

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2765

To strengthen and permanently preserve social security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2008

Mr. HAGEL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To strengthen and permanently preserve social security.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Saving Social Security Act of 2008”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY

Sec. 101. Establishment of an investment-based option for social security benefits.

“PART B—INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY

“Sec. 250. Definitions.

“Sec. 251. Election to waive eligibility.

“Sec. 252. Social security savings accounts for employees (SAFE accounts).

“Sec. 253. SAFE Investment Fund.

“Sec. 254. Distributions.

“Sec. 255. Social Security Investment Board.

Sec. 102. Adjustments to primary insurance amounts under part A of title II of the Social Security Act for investing workers with SAFE accounts.

Sec. 103. Minimum Social Security benefit.

Sec. 104. Tax treatment of investment-based social security.

Sec. 105. Study on use of private annuities for SAFE account distributions.

Sec. 106. Study regarding financial literacy.

TITLE II—DEBT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY

Subtitle A—Adjustments

Sec. 201. Modification to retirement age.

Sec. 202. Modification of PIA factors to reflect changes in life expectancy.

Sec. 203. Actuarial adjustment for retirements.

Subtitle B—Maintenance of Social Security Trust Funds

Sec. 211. Maintenance of adequate balances in the social security trust funds.

1 **TITLE I—INVESTMENT-BASED** 2 **SOCIAL SECURITY**

3 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INVESTMENT-BASED OP-** 4 **TION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Social Security Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting before section 201 the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“PART A—DEBT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY”;**

10 and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 **“PART B—INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY**

13 **“SEC. 250. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “For purposes of this part—

1 “(1) INVESTING WORKER.—The term ‘investing
2 worker’ means any individual—

3 “(A) who after the date of enactment of
4 this part—

5 “(i) receives wages on which there is
6 imposed a tax under section 3101(a) of the
7 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

8 “(ii) derives self-employment income
9 on which there is imposed a tax under sec-
10 tion 1401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code
11 of 1986; and

12 “(B) who was born on or after January 1,
13 1963, and does not make an election to waive
14 investment-based social security under this part
15 as provided under section 251(a).

16 “(2) SOCIAL SECURITY SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR
17 EMPLOYEES (SAFE ACCOUNT).—The term ‘social se-
18 curity savings accounts for employees’ or ‘SAFE Ac-
19 count’ means an account established for an investing
20 worker within the SAFE Investment Fund under
21 section 252.

22 “(3) SAFE INVESTMENT FUND.—The term
23 ‘SAFE Investment Fund’ or ‘Fund’ means the fund
24 established under section 253.

1 “(4) SOCIAL SECURITY INVESTMENT BOARD.—
2 The term ‘Social Security Investment Board’ or
3 ‘Board’ means the board established under section
4 254.

5 “(5) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-
6 sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

7 **“SEC. 251. ELECTION TO WAIVE ELIGIBILITY.**

8 “(a) ELECTION TO WAIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR SAFE
9 ACCOUNTS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual may elect to
11 waive eligibility under this part in such form and
12 manner as prescribed by the Board at any time after
13 such individual attains the age of 18 and before
14 such individual attains the age of 25. Such election
15 shall be irrevocable.

16 “(2) INDIVIDUAL BORN BEFORE JANUARY 1,
17 1981.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in the case
18 of any individual born after December 31, 1962, and
19 before January 1, 1983, such individual may elect to
20 waive eligibility under this part in such form and
21 manner as prescribed by the Board at any time be-
22 fore January 1, 2009. Such election shall be irrev-
23 ocable.

24 “(b) DISPOSITION OF SAFE ACCOUNT.—In the case
25 of any individual who makes an election under paragraph

1 (1), any assets in such individual's SAFE Account shall
2 be paid to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
3 Trust Fund, and such individual's eligibility for benefits
4 under part A shall be determined as if such Account had
5 never been established.

6 **“SEC. 252. SOCIAL SECURITY SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR EM-**
7 **PLOYEES (SAFE ACCOUNTS).**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE ACCOUNTS.—Not
9 later than 30 days after the date on which an individual
10 first becomes an investing worker, the Social Security In-
11 vestment Board shall establish a SAFE Account for such
12 individual in the SAFE Investment Fund.

