status would allow policy-
16 makers to target scarce program funds more effec-
17 tively and in a more timely fashion; and

18 (5) the cost of producing the data needed to
19 achieve the ends described in paragraph (4) would
20 be small compared to the amounts that are distrib-
21 uted based on such data.

22 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 5 of
24 title 13, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
25 section 181 the following:

1 **“§ 181a. Data relating to poverty**

2 “(a) The Secretary shall produce and publish for each
3 State, county, and local unit of general purpose govern-
4 ment for which data is compiled in the most recent census
5 of population taken under section 141(a), and for each
6 school district, data relating to the incidence of poverty.
7 Such data may be produced by means of sampling or any
8 other method that the Secretary determines will produce
9 current, comprehensive, and reliable data.

10 “(b) Data under this section—

11 “(1) shall include, for each State, county, local
12 unit of general purpose government, and school dis-
13 trict referred to in subsection (a), the number of
14 children aged 5 to 17, inclusive, in families below the
15 poverty level; and

16 “(2) shall be published in 1995 and at least
17 every second year thereafter.

18 “(c) If the Secretary is unable to produce and publish
19 the data required under this section for any State, county,
20 local unit of general purpose government, or school district
21 in any year specified in subsection (b)(2), a report shall
22 be submitted by the Secretary to the President of the Sen-
23 ate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, not
24 later than 90 days before the commencement of the follow-
25 ing year, enumerating each government or school district
26 excluded and giving the reasons for the exclusion.

1 “(d) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall
2 use the same criteria relating to poverty as were used in
3 compiling the then most recent census of population taken
4 under section 141(a) (subject to such periodic adjustments
5 as may be necessary to compensate for inflation and other
6 similar factors).”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions for chapter 5 of title 13, United States Code, is
9 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
10 181 the following:

“181a. Data relating to poverty.”.

○