

# CRS Report for Congress

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## Social Security: Bills in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress

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### Summary

This report lists the bills that were introduced in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress that directly affected the Social Security program, and provides a summary table listed by subject.

### Social Security Bills Introduced in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress

Two hundred and nine bills were introduced in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress that directly or indirectly affected the Social Security program. This report lists those that directly affected old-age and survivors insurance benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act. It first describes those bills on which legislative action has occurred. It then presents a table that includes bills that would reform the system or otherwise address its financing problems, change its budget status, or increase or reduce benefits, and groups them into categories reflecting their general purpose. Footnotes to the table list reports from the Congressional Research Service that discuss the bills or subject matter.

### Bills on Which Legislative Action Has Occurred

**H.R. 2 (Herger)** Reserves Social Security and Medicare surpluses for debt reduction until reform is passed. Passed House, February 13, 2001, by a vote of 407-2.

**H.Con.Res. 282 (Shaw)** Expresses the sense of the Congress that Social Security reform legislation should guarantee current-law benefits to current and future retirees, without raising taxes. Passed House, December 12, 2001, by a vote of 415-5.

**H.R. 4069 (Shaw)** Makes miscellaneous enhancements in Social Security spousal benefits. Passed House, May 14, 2002, by a vote of 418-0.

**H.R. 4070 (Shaw)** Provides additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients with representative payees and enhances other program protections. Passed House, June 26, 2002, by a vote of 425-0. Passed Senate, November 18, 2002, by voice vote.

### Table 1. Social Security Bills in 107<sup>th</sup> Congress

General purpose of bill					
<b>Attempts to enhance solvency or income of current system<sup>a</sup></b>		<b>Creates voluntary or mandatory personal accounts in place of part or all of current system<sup>a</sup></b>		<b>Creates personal accounts, but does not alter current system</b>	
H.R. 2771	Kolbe	H.R. 849	Sessions	H.R. 2110	Petri
H.R. 2935	Frank	H.R. 2771	Kolbe	S. 2693	Dorgan
H.R. 3315	DeFazio	H.R. 3497	Shaw		
H.R. 3497	Shaw	H.R. 3535	DeMint		
H.R. 3535	DeMint	H.R. 4022	Matsui		
H.R. 4023	Matsui	H.R. 4023	Matsui		
H.R. 4024	Matsui	H.R. 4024	Matsui		
H.R. 5252	Waxman	H.R. 5734	N. Smith		
		S.5	Gramm		
<b>Alters system's investment policies<sup>b</sup></b>		<b>Alters Social Security's budget treatment (including "lock box" bills)<sup>c</sup></b>		<b>Liberalizes or ends Social Security earnings test<sup>d</sup></b>	
H.R. 96	Hall	H.R. 2	Herger	H.R. 1731	Sessions
H.R. 166	Royce	H.R. 56	Ross	H.R. 3497	Shaw
H.R. 219	Paul	H.R. 120	Holt		
H.R. 1320	Sabo	H.R. 373	Rogers		
H.R. 3315	DeFazio	H.R. 560	Ross		
		H.R. 816	Andrews		
		H.R. 1065	Andrews		
		H.R. 1204	Adam Smith		
		H.R. 1207	Bartlett		
		S. 21	Daschle		
<b>Alters Social Security's disability provisions</b>		<b>Deals with Social Security numbers and privacy</b>		<b>Addresses Social Security "notch" issue<sup>e</sup></b>	
H.R. 344	Frank	H.R. 220	Paul	H.R. 80	Emerson
H.R. 481	Stark	H.R. 2036	Shaw	H.R. 97	Hall
H.R. 498	Ehrlich	H.R. 4513	Markey	H.R. 853	Wexler
H.R. 509	Mink	S. 848	Feinstein	H.R. 870	Clement
H.R. 569	Andrews	S. 1014	Bunning	S. 825	Reid
H.R. 2850	Deal	S. 1055	Feinstein		
H.R. 3133	Cantor	S. 3100	Feinstein		
H.R. 3265	Platts				
H.R. 5667	G. Green				
S. 682	McCain				
S. 2942	Crapo				

