

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3814

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to institute certain reforms relating to the provision of disability insurance benefits based on substance abuse and relating to representative payees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 1994

Mr. GEKAS (for himself, Mr. THOMAS of California, and Mr. ROTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to institute certain reforms relating to the provision of disability insurance benefits based on substance abuse and relating to representative payees, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Disability Insurance
5 Reform Act of 1994”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFORM OF MONTHLY INSURANCE BENEFITS**
2 **BASED ON DISABILITY INVOLVING SUB-**
3 **STANCE ABUSE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 225 of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 425) is amended—

6 (1) by striking the heading and inserting the
7 following:

8 “ADDITIONAL RULES RELATING TO BENEFITS BASED ON
9 DISABILITY

10 “Suspension of Benefits”;

11 (2) by inserting before subsection (b) the fol-
12 lowing new heading:

13 “Continued Payments During Rehabilitation Program”;
14 and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “Nonpayment of Benefits by Reason of Substance Abuse

18 “(c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of
19 this title, no benefit based on disability under this title
20 shall be paid to any individual for any month during any
21 period of consecutive months beginning with a month in
22 which such individual is medically determined to be a drug
23 addict or an alcoholic and ending with a month as of the
24 end of which—

25 “(i) the person, through an outpatient rehabili-
26 tation program, has subsequently undergone treat-

1 ment appropriate for such condition for 3 months at
2 an institution or facility approved by the Secretary
3 for purposes of this subsection, and has complied
4 with the terms, conditions, and requirements of such
5 treatment and with the requirements imposed under
6 paragraph (4); and

7 “(ii) the Secretary determines that—

8 “(I) the person has made progress towards
9 recovery, or has recovered; or

10 “(II) if the person has not made progress
11 towards recovery, the person meets such re-
12 quirements established in regulations as the
13 Secretary deems appropriate to effectuate the
14 purposes of this title.

15 “(B) In any case in which an individual’s disability
16 is based in whole or in part on a medical determination
17 that the individual is a drug addict or alcoholic, such indi-
18 vidual’s benefits based on disability under this title which
19 are otherwise payable for any month preceding the month
20 in which application for such benefits is made (pursuant
21 to section 202(j)(1) or the last sentence of section 223(b))
22 shall be payable only pursuant to a certification of such
23 payment to a representative payee of such individual pur-
24 suant to section 205(j).

1 “(2) If, after the 3-month treatment period referred
2 to in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary determines that the
3 person has not recovered from the condition treated, then,
4 as a condition of receiving benefits based on disability
5 under this title for any month after such period, the per-
6 son must continue to comply with the terms, conditions,
7 and requirements of such treatment and with the require-
8 ments imposed under paragraph (4), until the month in
9 which the Secretary determines that the person has recov-
10 ered from such condition.

11 “(3)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
12 title, in the case of a person who fails to continue treat-
13 ment as required by paragraph (2), no benefit based on
14 disability shall be paid under this title for any month end-
15 ing after such failure and before the person has completed
16 2 weeks of such treatment.

17 “(B) In the case of a person to whom a benefit based
18 on disability under this title becomes payable for any
19 month after a month for which such benefit was not pay-
20 able under subparagraph (A), and who thereafter fails to
21 continue treatment as required by paragraph (2), no bene-
22 fit based on disability shall be paid under this title for
23 any month ending after such failure and before the person
24 has completed 2 months of such treatment.

1 “(C) In the case of a person to whom a benefit based
2 on disability under this title becomes payable for any
3 month after a month for which such benefit was not pay-
4 able under subparagraph (B), and who thereafter fails to
5 continue treatment as required by paragraph (2), no bene-
6 fit based on disability shall be paid under this title for
7 any month ending after such failure.

8 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘bene-
9 fit based on disability’ of an individual means a disability
10 insurance benefit of such individual under section 223 or
11 a child’s, widow’s, or widower’s insurance benefit of such
12 individual under section 202 based on the disability of
13 such individual.

14 “(5) Monthly insurance benefits under this title
15 which would be payable to any individual (other than the
16 disabled individual to whom benefits are not payable by
17 reason of this subsection) on the basis of the wages and
18 self-employment income of such a disabled individual but
19 for the provisions of paragraph (1), shall be payable as
20 though such disabled individual were receiving such bene-
21 fits which are not payable under this subsection.

22 “(6) The Secretary shall provide for the monitoring
23 and testing of all individuals who are receiving benefits
24 under this title and who as a condition of such benefits
25 are required to be undergoing treatment and complying

1 with the terms, conditions, and requirements thereof as
2 described in the preceding provisions of this subsection,
3 in order to assure such compliance and to determine the
4 extent to which the imposition of such requirements is con-
5 tributing to the achievement of the purposes of this title.
6 The Secretary may retain jurisdiction in the case of a
7 hearing before the Secretary under this title to the extent
8 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the pre-
9 ceding sentence. The Secretary shall annually submit to
10 the Congress a full and complete report on the Secretary's
11 activities under this paragraph.

