

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3578

To modify the annual reporting requirements of the Social Security Act,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2000

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

A BILL

To modify the annual reporting requirements of the Social
Security Act, 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 “Social Security Right
5 To Know Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT**
7 **OF TRUSTEES.**

8 Section 201(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 401(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
2 (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively;

3 (2) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting
4 “subparagraph (B)”;

5 (3) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

6 (4) by redesignating the undesignated text fol-
7 lowing subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by para-
8 graph (1) of this section) as paragraph (2);

9 (5) by moving the last sentence of paragraph
10 (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this sec-
11 tion) so that it follows the fifth sentence of para-
12 graph (1) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this
13 section);

14 (6)(A) by moving the text of the fifth sentence
15 of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4)
16 of this section) beginning with “be printed as a
17 House document” and ending with “the report is
18 made” so that it follows “shall” in the first sentence
19 of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4)
20 of this section);

21 (B) by striking the remainder of the fifth sen-
22 tence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by para-
23 graph (4) of this section); and

24 (C) by inserting “and” after the text so moved;

1 (7) in the fourth sentence of paragraph (2) (as
2 redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section), by
3 striking “Such report shall also include an” and in-
4 serting the following:

5 “(C) An”;

6 (8) in the third sentence of paragraph (2) (as
7 redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section), by
8 striking “Such report shall include an” and inserting
9 the following:

10 “(B) An”;

11 (9) in the first sentence of paragraph (2) (as
12 redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

13 (A) by striking “(2) above” after “para-
14 graph” and inserting “(1)(B)”;

15 (B) by striking “shall include a statement”
16 and inserting “shall include the following:

17 “(A) A statement”;

18 (10) by inserting after subparagraph (C) (as re-
19 designated by paragraph (7) of this section) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(D) A statement, in terms of inflation-ad-
22 justed dollars, present discounted value, and nominal
23 dollars, of—

24 “(i) the aggregate amount of the unfunded
25 long-term projected liability of the social secu-

1 rity system and any change in that amount
2 from the preceding year; and

3 “(ii) the amount of deficit or surplus that
4 the social security system will run in the last
5 year of such long-term projection period, with
6 any aggregate assets or liabilities held by the
7 Trust Funds in that final projected year.

8 “(E) The economic model and relevant data
9 used to make the financial projections required to be
10 reported under this paragraph, including any
11 changes in the model and data from the preceding
12 year.

13 “(F) A conspicuous summary of the items re-
14 quired by clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (D),
15 in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars.

16 “(G) An explanation that states in substance
17 that the Trust Funds balances reflect resources au-
18 thorized by Congress to pay future social security
19 benefits, but do not consist of real economic assets
20 that can be used in the future to fund benefits, and
21 that such balances are claims against the United
22 States Treasury that, when redeemed, must be fi-
23 nanced through increased taxes, public borrowing,
24 benefit reduction, or elimination of other Federal ex-
25 penditures.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN SOCIAL SECURITY**
2 **ACCOUNT STATEMENT.**

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

5 (1) in paragraph (2)(C) by striking “and”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2)(D) by striking the period
7 and inserting “; and”;

8 (3) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
9 following new subparagraph:

10 “(E)(i) as determined by the Chief Actuary of
11 the Social Security Administration—

12 “(I) a comparison of the annual social se-
13 curity tax inflows (including amounts appro-
14 priated under subsections (a) and (b) of section
15 201 of this Act and section 121(e) of the Social
16 Security Amendments of 1983 (26 U.S.C. 401
17 note)) to the amount paid in benefits annually;
18 and

19 “(II) a statement whether the ratio de-
20 scribed in subclause (I) will result in a cash
21 flow deficit and what year any such deficit will
22 commence, as well as the first year in which
23 funds in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-
24 surance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability
25 Insurance Trust Fund will cease to be sufficient
26 to cover any such deficit and the percentage of

1 benefits due at that time that could be paid
2 from the annual social security tax inflows (as
3 that term is used in subelause (I));

4 “(ii) the explanation required by section
5 201(c)(2)(G); and

6 “(iii) an explanation, in simple and easily un-
7 derstood terms, of the average rate of return that a
8 taxpayer can expect to receive on old-age insurance
9 benefits as compared to the total amount of social
10 security taxes a taxpayer expects to pay, including
11 the inflation-adjusted average rate of return for
12 workers born in every year beginning with 1900, set
13 out in chart or graph form, with an explanatory cap-
14 tion or legend, as determined by the Chief Actuary
15 of the Social Security Administration.”.

16 **SEC. 4. USE OF CONTINUOUS WORK HISTORY SAMPLE FOR**
17 **STATISTICAL RESEARCH.**

18 (a) DATA TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—Notwith-
19 standing any other provision of law, the Social Security
20 Administration shall make available to the public the Con-
21 tinuous Work History Sample (referred to in this section
22 as the “CWHIS”) data administered by such Administra-
23 tion subject to the restrictions provided for in subsections
24 (b) and (c).

1 (b) LIMITATIONS ON RELEASE OF DATA.—The Of-
2 fice of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Ad-
3 ministration shall make statistical samples of individual
4 records from the CWHS available to a user if the user—

5 (1) agrees to make use of the data from the
6 CWHS solely for the purpose of conducting statis-
7 tical research activities;

8 (2) agrees in writing to such conditions as may
9 be reasonably determined by the Commissioner of
10 the Social Security Administration to be necessary
11 to ensure that data from the CWHS is not made
12 available in individually identifiable form; and

13 (3) fully reimburses the Office of Research and
14 Statistics for the cost of supplying the data.

15 (c) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMA-
16 TION.—To protect privacy, the Office of Research and
17 Statistics of the Social Security Administration shall re-
18 move all identifiers which can link CWHS records to the
19 identity of an individual respondent prior to the release
20 of the data.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 (1) the term “Continuous Work History Sam-
23 ple” means the statistical sample of individual ad-
24 ministrative records held by the Social Security Ad-
25 ministration; and

1 (2) the term “user” means any individual or
2 legal entity, including an employee of the Federal
3 Government, who receives access to the Continuous
4 Work History Sample.

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