

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2589

To improve benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to increase the social security benefit and contribution base.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1993

Mr. JACOBS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To improve benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to increase the social security benefit and contribution base.

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 “Social Security Bene-  
5 fits Improvement Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENTS IN EXEMPT AMOUNT FOR PURPOSES**  
7 **OF THE RETIREMENT TEST.**

8 (a) INCREASE IN EXEMPT AMOUNT FOR INDIVID-  
9 UALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED RETIREMENT AGE.—Section

1 203(f)(8)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 403(f)(8)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

3 “(D)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of  
4 this subsection, the exempt amount which is applica-  
5 ble to an individual who has attained retirement age  
6 (as defined in section 216(1)) before the close of the  
7 taxable year involved shall be—

8 “(I) for the taxable year beginning after  
9 1993 and before 1995, \$1,000.00,

10 “(II) for the taxable year beginning after  
11 1994 and before 1996, \$1,166.66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>,

12 “(III) for the taxable year beginning after  
13 1995 and before 1997, \$1,333.33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>,

14 “(IV) for the taxable year beginning after  
15 1996 and before 1998, \$1,500.00, and

16 “(V) for the taxable year beginning after  
17 1997 and before 1999, \$1,666.66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.

18 “(ii) For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii)(II),  
19 the increase in the exempt amount provided under  
20 clause (i)(V) shall be deemed to have resulted from  
21 a determination which shall be deemed to have been  
22 made under subparagraph (A) in 1997.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The second sen-  
24 tence of section 223(d)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 423(d)(4)) is amended by striking “the exempt amount

1 under section 203(f)(8) which is applicable to individuals  
2 described in subparagraph (D) thereof” and inserting the  
3 following: “an amount equal to the exempt amount which  
4 would have been applicable under section 203(f)(8), to in-  
5 dividuals described in subparagraph (D) thereof, if section  
6 2 of the Social Security Benefits Improvement Act of 1993  
7 had not been enacted”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 this section shall apply with respect to taxable years begin-  
10 ning after 1993.

11 **SEC. 3. ADJUSTMENT IN RATE OF ACTUARIAL REDUCTION**  
12 **IN AMOUNT OF WIDOW'S AND WIDOWER'S IN-**  
13 **SURANCE BENEFITS SO AS TO REDUCE MAXI-**  
14 **MUM REDUCTIONS TO 25 PERCENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(q)(1)(A) of the Social  
16 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(q)(1)(A)) is amended by  
17 striking “ $\frac{19}{40}$  of 1 percent” and inserting “ $\frac{5}{12}$  of 1 per-  
18 cent”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) Section 202(q)(9) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
21 402(q)(9)) is amended by striking “28.5 percent”  
22 each place it appears and inserting “25.0 percent”.

23 (2) Section 202(q)(10) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
24 402(q)(10)) is amended by striking “ $\frac{19}{40}$  of 1 per-

1 cent” each place it appears and inserting “ $\frac{5}{12}$  of 1  
2 percent”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION RULE.—

4 (1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
5 by this section shall apply with respect to benefits  
6 for months after January 1994.

7 (2) TRANSITION RULE.—Section 1634 of the  
8 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1383c) is amended  
9 by adding at the end the following new subsection:  
10 “(e)(1) In the case of any eligible widow or widower  
11 (as defined in paragraph (2)) who is entitled to a widow’s  
12 or widower’s insurance benefit under section 202 (e) or  
13 (f) for any month but is not eligible for benefits under  
14 this title in that month—

15 “(A) such eligible widow or widower shall be  
16 deemed for purposes of title XIX to be an individual  
17 with respect to whom supplemental security income  
18 benefits are paid under this title in that month, if  
19 he or she would be eligible for such benefits in the  
20 month involved if the amount of the increase de-  
21 scribed in paragraph (2)(B) in his or her widow’s or  
22 widower’s insurance benefits (and any subsequent  
23 cost-of-living adjustments in such benefits under sec-  
24 tion 215(i)) were disregarded, and

1           “(B) such eligible widow or widower shall be  
2           deemed for purposes of title XIX to be an individual  
3           with respect to whom State supplementary pay-  
4           ments, of the type referred to in section 1616(a) of  
5           this Act or in section 212(a) of Public Law 93-66  
6           which are paid by the Secretary under an agreement  
7           referred to in such section 1616(a) or in section  
8           212(b) of Public Law 93-66, are paid in that  
9           month, if he or she would be eligible for such pay-  
10          ments in the month involved if the amount of the in-  
11          crease described in paragraph (2)(B) in his or her  
12          widow’s or widower’s insurance benefits (and any  
13          subsequent cost-of-living adjustments in such bene-  
14          fits under section 215(i)) were disregarded.

15          “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘eligible  
16 widow or widower’ means an individual—

17               “(A) who is entitled to a widow’s or widower’s  
18               insurance benefit under section 202 (e) or (f) for  
19               January 1994 and with respect to whom a benefit  
20               under this title was paid in that month, and

21               “(B) who, because of the increase in the  
22               amount of his or her widow’s or widower’s insurance  
23               benefits which results from the amendments made  
24               by subsections (a) and (b) of section 3 of the Social  
25               Security Benefits Improvement Act of 1993, is not

1 eligible for benefits under this title in the first  
2 month in which such increase is paid to him or her  
3 (and in which a retroactive payment of such increase  
4 for prior months was not made).

