

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 322

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that an individual's entitlement to any benefit thereunder shall continue through the month of his or her death (without affecting any other person's entitlement to benefits for that month) and that such individual's benefit shall be payable for such month only to the extent proportionate to the number of days in such month preceding the date of such individual's death.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON 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 provide that an individual's entitlement to any benefit thereunder shall continue through the month of his or her death (without affecting any other person's entitlement to benefits for that month) and that such individual's benefit shall be payable for such month only to the extent proportionate to the number of days in such month preceding the date of such individual's death.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Social Security Dece-
3 dent’s Family Relief Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS THROUGH MONTH OF**
5 **BENEFICIARY’S DEATH.**

6 (a) OLD-AGE INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
7 202(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(a)) is
8 amended by striking “the month preceding” in the matter
9 following subparagraph (B).

10 (b) WIFE’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(b)(1) of such
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 402(b)(1)) is amended—

13 (A) by striking “and ending with the
14 month” in the matter immediately following
15 clause (ii) and inserting “and ending with the
16 month in which she dies or (if earlier) with the
17 month”;

18 (B) by striking subparagraph (E); and

19 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
20 through (K) as subparagraphs (E) through (J).

21 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
22 202(b)(5)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(b)(5)(B))
23 is amended by striking “(E), (F), (H), or (J)” and
24 inserting “(E), (G), or (I)”.

25 (c) HUSBAND’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(c)(1) of such
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 402(c)(1)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking “and ending with the
4 month” in the matter immediately following
5 clause (ii) and inserting “and ending with the
6 month in which he dies or (if earlier) with the
7 month”;

8 (B) by striking subparagraph (E); and

9 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
10 through (K) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),
11 respectively.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
13 202(c)(5)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(c)(5)(B))
14 is amended by striking “(E), (F), (H), or (J)” and
15 inserting “(E), (G), or (I)”, respectively.

16 (d) CHILD’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
17 202(d)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(d)(1)) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (1) by striking “and ending with the month” in
20 the matter immediately preceding subparagraph (D)
21 and inserting “and ending with the month in which
22 such child dies or (if earlier) with the month”; and

23 (2) by striking “dies, or” in subparagraph (D).

24 (e) WIDOW’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
25 202(e)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(e)(1)) is amended

1 by striking “ending with the month preceding the first
2 month in which any of the following occurs: she remarries,
3 dies,” in the matter following subparagraph (F) and in-
4 serting “ending with the month in which she dies or (if
5 earlier) with the month preceding the first month in which
6 she remarries or”.

7 (f) WIDOWER’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
8 202(f)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(f)(1)) is amended
9 by striking “ending with the month preceding the first
10 month in which any of the following occurs: he remarries,
11 dies,” in the matter following subparagraph (F) and in-
12 serting “ending with the month in which he dies or (if
13 earlier) with the month preceding the first month in which
14 he remarries”.

15 (g) MOTHER’S AND FATHER’S INSURANCE BENE-
16 FITS.—Section 202(g)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
17 402(g)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “with the month in which he or
19 she dies or (if earlier)” after “and ending” in the
20 matter following subparagraph (F); and

21 (2) by striking “he or she remarries, or he or
22 she dies” and inserting “or he or she remarries”.

23 (h) PARENT’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
24 202(h)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(h)(1)) is amended
25 by striking “ending with the month preceding the first

1 month in which any of the following occurs: such parent
 2 dies, marries,” in the matter following subparagraph (E)
 3 and inserting “ending with the month in which such par-
 4 ent dies or (if earlier) with the month preceding the first
 5 month in which such parent marries, or such parent”.

6 (i) DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
 7 223(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended
 8 by striking “ending with the month preceding whichever
 9 of the following months is the earliest: the month in which
 10 he dies,” in the matter following subparagraph (D) and
 11 inserting the following: “ending with the month in which
 12 he dies or (if earlier) with the month preceding the earlier
 13 of” and by striking the comma after “216(l))”.

14 (j) BENEFITS AT AGE 72 FOR CERTAIN UNINSURED
 15 INDIVIDUALS.—Section 228(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 16 428(a)) is amended by striking “the month preceding” in
 17 the matter following paragraph (4).

18 **SEC. 3. COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF LAST MONTHLY**
 19 **PAYMENT.**

20 (a) OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE BENE-
 21 FITS.—Section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 22 402) is amended by adding at the end the following new
 23 subsection:

1 “Last Payment of Monthly Insurance Benefit

2 Terminated by Death

3 “(y) The amount of any individual’s monthly insur-
4 ance benefit under this section paid for the month in
5 which the individual dies shall be an amount equal to—

6 “(1) the amount of such benefit (as determined
7 without regard to this subsection), multiplied by

8 “(2) a fraction—

9 “(A) the numerator of which is the number
10 of days in such month preceding the date of
11 such individual’s death, and

12 “(B) the denominator of which is the num-
13 ber of days in such month,

14 rounded, if not a multiple of \$1, to the next lower multiple
15 of \$1. This subsection shall apply with respect to such
16 benefit after all other adjustments with respect to such
17 benefit provided by this title have been made. Payment
18 of such benefit for such month shall be made as provided
19 in section 204(d).”.

20 (b) DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section 223
21 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423) is amended by adding at the
22 end the following new subsection:

1 “Last Payment of Benefit Terminated by Death

2 “(j) The amount of any individual’s monthly benefit
3 under this section paid for the month in which the individ-
4 ual dies shall be an amount equal to—

5 “(1) the amount of such benefit (as determined
6 without regard to this subsection), multiplied by

7 “(2) a fraction—

8 “(A) the numerator of which is the number
9 of days in such month preceding the date of
10 such individual’s death, and

11 “(B) the denominator of which is the num-
12 ber of days in such month,

13 rounded, if not a multiple of \$1, to the next lower multiple
14 of \$1. This subsection shall apply with respect to such
15 benefit after all other adjustments with respect to such
16 benefit provided by this title have been made. Payment
17 of such benefit for such month shall be made as provided
18 in section 204(d).”.

19 (c) BENEFITS AT AGE 72 FOR CERTAIN UNINSURED
20 INDIVIDUALS.—Section 228 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 428)
21 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 section:

1 “Last Payment of Benefit Terminated by Death

2 “(i) The amount of any individual’s monthly benefit
3 under this section paid for the month in which the individ-
4 ual dies shall be an amount equal to—

5 “(1) the amount of such benefit (as determined
6 without regard to this subsection), multiplied by

7 “(2) a fraction—

8 “(A) the numerator of which is the number
9 of days in such month preceding the date of
10 such individual’s death, and

11 “(B) the denominator of which is the num-
12 ber of days in such month,

13 rounded, if not a multiple of \$1, to the next lower multiple
14 of \$1. This subsection shall apply with respect to such
15 benefit after all other adjustments with respect to such
16 benefit provided by this title have been made. Payment
17 of such benefit for such month shall be made as provided
18 in section 204(d).”.

19 **SEC. 4. DISREGARD OF BENEFIT FOR MONTH OF DEATH**
20 **UNDER FAMILY MAXIMUM PROVISIONS.**

21 Section 203(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
22 403(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following
23 new paragraph:

24 “(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
25 Act, in applying the preceding provisions of this subsection

1 (and determining maximum family benefits under column
2 V of the table in or deemed to be in section 215(a) as
3 in effect in December 1978) with respect to the month
4 in which the insured individual's death occurs, the benefit
5 payable to such individual for that month shall be dis-
6 regarded.”.

7 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
9 respect to deaths occurring after the month in which this
10 Act is enacted.

○