12 “(7) The Secretary, in consultation with drug and al-
13 cohol treatment professionals, shall develop standards for
14 drug and alcohol treatment programs, and in consultation
15 with States, shall develop guidelines to be used to review
16 and evaluate the progress of participants in such pro-
17 grams.”.

18 (b) PRESERVATION OF MEDICARE BENEFITS.—Sec-
19 tion 226 of such title (42 U.S.C. 426) is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following:

21 “(i) For purposes of this section, each person to
22 whom a benefit for any month is not payable by reason
23 of section 225(c) shall be treated as entitled to such bene-
24 fit for such month if such person would be entitled to such
25 benefit for such month in the absence of such section.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply to benefits payable for months be-
3 ginning 90 or more days after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act.

5 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION OF FUTURE REPRESENTATIVE PAY-**
6 **EES TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, STATE-**
7 **LICENCED OR CERTIFIED FACILITIES, OR**
8 **STATE-BONDED OR LICENSED COMMUNITY-**
9 **BASED NONPROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGEN-**
10 **CIES.**

11 (a) RESTRICTION TO QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS.—
12 Section 205(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 405(j)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “another indi-
15 vidual, or an organization,” and inserting “a quali-
16 fied organization”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by striking “the per-
18 son” and inserting “the qualified organization”, and
19 by striking “such person” and inserting “representa-
20 tives of such qualified organization”;

21 (3) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by striking “person”
22 each place it appears in subclause (I) and inserting
23 “qualified organization”, by striking “person’s social
24 security account number (or employer identification
25 number)” in subclause (II) and inserting “qualified

1 organization’s employer identification number”, by
2 striking “such person” in subclause (III) and insert-
3 ing “such qualified organization”, and by striking
4 “such person” each place it appears in subclause
5 (IV) and inserting “such qualified organization”;
6 and

7 (4) by striking paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by redesignig-
8 nating paragraph (2)(B)(i) (as amended by para-
9 graph (3)) as paragraph (2)(B), and by redesignat-
10 ing subclauses (I), (II), (III), and (IV) of paragraph
11 (2)(B) (as redesignated) as clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and
12 (iv), respectively.

13 (b) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(j)(2)(C)(i) of
15 such Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(2)(C)(i)) is amended by
16 striking “Benefits of an individual may not be cer-
17 tified for payment to any other person pursuant to
18 this subsection if—” and inserting “For purposes of
19 this subsection, the term ‘qualified organization’
20 means an agency or instrumentality of a State or a
21 political subdivision of a State, a nonprofit facility
22 that is licensed or certified as a care facility under
23 the law of a State or a political subdivision of a
24 State, and, in connection with services provided as
25 a representative payee under this subsection in any

1 State, a community-based nonprofit social service
2 agency which is bonded or licensed in such State.
3 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, such
4 term does not include any person if—”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
6 205(j)(2)(C) of such Act is further amended—

7 (A) by striking “subparagraph (B)(i)(III)”
8 in clause (i)(I) and inserting “subparagraph
9 (B)(iii)”, and by striking “subparagraph
10 (B)(i)(IV)” in clause (i)(II) and inserting “sub-
11 paragraph (B)(iv)”;

12 (B) in clause (iii), by striking subclauses
13 (I) and (IV), by redesignating subclauses (II),
14 (III), and (V) as subclauses (I), (II), and (III),
15 respectively, and by striking “an individual” in
16 subclause (III) (as redesignated) and inserting
17 “a person”; and

18 (C) in clause (iv), by striking “individual”
19 each place it appears and inserting “person”.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR FEES.—Section 205(j)(4)
21 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(4)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
23 the following:

24 “(4)(A) A qualified organization may collect from an
25 individual a monthly fee for expenses (including overhead)

1 incurred by such organization in providing services per-
2 formed as such individual's representative payee pursuant
3 to this subsection if such fee does not exceed 10 percent
4 of the monthly benefit involved. Any agreement providing
5 for a fee in excess of the amount permitted under this
6 subparagraph shall be void and shall be treated as misuse
7 by such organization of such individual's benefits.”;

8 (2) by striking subparagraph (B);

9 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
10 subparagraph (B) and, in subparagraph (B) (as so re-
11 designated), by striking “qualified organization” and
12 inserting “person”; and

13 (4) by striking subparagraph (D).

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall apply with respect to certifications of
16 payments to representative payees made on or after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act. Section 205(j) of the
18 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)) as in effect imme-
19 diately before the date of the enactment of this Act shall
20 continue to apply, in the case of any person who is then
21 a representative payee under such section with respect to
22 benefits for which certification of payment to such person
23 under such section is then in effect, until such certification
24 ceases to be effective under such section as then in effect.

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