

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5110

To amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the President to transmit the annual budget of the Social Security Administration without revisions to Congress, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. ELLISON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the President to transmit the annual budget of the Social Security Administration without revisions to Congress, and for other purposes.

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. AMENDING SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRA-**  
4 **TION BUDGETARY MATTERS.**

5 (a) ANNUAL BUDGET.—Section 704(b)(1)(A) of the  
6 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1)(A)) is amended  
7 to read as follows:

1 “(b)(1)(A) The Commissioner shall prepare and sub-  
2 mit an annual budget estimate for the Administration di-  
3 rectly to the President and Congress.”

4 (b) CONTENTS OF BUDGET.—Section 704(b)(1)(B)  
5 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1)(B)) is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 “(B) The Commissioner shall include in the annual  
8 budget prepared pursuant to subparagraph (A) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(i) An itemization of the amount of funds re-  
11 quired by the Administration to combat fraud com-  
12 mitted by applicants and beneficiaries.

13 “(ii) The total number of cases pending at each  
14 hearing office, listed by hearing office, and an aggre-  
15 gate total of all cases pending at all hearing offices.

16 “(iii) The total number of cases pending for  
17 over the preceding year at each hearing office, listed  
18 by both hearing office and presiding administrative  
19 judge, and an aggregate total of all cases pending  
20 for over such year at all hearing offices.

21 “(iv) The average duration of time to process  
22 each case at each hearing office, listed by hearing of-  
23 fice.

24 “(v) The staffing levels at each hearing office  
25 and field office, including a listing of job titles, clas-

1       sifications, and the number of staff within each title  
2       and classification.

3               “(vi) Employment statistics for each field office,  
4       for each preceding year after 1979, including the  
5       number of employees hired, retired, transferred in  
6       and out, and dismissed during such year.”.

7       (c) CLOSURE OF FIELD OFFICES.—Section  
8       704(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1))  
9       is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
10       paragraph:

11               “(C) The Commissioner may not close or otherwise  
12       limit public access to a field office of the Administration  
13       until 180 days after the date on which the Commissioner  
14       submits to the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
15       House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance  
16       of the Senate a detailed report outlining and justifying the  
17       process for selecting field offices to be closed or otherwise  
18       have limited access. Such report shall include—

19                       “(i) an analysis of the criteria used for selecting  
20       field offices for closure or limited access and how the  
21       Commissioner analyzes and considers factors relat-  
22       ing to transportation and communication burdens  
23       faced by seniors and the disabled;

24                       “(ii) a cost-benefit analysis for each field office  
25       closure that takes into account—

1           “(I) the anticipated savings as a result of  
2           the closure;

3           “(II) the anticipated burdens, including  
4           communication and transportation burdens,  
5           placed on elderly and disabled citizens; and

6           “(III) the anticipated costs associated with  
7           replacing the services lost by the closure.”.

8           (d) COMPREHENSIVE WORK FORCE PLAN.—Section  
9           704(b)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
10          904(b)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11          lowing: “Not later than 90 days before a revision of the  
12          comprehensive work force plan, the Commissioner shall  
13          submit the document setting forth the revision to the  
14          Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-  
15          resentatives and the Committee on Finance of the Sen-  
16          ate.”.

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