13 “(b) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
15 Treasury shall transfer from the Federal Old-Age
16 and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to the SAFE
17 Investment Fund, for crediting by the Social Secu-
18 rity Investment Board to the SAFE Account of an
19 investing worker, an amount equal to the SAFE Ac-
20 count contribution amount with respect to each in-
21 vesting worker.

22 “(2) SAFE ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTION
23 AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term
24 ‘SAFE Account contribution amount’ means, with

1 respect to an investing worker for a calendar year,
 2 the product derived by multiplying—

3 “(A) the sum of the total wages paid to,
 4 and self-employment income derived by, such
 5 individual during such calendar year; by

6 “(B) 4 percent.

7 “(c) DESIGNATION OF INVESTMENTS.—

8 “(1) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10
 10 days after an account is established for an in-
 11 vesting worker under subsection (a), the invest-
 12 ing worker shall designate to which investment
 13 funds within the SAFE Investment Fund con-
 14 tributions to such account under subsection (b)
 15 shall be allocated.

16 “(B) DEFAULT ALLOCATION.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If no designation
 18 is made pursuant to paragraph (1), the
 19 Board shall allocate such contributions in
 20 accordance with the life-span investment
 21 option.

22 “(ii) LIFE-SPAN INVESTMENT OP-
 23 TION.—For purposes of this section, the
 24 life-span investment option shall provide
 25 for the management and investment of

1 funds within an investing worker's SAFE
2 account on the basis of the age of the in-
3 vesting worker in accordance with regula-
4 tions established by the Board. In estab-
5 lishing regulations with respect to the life-
6 span investment option under this sub-
7 paragraph, the Board shall consider—

8 “(I) with respect to the youngest
9 investing workers, investing 80 per-
10 cent of such funds in stocks and 20
11 percent of such funds in bonds; and

12 “(II) with respect to the oldest
13 investing workers, investing 35 per-
14 cent of such funds in stocks and 65
15 percent of such funds in bonds.

16 “(2) SUBSEQUENT DESIGNATIONS.—At least
17 twice each year, an investing worker may redesign-
18 nate the allocation of investments funds within the
19 SAFE Investment Fund to which contributions with
20 respect to such investing worker are allocated.

21 “(d) TIME DESIGNATION TAKES EFFECT.—A des-
22 ignation under subsection (c) shall take effect with respect
23 to contributions made beginning more than 14 days after
24 the date of the designation.

1 “(e) INVESTING WORKER’S PROPERTY RIGHT IN THE
2 SAFE ACCOUNT.—Each SAFE Account designated by an
3 investing worker is the sole property of the worker.

4 “(f) FORM OF DESIGNATIONS.—Designations under
5 this section shall be made—

6 “(1) on W-4 forms (or any successor forms); or

7 “(2) in such other manner as the Social Secu-
8 rity Investment Board may prescribe in order to en-
9 sure ease of administration.

10 **“SEC. 253. SAFE INVESTMENT FUND.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established and
12 maintained in the Treasury of the United States a SAFE
13 Investment Fund in the same manner as the Thrift Sav-
14 ings Fund under sections 8437 (excluding paragraphs (4)
15 and (5) of subsection (c) thereof), 8438, and 8439 of title
16 5, United States Code, insofar as such sections are not
17 inconsistent with the provisions of this part.

18 “(b) INVESTMENT EARNINGS REPORT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At least annually, the
20 SAFE Investment Fund shall provide to each invest-
21 ing worker a SAFE Investment Status Report. Such
22 report may be transmitted electronically upon the
23 agreement of the investing worker under the terms
24 and conditions established by the Social Security In-
25 vestment Board.

1 “(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The SAFE In-
2 vestment Status Report, with respect to a SAFE Ac-
3 count, shall provide the following information:

4 “(A) The total SAFE Account contribu-
5 tions made in the last quarter, the last year,
6 and since the Account was established.

7 “(B) The amount and rate of return
8 earned for each period described in subpara-
9 graph (A).

10 “(C) A projection of how much the invest-
11 ing worker will have available on the date the
12 worker attains normal retirement age if such
13 contributions and earnings continue at the
14 same rate during the remaining period ending
15 with such date.

16 “(c) MAXIMUM ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.—The SAFE
17 Investment Fund shall charge each investing worker in the
18 Fund a single, uniform annual administrative fee not to
19 exceed 0.57 percent of the value of the assets invested in
20 the worker’s SAFE Account.

