

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 722

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to include additional information in Social Security account statements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FROST, Mr. HAYES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WYNN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to include additional information in Social Security account statements.

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 “Straight Talk on Social
5 Security Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN SOCIAL SECURITY**
2 **ACCOUNT STATEMENT.**

3 Section 1143(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and”;

6 (2) in subparagraph (D) by striking the period
7 and inserting a semicolon; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(E) a statement of the current social security
10 tax rates applicable with respect to wages and self-
11 employment income, including an indication of the
12 combined total of such rates of employee and em-
13 ployer taxes with respect to wages; and

14 “(F)(i) as determined by the Chief Actuary of
15 the Social Security Administration, a comparison of
16 the total annual amount of social security tax
17 inflows (including amounts appropriated under sub-
18 sections (a) and (b) of section 201 of this Act and
19 section 121(e) of the Social Security Amendments of
20 1983 (26 U.S.C. 401 note)) during the preceding
21 calendar year to the total annual amount paid in
22 benefits during such calendar year;

23 “(ii) as determined by such Chief Actuary—

24 “(I) a statement of whether the ratio of
25 the inflows described in clause (i) for future cal-

1 endar years to amounts paid for such calendar
2 years is expected to result in a cash flow deficit,

3 “(II) the calendar year that is expected to
4 be the year in which any such deficit will com-
5 mence, and

6 “(III) the first calendar year in which
7 funds in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-
8 surance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability
9 Insurance Trust Fund will cease to be sufficient
10 to cover any such deficit;

11 “(iii) an explanation that states in substance—

12 “(I) that the Trust Fund balances reflect
13 resources authorized by the Congress to pay fu-
14 ture benefits, but they do not consist of real
15 economic assets that can be used in the future
16 to fund benefits, and that such balances are
17 claims against the United States Treasury that,
18 when redeemed, must be financed through in-
19 creased taxes, public borrowing, benefit reduc-
20 tion, or elimination of other Federal expendi-
21 tures,

22 “(II) that such benefits are established and
23 maintained only to the extent the laws enacted
24 by the Congress to govern such benefits so pro-
25 vide, and

1 “(III) that, under current law, inflows to
2 the Trust Funds are at levels inadequate to en-
3 sure indefinitely the payment of benefits in full;
4 and

5 “(iv) in simple and easily understood terms—

6 “(I) a representation of the rate of return
7 that a typical taxpayer retiring at retirement
8 age (as defined in section 216(l)) credited each
9 year with average wages and self-employment
10 income would receive on old-age insurance bene-
11 fits as compared to the total amount of em-
12 ployer, employee, and self-employment contribu-
13 tions of such a taxpayer, as determined by such
14 Chief Actuary for each cohort of workers born
15 in each year beginning with 1925, which shall
16 be set out in chart or graph form with an ex-
17 planatory caption or legend, and

18 “(II) an explanation for the occurrence of
19 past changes in such rate of return and for the
20 possible occurrence of future changes in such
21 rate of return.

22 The Comptroller General of the United States shall con-
23 sult with the Chief Actuary to the extent the Chief Actu-

1 ary determines necessary to meet the requirements of sub-
2 paragraph (F).”

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