

HR 702

Improving Federal Assistance to Families Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Jan 23, 2025

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Wa

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. (Jan 23, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/702>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sherrill, Mikie [D-NJ-11]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2025
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Improving Federal Assistance to Families Act

This bill directs the Bureau of the Census to develop and publish a new regional poverty line index for each state, and requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to use the new index to determine eligibility for federal programs in certain circumstances.

Specifically, the bureau must develop and publish a new poverty line index, to be known as the *Regionally Adjusted Poverty Line*, that is measured separately for each state on an annual basis. The Regionally Adjusted Poverty Line must use new poverty thresholds calculated based on the most recent poverty thresholds and each state's most recent regional price parity. (Poverty thresholds are specified dollar amounts used by the bureau to determine a household's poverty status. Regional price parities are measurements of the differences in price levels between states and the national average, and are published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.)

For each state, HHS must determine annually which poverty line index—the Regionally Adjusted Poverty Line or the current poverty line—results in a greater percentage of households falling below the poverty line. HHS must generally use the identified poverty line index for administrative purposes applicable to each state, including to determine residents' financial eligibility for certain federal programs.

Finally, the Government Accountability Office must study and report to Congress on the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed threshold, an alternate poverty measure that includes consideration of regional costs of necessities like housing, child care, taxes, and transportation.

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