21 **“SEC. 254. DISTRIBUTIONS.**

22 “(a) DATE OF INITIAL DISTRIBUTION.—Except as
23 provided in subsection (b)(4), distributions may only be
24 made from a SAFE Account of an investing worker on
25 and after the earliest of—

1 “(1) the date the investing worker attains nor-
2 mal retirement age, as determined under section
3 216; or

4 “(2) the date on which funds in the investing
5 worker’s SAFE Account are sufficient to transfer to
6 the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust
7 Fund—

8 “(A) an amount equal to the old-age insur-
9 ance amount (as calculated under subsection
10 (b)(1)(B)); and

11 “(B) an amount equal to the survivor’s in-
12 surance amount (as calculated under subsection
13 (b)(2)(B)).

14 “(b) FORM OF DISTRIBUTION.—

15 “(1) FEDERAL ANNUITY PAYMENT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date deter-
17 mined under subsection (a), so much of the bal-
18 ance in an investing worker’s SAFE Account as
19 does not exceed the old-age insurance amount
20 shall be transferred to the Federal Old-Age and
21 Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the invest-
22 ing worker shall be entitled to a Federal annu-
23 ity payment.

24 “(B) OLD-AGE INSURANCE AMOUNT.—For
25 purposes of this section, the old-age insurance

1 amount is an amount which is sufficient to pro-
2 vide a Federal annuity payment which, when
3 added to the investing worker's monthly benefit
4 under part A, is equal to one-twelfth of 135
5 percent of the poverty line (as defined in section
6 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))).

8 “(C) FEDERAL ANNUITY PAYMENT.—For
9 purposes of this section, the term ‘Federal an-
10 nuity payment’ means a monthly payment from
11 the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
12 Trust Fund in an amount determined by the
13 Social Security Investment Board based on the
14 amount transferred to the Federal Old-Age and
15 Survivors Insurance Trust Fund under sub-
16 paragraph (A) and the life expectancy of the in-
17 vesting worker (determined under reasonable
18 actuarial assumptions).

19 “(2) FAMILY OR SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR RE-
20 LATED INDIVIDUALS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date deter-
22 mined under subsection (a), in the case of an
23 investing worker whose SAFE Account has
24 funds in excess of the amount required to be
25 transferred under paragraph (1)(A), so much of

1 such excess funds as does not exceed the sur-
2 vivor's insurance amount shall be transferred to
3 the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
4 Trust Fund and any related individual shall be
5 entitled to a survivor's payment at the time
6 such related individual meets the applicable re-
7 quirements for a monthly payment under sec-
8 tion 202.

9 “(B) SURVIVOR'S INSURANCE AMOUNT.—

10 For purposes of this section, the survivor's in-
11 surance amount is an amount, determined by
12 the Social Security Investment Board under
13 rules established by such Board, which is suffi-
14 cient to provide survivor's payments to all re-
15 lated individuals.

16 “(C) SURVIVOR'S PAYMENT.—For pur-

17 poses of this section, the term ‘survivor's pay-
18 ment’ means a monthly payment from the Fed-
19 eral Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust
20 Fund in an amount which, when added to such
21 related individual's monthly benefit (or pro-
22 jected monthly benefit) under this title, is equal
23 to the benefit such related individual would be
24 entitled to under section 202 if the investing
25 worker had waived the application of this part.

1 “(D) RELATED INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-
2 poses of this section, the term ‘related indi-
3 vidual’ means, with respect to an investing
4 worker, any individual entitled to benefits under
5 section 202 based on the wages or self-employ-
6 ment income of such worker.

7 “(3) PAYMENT OF EXCESS SAFE ACCOUNT
8 FUNDS.—To the extent funds remain in an investing
9 worker’s SAFE Account after the transfer required
10 under paragraphs (1) and (2), such excess assets
11 shall be payable to the worker in such manner and
12 in such amounts as determined by the worker.

13 “(4) DISTRIBUTION IN THE EVENT OF
14 DEATH.—If the investing worker dies before the date
15 determined under subsection (a), the balance in the
16 worker’s SAFE Account shall be distributed in the
17 following manner:

18 “(A) Not more than an amount equal to
19 the survivor’s insurance amount shall be trans-
20 ferred to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-
21 surance Trust Fund.

22 “(B) The remainder (if any) shall be dis-
23 tributed in a lump sum, under rules established
24 by the Social Security Investment Board, to the

1 investing worker's estate, subject to applicable
2 State laws.

