

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 375

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FORD, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WELLSTONE, AND Mr. HAGEL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

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 “Blind Persons Earn-
5 ings Equity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF LINK BETWEEN RULES RELATING**
2 **TO SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY FOR**
3 **BLIND INDIVIDUALS AND RULES RELATING**
4 **TO EXCESS EARNINGS UNDER THE EARNINGS**
5 **TEST.**

6 Section 223(d)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “No individ-
8 ual who is blind” and all that follows through “had not
9 been enacted.” and inserting “No individual who is blind
10 shall be regarded as having demonstrated an ability to en-
11 gage in substantial gainful activity on the basis of earn-
12 ings that do not exceed an amount equal to the exempt
13 amount under section 203(f)(8) which is applicable to in-
14 dividuals described in subparagraph (D) thereof.”.

15 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
17 respect to taxable years ending after 1996.

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