

110th CONGRESS
2d Session
H. R. 5110

To amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the President to transmit the annual budget of the Social Security Administration without revisions to Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 23, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. ELLISON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the President to transmit the annual budget of the Social Security Administration without revisions to Congress, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDING SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION BUDGETARY MATTERS.

(a) Annual Budget- Section 704(b)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

`(b)(1)(A) The Commissioner shall prepare and submit an annual budget estimate for the Administration directly to the President and Congress.'.

(b) Contents of Budget- Section 704(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

`(B) The Commissioner shall include in the annual budget prepared pursuant to subparagraph (A) the following:

`(i) An itemization of the amount of funds required by the Administration to combat fraud committed by applicants and beneficiaries.

` (ii) The total number of cases pending at each hearing office, listed by hearing office, and an aggregate total of all cases pending at all hearing offices.

` (iii) The total number of cases pending for over the preceding year at each hearing office, listed by both hearing office and presiding administrative judge, and an aggregate total of all cases pending for over such year at all hearing offices.

` (iv) The average duration of time to process each case at each hearing office, listed by hearing office.

` (v) The staffing levels at each hearing office and field office, including a listing of job titles, classifications, and the number of staff within each title and classification.

` (vi) Employment statistics for each field office, for each preceding year after 1979, including the number of employees hired, retired, transferred in and out, and dismissed during such year.'

(c) Closure of Field Offices- Section 704(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

` (C) The Commissioner may not close or otherwise limit public access to a field office of the Administration until 180 days after the date on which the Commissioner submits to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a detailed report outlining and justifying the process for selecting field offices to be closed or otherwise have limited access. Such report shall include--

` (i) an analysis of the criteria used for selecting field offices for closure or limited access and how the Commissioner analyzes and considers factors relating to transportation and communication burdens faced by seniors and the disabled;

` (ii) a cost-benefit analysis for each field office closure that takes into account--

` (I) the anticipated savings as a result of the closure;

` (II) the anticipated burdens, including communication and transportation burdens, placed on elderly and disabled citizens; and

` (III) the anticipated costs associated with replacing the services lost by the closure.'

(d) Comprehensive Work Force Plan- Section 704(b)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ` Not later than 90 days before a

revision of the comprehensive work force plan, the Commissioner shall submit the document setting forth the revision to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.'.

END