3 **“SEC. 255. SOCIAL SECURITY INVESTMENT BOARD.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
5 the Social Security Administration a Social Security In-
6 vestment Board (in this Act referred to as the ‘Board’).

7 “(b) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed
8 of—

9 “(1) 2 members from the private sector ap-
10 pointed by the President, of whom 1 shall be des-
11 ignated by the President as Chairman;

12 “(2) the Secretary of the Treasury;

13 “(3) the Chairman of the Federal Reserve
14 Board; and

15 “(4) the Chairman of the Securities and Ex-
16 change Commission.

17 “(c) ADVICE AND CONSENT.—Appointments under
18 subsection (b)(1) shall be made by and with the advice
19 and consent of the Senate.

20 “(d) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—Members of
21 the Board appointed under subsection (b)(1) shall have
22 substantial experience, training, and expertise in finance,
23 investments, or insurance.

24 “(e) LENGTH OF APPOINTMENTS.—

1 “(1) TERMS.—A member of the Board ap-
2 pointed under subsection (b)(1) shall be appointed
3 for a term of 6 years, except that of the members
4 first appointed under subsection (b)(1)—

5 “(A) the Chairman shall be appointed for
6 a term of 6 years; and

7 “(B) the remaining member shall be ap-
8 pointed for a term of 3 years.

9 “(2) VACANCIES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the
11 Board shall be filled in the manner in which the
12 original appointment was made and shall be
13 subject to any conditions that applied with re-
14 spect to the original appointment.

15 “(B) COMPLETION OF TERM.—An indi-
16 vidual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-
17 pointed for the unexpired term of the member
18 replaced.

19 “(3) EXPIRATION.—The term of any member
20 shall not expire before the earlier of—

21 “(A) the date on which the member’s suc-
22 cessor takes office; or

23 “(B) 1 year after the member’s term is
24 scheduled to expire.

25 “(f) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

1 “(1) maintain SAFE Accounts and the SAFE
2 Investment Fund in the same manner as the Thrift
3 Savings Accounts and the Thrift Savings Fund are
4 maintained by the Thrift Savings Board;

5 “(2) review and approve the budget of the
6 Board;

7 “(3) establish policies for the administration of
8 this part; and

9 “(4) carry out any other duties specified under
10 this part.

11 “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may—

13 “(A) adopt, alter, and use a seal;

14 “(B) direct the Executive Director to take
15 such action as the Board considers appropriate
16 to carry out the provisions of this part and the
17 policies of the Board;

18 “(C) upon the concurring votes of 4 mem-
19 bers, remove the Executive Director from office
20 for good cause shown; and

21 “(D) take such other actions as may be
22 necessary to carry out the functions of the
23 Board.

24 “(2) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet—

25 “(A) not less than once each month; and

1 “(B) at additional times at the call of the
2 Chairman.

3 “(3) EXERCISE OF POWERS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
5 paragraph (1)(C), the Board shall perform the
6 functions and exercise the powers of the Board
7 on a majority vote of a quorum of the Board.
8 Three members of the Board shall constitute a
9 quorum for the transaction of business.

10 “(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the
11 Board shall not impair the authority of a
12 quorum of the Board to perform the functions
13 and exercise the powers of the Board.

14 “(h) COMPENSATION.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Board
16 who is not an officer or employee of the Federal
17 Government shall be compensated at the daily rate
18 of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule
19 for each day during which such member is engaged
20 in performing a function of the Board.

21 “(2) EXPENSES.—A member of the Board shall
22 be paid travel, per diem, and other necessary ex-
23 penses under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
24 United States Code, while traveling away from such

1 member's home or regular place of business in the
2 performance of the duties of the Board.

3 “(i) APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint,
5 without regard to the provisions of law governing
6 appointments in the competitive service, an Execu-
7 tive Director by action agreed to by a majority of
8 the members of the Board.

9 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Executive Director
10 shall have substantial experience, training, and ex-
11 pertise in finance, investments, and insurance.

12 “(3) DUTIES.—The Executive Director shall—

13 “(A) carry out the policies established by
14 the Board;

15 “(B) invest and manage the SAFE Invest-
16 ment Fund in accordance with the investment
17 policies established by the Board;

18 “(C) administer the provisions this part;
19 and

20 “(D) prescribe such regulations (other
21 than regulations relating to fiduciary respon-
22 sibilities) as may be necessary for the adminis-
23 tration of this part.