General purpose of bill					
<b>Alters Social Security taxes for purposes other than to restore solvency</b>		<b>Establishes bi-partisan Social Security commission</b>		<b>Restores benefits for college students</b>	
H.R. 1573	Owens	H.R. 14	Portman	H.R. 410	Andrews
		H.R. 1069	DeMint		
<b>Repeals some/all of taxation of Social Security benefits<sup>f</sup></b>		<b>Expresses sense of Congress about Social Security issue</b>		<b>Liberalizes benefits for spouses, children, and childcare givers<sup>g</sup></b>	
H.R. 122	S. Johnson	H.R. 4780	Matsui	H.R. 319	Allen
H.R. 192	Stump	H.R. 5541	Shows	H.R. 2698	Andrews
H.R. 209	Sweeney	H.Res. 128	DeLauro	H.R. 3023	Duncan
H.R. 1018	Toomey	H.Res. 425	Thurman	H.R. 3325	Lowey
H.R. 1532	Weiner	H.Res. 493	Jefferson	H.R. 3326	Lowey
H.R. 2106	Larson	H.J.Res. 26	G. Taylor	H.R. 3327	Lowey
H.R. 2548	Doolittle	H.C.Res. 120	Mark Green	H.R. 3328	Lowey
H.R. 4789	Paul	H.C.Res. 214	Shaw	H.R. 3315	DeFazio
H.R. 4790	Paul	H.C.Res. 229	Graves	H.R. 3497	Shaw
H.R. 5568	Weldon	H.C.Res. 282	Shaw	H.R. 4069	Shaw
S. 181	Shelby	H.Res. 128	DeLauro	H.R. 4671	Matsui
S. 237	Hutchinson	S.Res. 230	Corzine	H.R. 4743	Lowey
		S.J.Res. 2	Gramm	S. 2533	G. Smith
<b>Liberalizes “windfall” benefits provision<sup>h</sup></b>		<b>Liberalizes “government pension offset” provision<sup>i</sup></b>		<b>Authorizes benefits for the month of death<sup>j</sup></b>	
H.R. 848	Sandlin	H.R. 664	Jefferson	H.R. 210	Sweeney
H.R. 1073	Frank	H.R. 2638	McKeon	H.R. 1091	Mink
H.R. 2638	McKeon	H.R. 3497	Shaw	H.R. 1464	Holden
S. 1523	Feinstein	S. 611	Mikulski	H.R. 2845	Andrews
S. 2521	Kerry	S. 1523	Feinstein	H.R. 5404	Russell
				S. 882	Mikulski
<b>Expands eligibility for lump sum death benefit</b>		<b>Makes changes to representative payee provisions<sup>l</sup></b>		<b>Requires that Social Security benefits be made a “legal guarantee”</b>	
H.R. 266	Duncan	H.R. 3332	Shaw	H.R. 832	W. Jones
H.R. 2378	Clement	H.R. 4070	Shaw	H.R. 3135	DeMint
H.R. 3119	Hastings	S. 693	Grassley	S. 806	Hutchinson
				S. 1558	Santorum
<b>Alters COLAs by Revising Consumer Price Index (CPI)<sup>k</sup></b>		<b>Denies benefits to fugitive felons<sup>m</sup></b>		<b>Reduces “user fee” assessed on attorneys</b>	
H.R. 390	Weiner	S. 2387	Santorum	S. 2700	Lincoln
H.R. 2035	Sanders	H.R. 4070	Shaw	H.R. 4070	Shaw

**Source:** Derived from on-line *Legislative Information System*; bills introduced as of November 20, 2002.

<sup>a</sup> For discussion, see CRS Issue Brief IB98048, *Social Security Reform*.

<sup>b</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS20607, *Social Security: Trust Fund Investment Practices*, and CRS Report 91-129, *Social Security: Investing the Surplus*.

<sup>c</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS20165, *Social Security, Medicare, and Public Debt Reduction “Lock Boxes,”* and CRS Report 98-422, *Social Security and the Federal Budget: What Does Social Security Being “Off Budget” Mean?*

<sup>d</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report 98-789, *Social Security: Proposed Changes to the Earnings Test.*

<sup>e</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report 95-188, *The Social Security Notch Issue.*

<sup>f</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RL30581, *Social Security: Taxation of Benefits.*

<sup>g</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS21228, *Social Security Benefit Enhancements for Women Act of 2002.*

<sup>h</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report 98-35, *The Windfall Benefit Provision.*

<sup>i</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS20148, *Social Security: The Government Pension Offset.*

<sup>j</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report 93-792, *Social Security Benefits Are Not Paid For the Month of Death.*

<sup>k</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS20060, *A Separate Consumer Price Index for the Elderly?* and CRS Report 97-33, *The CPI and the “True” Cost of Living.*

<sup>l</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS21225, *Social Security Protection Act of 2002 (H.R. 4070).*

<sup>m</sup> For discussion, see CRS Report RS20325, *Efforts to Prevent Prisoners and Fugitives from Receiving Benefits from the Social Security Administration.*