5 “(3) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘bene-  
6 fit under this title’ means a supplemental security income  
7 benefit under this title, and a State supplementary pay-  
8 ment of the type referred to in section 1616(a) (or a pay-  
9 ment of the type referred to in section 212(a) of Public  
10 Law 93–66) which is paid by the Secretary under an  
11 agreement referred to in section 1616(a) (or in section  
12 212(b) of Public Law 93–66).”.

13 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF 7-YEAR RESTRICTION ON ELIGIBILITY**  
14 **FOR WIDOW'S AND WIDOWER'S INSURANCE**  
15 **BENEFITS BASED ON DISABILITY.**

16 (a) WIDOW'S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(e) of the Social  
18 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(e)) is amended—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking  
20 “which began before the end of the period spec-  
21 ified in paragraph (4)”;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)(F)(ii), by striking  
23 “(I) in the period specified in paragraph (4)  
24 and (II)”;

1 (C) by striking paragraph (4) and by re-  
2 designating paragraphs (5) through (9) as  
3 paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and

4 (D) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii) (as redesign-  
5 dated), by striking “whichever” and all that fol-  
6 lows through “begins” and inserting “the first  
7 day of the seventeenth month before the month  
8 in which her application is filed”.

9 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (A) Section 202(e)(1)(F)(i) of such Act  
11 (42 U.S.C. 402(e)(1)(F)(i)) is amended by  
12 striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “para-  
13 graph (4)”.

14 (B) Section 202(e)(1)(C)(ii)(III) of such  
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 402(e)(2)(C)(ii)(III)) is amend-  
16 ed by striking “paragraph (8)” and inserting  
17 “paragraph (7)”.

18 (C) Section 202(e)(2)(A) of such Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 402(e)(2)(A)) is amended by striking  
20 “paragraph (7)” and inserting “paragraph  
21 (6)”.

22 (D) Section 226(e)(1)(A)(i) of such Act  
23 (42 U.S.C. 426(e)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by  
24 striking “202(e)(4)”.

25 (b) WIDOWER’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(f) of such Act  
2 (42 U.S.C. 402(f)) is amended—

3           (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking  
4 “which began before the end of the period spec-  
5 ified in paragraph (5)”;

6           (B) in paragraph (1)(F)(ii), by striking  
7 “(I) in the period specified in paragraph (5)  
8 and (II)”;

9           (C) by striking paragraph (5) and by re-  
10 designating paragraphs (6) through (9) as  
11 paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively; and

12           (D) in paragraph (5)(A)(ii) (as redesign-  
13 ated), by striking “whichever” and all that fol-  
14 lows through “begins” and inserting “the first  
15 day of the seventeenth month before the month  
16 in which his application is filed”.

17           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18           (A) Section 202(f)(1)(F)(i) of such Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 402(f)(1)(F)(i)) is amended by striking  
20 “paragraph (6)” and inserting “paragraph  
21 (5)”.

22           (B) Section 202(f)(1)(C)(ii)(III) of such  
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 402(f)(2)(C)(ii)(III)) is amend-  
24 ed by striking “paragraph (8)” and inserting  
25 “paragraph (7)”.

1 (C) Section 226(e)(1)(A)(i) of such Act (as  
2 amended by subsection (a)(2)) is further  
3 amended by striking “, 202(f)(1)(B)(2), and  
4 202(f)(5)” and inserting “and  
5 202(f)(1)(B)(2)”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 this section shall apply with respect to benefits for months  
8 after August 1993 for which applications are filed or  
9 pending on or after September 1, 1993.

10 **SEC. 5. INCREASE IN OASDI CONTRIBUTION AND BENEFIT**  
11 **BASE.**

12 Section 230(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 430(c)) is amended—

14 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “and” be-  
15 fore “(2)”, by striking the period at the end of  
16 subclause (D) of clause (2) and inserting a comma,  
17 and by adding at the end, after and below such  
18 subclause (D), the following:

19 “and (3) the ‘contribution and benefit base’ with respect  
20 to remuneration paid (and taxable years beginning) in  
21 1994 shall be the contribution and benefit base which  
22 would be determined under this section with respect to re-  
23 muneration paid (and taxable years beginning) in such  
24 year if section 5 of the Social Security Benefits Improve-  
25 ment Act of 1993 had not been enacted, plus \$2,100.00.”;

1           (2) in the last sentence, by striking “in 1982  
2           and subsequent years” and inserting “in years be-  
3           ginning after 1981 and ending before 1994”; and

4           (3) by adding at the end the following new sen-  
5           tence: “For purposes of determining under sub-  
6           section (b) the ‘contribution and benefit base’ with  
7           respect to remuneration paid (and taxable years be-  
8           ginning) in 1995 and subsequent years, the con-  
9           tribution and benefit base determined under clause  
10          (3) of the first sentence of this subsection shall be  
11          considered to have resulted from the application of  
12          such subsection (b) and to be the contribution and  
13          benefit base determined (with respect to 1994)  
14          under that subsection.”.

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