24 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The Exec-
25 utive Director may—

1 “(A) appoint such personnel as may be
2 necessary to carry out the provisions of this
3 part;

4 “(B) subject to approval by the Board,
5 procure the services of experts and consultants
6 under section 3109 of title 5, United States
7 Code;

8 “(C) secure directly from an executive
9 agency, the United States Postal Service, or the
10 Postal Rate Commission any information nec-
11 essary to carry out the provisions of such part
12 and the policies of the Board;

13 “(D) make such payments out of sums de-
14 scribed in subsection (l) as the Executive Direc-
15 tor determines are necessary to carry out the
16 provisions of such part and the policies of the
17 Board;

18 “(E) accept and use the services of individ-
19 uals employed intermittently in the Government
20 service and reimburse such individuals for trav-
21 el expenses, as authorized by section 5703 of
22 title 5, United States Code, including per diem
23 as authorized by section 5702 of such title;

24 “(F) except as otherwise expressly prohib-
25 ited by law or the policies of the Board, dele-

1 gate any of the Executive Director’s functions
2 to such employees under the Board as the Ex-
3 ecutive Director may designate and authorize
4 such successive redelegations of such functions
5 to such employees under the Board as the Ex-
6 ecutive Director may consider to be necessary
7 or appropriate; and

8 “(G) take such other actions as are appro-
9 priate to carry out the functions of the Execu-
10 tive Director.

11 “(j) DISCHARGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—The mem-
12 bers of the Board shall discharge their responsibilities
13 solely in the interest of SAFE Account holders and bene-
14 ficiaries under this part.

15 “(k) ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT.—The Board
16 shall annually engage an independent qualified public ac-
17 countant to audit the activities of the Board.

18 “(l) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Payments authorized
19 under this section shall be paid from administrative fees
20 charged in accordance with section 253(c).

21 “(m) SUBMISSION OF BUDGET TO CONGRESS.—The
22 Board shall prepare and submit to the President, and, at
23 the same time, to the appropriate committees of Congress,
24 an annual budget of the expenses and other items relating
25 to the Board which shall be included as a separate item

1 in the budget required to be transmitted to Congress
2 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

3 “(n) SUBMISSION OF LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDA-
4 TIONS.—The Board may submit to the President, and, at
5 the same time, shall submit to each House of Congress,
6 any legislative recommendations of the Board relating to
7 any of its functions under this part or any other provision
8 of law.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND NOTICE REQUIRE-
10 MENTS.—

11 (1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
12 by this section shall apply to designations of ac-
13 counts made with respect to payroll periods begin-
14 ning on or after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act.

16 (2) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January
18 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Social Security
19 shall—

20 (i) send to the last known address of
21 each eligible individual a description of the
22 program established by the amendments
23 made by this section, that shall be written
24 in the form of a pamphlet in language that

1 may be readily understood by the average
2 worker;

3 (ii) provide for toll-free access by tele-
4 phone from all localities in the United
5 States and access by the Internet to the
6 Social Security Administration through
7 which individuals may obtain information
8 and answers to questions regarding such
9 program; and

10 (iii) provide information to the media
11 in all localities of the United States about
12 such program and such toll-free access by
13 telephone and access by Internet.

14 (B) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes
15 of this paragraph, the term “eligible individual”
16 means an individual who, as of the date of the
17 pamphlet sent pursuant to subparagraph (A), is
18 indicated within the records of the Social Secu-
19 rity Administration as being credited with 1 or
20 more quarters of coverage under section 213 of
21 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 413).

22 (C) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The
23 Commissioner of Social Security shall include
24 with the pamphlet sent to each eligible indi-
25 vidual pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) a statement of the number of quar-
 2 ters of coverage indicated in the records of
 3 the Social Security Administration as of
 4 the date of the description as credited to
 5 such individual under section 213 of such
 6 Act and the date as of which such records
 7 may be considered accurate; and

8 (ii) the number for toll-free access by
 9 telephone established by the Commissioner
 10 pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii).

11 **SEC. 102. ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIMARY INSURANCE**
 12 **AMOUNTS UNDER PART A OF TITLE II OF THE**
 13 **SOCIAL SECURITY ACT FOR INVESTING**
 14 **WORKERS WITH SAFE ACCOUNTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215 of the Social Security
 16 Act (42 U.S.C. 415) is amended by adding at the end the
 17 following:

18 “Adjustment of Primary Insurance Amount in Relation
 19 to Deposits Made to SAFE Accounts

20 “(j)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an indi-
 21 vidual’s primary insurance amount as determined in ac-
 22 cordance with this section (before adjustments made
 23 under subsection (i)) shall be equal to—

1 “(A) the amount which would be so determined
2 without the application of this subsection, multiplied
3 by

4 “(B) 1 minus the ratio of—

5 “(i) the sum of—

6 “(I) the total of all amounts which
7 have been credited pursuant to section
8 252(b) to the SAFE Account held by such
9 individual; plus

10 “(II) accrued interest on such
11 amounts compounded annually up to the
12 date of initial benefit entitlement based on
13 the earning of the individual’s SAFE Ac-
14 count, assuming an interest rate equal to
15 the projected interest rate of the Federal
16 Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund; to

17 “(ii) the expected present value of all fu-
18 ture benefits paid based on the individual’s
19 earnings, as of the date of initial benefit entitle-
20 ment based on such earnings, assuming future
21 mortality and interest rates for the Federal
22 Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund used in the
23 intermediate projections of the most recent
24 Board of Trustees report under section 201.

1 “(2) In the case of an individual who becomes entitled
2 to disability insurance benefits under section 223, such in-
3 dividual’s primary insurance amount shall be determined
4 without regard to paragraph (1).”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO RAILROAD RE-
6 TIREMENT ACT OF 1974.—Section 1 of the Railroad Re-
7 tirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following:

9 “(s) In applying applicable provisions of the Social
10 Security Act for purposes of determining the amount of
11 the annuity to which an individual is entitled under this
12 Act, section 215(j) of the Social Security Act and part
13 B of title II of such Act shall be disregarded.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall apply with respect to computations and
16 recomputations of primary insurance amounts occurring
17 after December 31, 2007.

18 **SEC. 103. MINIMUM SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT.**

19 Section 215 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20 415), as amended by section 102, is amended by adding
21 at the end the following:

22 “Minimum Monthly Insurance Benefit

23 “(k)(1) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of
24 this section—

1 “(A) the primary insurance amount of any indi-
2 vidual who initially becomes eligible for old-age in-
3 surance benefits or dies (before becoming eligible for
4 such benefits) for a month beginning after December
5 31, 2024, shall be equal to the greater of—

6 “(i) the primary insurance amount deter-
7 mined under this section (without regard to this
8 subsection), or

9 “(ii) $\frac{1}{12}$ of the applicable percentage of
10 the income official poverty line (as defined by
11 the Office of Management and Budget, and re-
12 vised annually in accordance with section
13 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation
14 Act of 1981), and

15 “(B) any recomputation of the primary insur-
16 ance amount of a qualified individual shall not result
17 in a primary insurance amount less than the pri-
18 mary insurance amount as in effect immediately
19 prior to such recomputation.

20 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the applicable
21 percentage shall be 135 percent reduced by 1.35 percent-
22 age points for each quarter of coverage of the qualified
23 individual less than 140.

24 “(3) In the case of an individual who becomes entitled
25 to disability insurance benefits under section 223, such in-

1 individual's primary insurance amount shall be determined
 2 without regard to paragraph (1).”.

3 **SEC. 104. TAX TREATMENT OF INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL**
 4 **SECURITY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter F of chapter 1
 7 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to
 8 exempt organizations) is amended by adding at the
 9 end the following new part:

10 **“PART IX—INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL**
 11 **SECURITY**

“Sec. 530A. Investment-based social security.

12 **“SEC. 530A. INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY.**

13 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—The SAFE Investment Fund
 14 and each SAFE Account are exempt from taxation under
 15 this subtitle. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a
 16 personal social security savings account is subject to the
 17 taxes imposed by section 511 (relating to imposition of
 18 tax on unrelated business income of charitable, etc. orga-
 19 nizations).

20 “(b) DISTRIBUTIONS.—

21 “(1) FEDERAL ANNUITY PAYMENT.—Any Fed-
 22 eral annuity payment (as defined under section
 23 254(b)(1) of the Social Security Act) shall be treat-

1 ed as a social security benefit for purposes of section
2 86.

3 “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS ASSETS.—Any
4 distribution from a SAFE Account under section
5 254(b)(3) of the Social Security Act shall be includ-
6 ible in gross income under rules under section 72.

7 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

8 “(1) SAFE ACCOUNT.—The term ‘SAFE Ac-
9 count’ means an account established under section
10 252(a) of the Social Security Act.

11 “(2) SAFE INVESTMENT FUND.—The term
12 ‘SAFE Investment Fund’ means the fund estab-
13 lished under section 253 of the Social Security
14 Act.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
16 parts for subchapter F of chapter 1 of such Code is
17 amended by adding after the item relating to part
18 VIII the following new item:

“PART IX. INVESTMENT-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
21 December 31, 2007.

22 **SEC. 105. STUDY ON USE OF PRIVATE ANNUITIES FOR SAFE**
23 **ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Social Security Investment
25 Board shall conduct a study on the use of annuities pro-

1 vided by private-sector financial institutions for the dis-
2 tribution of SAFE account funds under section 254 of the
3 Social Security Act.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Social Security Invest-
6 ment Board shall submit to the Committee on Finance
7 of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of
8 the House of Representatives a report describing the re-
9 sults of the study under subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 106. STUDY REGARDING FINANCIAL LITERACY.**

11 (a) STUDY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Social Security Invest-
13 ment Board shall conduct a thorough study of all
14 matters relating to programs to increase the finan-
15 cial literacy of Americans.

16 (2) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied
17 by the Social Security Investment Board shall in-
18 clude—

19 (A) existing Federal and non-Federal fi-
20 nancial literacy programs, including a review
21 and performance evaluation of such programs;

22 (B) the coordination of existing Federal
23 and non-Federal financial education efforts; and

24 (C) ideas for new public initiatives to in-
25 crease the financial literacy of all Americans.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Social Security In-
2 vestment Board shall develop recommendations on—

3 (1) streamlining existing financial literacy pro-
4 grams;

5 (2) increasing financial literacy for all Ameri-
6 cans; and

7 (3) new avenues for public-private partnerships
8 in financial literacy.

9 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Social Security Invest-
11 ment Board shall submit a report to the President and
12 to Congress which shall contain a detailed statement of
13 the findings and conclusions of the Social Security Invest-
14 ment Board, together with its recommendations for such
15 legislation and administrative actions as it considers ap-
16 propriate.

17 **TITLE II—DEBT-BASED SOCIAL**
18 **SECURITY**

19 **Subtitle A—Adjustments**

20 **SEC. 201. MODIFICATION TO RETIREMENT AGE.**

21 Section 216(l)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
22 U.S.C. 416(l)(1)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
24 graph (D);

1 (2) by inserting “and before January 1, 2025,”
2 after “December 31, 2021,” in subparagraph (E);

3 (3) by striking the period at the end of sub-
4 paragraph (E) and by inserting “; and”; and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(F) with respect to an individual who at-
7 tains early retirement age after December 31,
8 2024, 68 years of age.”.

9 **SEC. 202. MODIFICATION OF PIA FACTORS TO REFLECT**
10 **CHANGES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY.**

11 Section 215(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
12 U.S.C. 415(a)(1)(B)) is amended by redesignating sub-
13 paragraph (D) as subparagraph (F) and by inserting after
14 subparagraph (C) the following:

15 “(D)(i) For individuals who initially become eligible
16 for old-age insurance benefits in any calendar year after
17 2025, each of the percentages under clauses (i), (ii), and
18 (iii) of subparagraph (A) shall be multiplied by the appli-
19 cable factor for such year with respect to each year after
20 2025 and before the year following the year of initial eligi-
21 bility.

22 “(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘applicable
23 factor’ means the actuarial number, expressed as a per-
24 centage and determined by the Commissioner of Social Se-
25 curity after taking into account the actuarial reduction

1 under section 202(q) (without regard to the amendments
 2 made by section 203 of the Saving Social Security Act
 3 of 2008), representing the historical increase in longevity
 4 of life for the most recent year.

5 “(E) For any individual who initially becomes eligible
 6 for disability insurance benefits in any calendar year after
 7 2025, the primary insurance amount for such individual
 8 shall be equal to the greater of—

9 “(i) such amount as determined under this
 10 paragraph, or

11 “(ii) such amount as determined under this
 12 paragraph without regard to subparagraph (D)
 13 thereof.”.

14 **SEC. 203. ACTUARIAL ADJUSTMENT FOR RETIREMENTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(q) of the Social Secu-
 16 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 402(q)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “ $\frac{5}{9}$ ” and
 18 inserting “the applicable old-age benefit fraction (de-
 19 termined under paragraph (12)(A))”, and by strik-
 20 ing “ $\frac{25}{36}$ ” and inserting “the applicable spousal
 21 benefit fraction (determined under paragraph
 22 (12)(B))”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(12) For purposes of paragraph (1)(A)—

1 “(A) the ‘applicable old-age benefit fraction’ for
2 an individual who attains the age of 62 in—

3 “(i) any year before 2026, is $\frac{5}{9}$;

4 “(ii) 2026, is $\frac{7}{12}$;

5 “(iii) 2027, is $\frac{11}{18}$;

6 “(iv) 2028, is $\frac{23}{36}$;

7 “(v) 2029, is $\frac{2}{3}$; and

8 “(vi) 2030 or any succeeding year, is $\frac{25}{36}$;

9 and

10 “(B) the ‘applicable spousal benefit fraction’ for
11 an individual who becomes eligible for wife’s or hus-
12 band’s insurance benefits in—

13 “(i) any year before 2026, is $\frac{25}{36}$;

14 “(ii) 2026, is $\frac{13}{18}$;

15 “(iii) 2027, is $\frac{27}{36}$;

16 “(iv) 2028, is $\frac{7}{9}$;

17 “(v) 2029, is $\frac{29}{36}$; and

18 “(vi) 2030 or any succeeding year, is $\frac{5}{6}$.”.

19 (b) MONTHS BEYOND FIRST 36 MONTHS.—Section
20 202(q) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(q)) (as amended by
21 subsection (a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking “five-
23 twelfths” and inserting “the applicable fraction (de-
24 termined under paragraph (13))”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(13) For purposes of paragraph (9)(A), the ‘applica-
2 ble fraction’ for an individual who becomes eligible for old-
3 age, wife’s, or husband’s insurance benefits in—

4 “(A) any year before 2026, is $\frac{5}{12}$;

5 “(B) 2026, is $\frac{16}{36}$;

6 “(C) 2027, is $\frac{16}{36}$;

7 “(D) 2027, is $\frac{17}{36}$;

8 “(E) 2028, is $\frac{17}{36}$; and

9 “(F) 2029 or any succeeding year, is $\frac{1}{2}$.”.

10 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 202(q) of such Act (as
11 amended by the preceding provisions of this section) is
12 amended further by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph:

14 “(14) For purposes of this subsection, an individual
15 shall be deemed eligible for a benefit for a month if, upon
16 filing application therefor in such month, such individual
17 would be entitled to such benefit for such month.”.

18 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this subsection shall apply to individuals who, in connec-
20 tion with old-age, wife’s, and husband’s insurance benefits
21 under title II of the Social Security Act, become eligible
22 for such benefits (within the meaning of section
23 202(q)(14) of such Act (as amended by this subsection))
24 in years after 2025.

1 **Subtitle B—Maintenance of Social**
2 **Security Trust Funds**

3 **SEC. 211. MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE BALANCES IN THE**
4 **SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 401) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following new subsection:

8 “(o) In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated
9 under the preceding provisions of this section to the Trust
10 Funds established under this section, there is hereby ap-
11 propriated for each fiscal year to each of such Trust
12 Funds, from amounts in the general fund of the Treasury
13 not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be nec-
14 essary from time to time to maintain the balance ratio
15 (as defined in section 709(b)) of such Trust Fund, for the
16 calendar year commencing during such fiscal year, at not
17 less than 100 percent. The sums to be appropriated under
18 the preceding sentence shall be determined by the Com-
19 missioner of Social Security and certified by the Commis-
20 sioner to each House of the Congress not later than Octo-
21 ber 1 of such fiscal year. In making such determination
22 and certification, the Commissioner shall use the inter-
23 mediate actuarial assumptions used by the Board of
24 Trustees of the Trust Funds in its most recent annual
25 report to the Congress prepared pursuant to subsection

1 (c)(2). The Commissioner shall also transmit a copy of
2 any such certification to the Secretary of the Treasury,
3 and upon receipt thereof, such Secretary shall promptly
4 take appropriate actions in accordance with the certifi-
5 cation.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal years be-
8 ginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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