

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1217

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in Social Security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 1999

Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BRYANT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. COYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DIXON, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. HOYER, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SPRATT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STARK, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. WISE, Mr. WOLF, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. STRICKLAND) 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 the reductions in Social Security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200.

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. LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS IN BENEFITS**  
 4 **FOR SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES RE-**  
 5 **CEIVING GOVERNMENT PENSIONS.**

6 (a) WIFE'S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section  
 7 202(b)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 8 402(b)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “an amount equal  
 9 to two thirds of the amount of” and inserting the fol-  
 10 lowing: “the government pension reduction amount (as de-  
 11 fined in section 216(m)) determined in connection with”.

12 (b) HUSBAND'S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section  
 13 202(c)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(c)(2)(A)) is  
 14 amended by striking “an amount equal to two thirds of  
 15 the amount of” and inserting the following: “the govern-  
 16 ment pension reduction amount (as defined in section  
 17 216(m)) determined in connection with”.

1 (c) WIDOW’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section  
 2 202(e)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(e)(7)(A)) is  
 3 amended by striking “an amount equal to two thirds of  
 4 the amount of” and inserting the following: “the govern-  
 5 ment pension reduction amount (as defined in section  
 6 216(m)) determined in connection with”.

7 (d) WIDOWER’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section  
 8 202(f)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(f)(2)(A)) is  
 9 amended by striking “an amount equal to two thirds of  
 10 the amount of” and inserting the following: “the govern-  
 11 ment pension reduction amount (as defined in section  
 12 216(m)) determined in connection with”.

13 (e) MOTHER’S AND FATHER’S INSURANCE BENE-  
 14 FITS.—Section 202(g)(4)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
 15 402(g)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “an amount equal  
 16 to two thirds of the amount of” and inserting the fol-  
 17 lowing: “the government pension reduction amount (as de-  
 18 fined in section 216(m)) determined in connection with”.

19 (f) GOVERNMENT PENSION REDUCTION AMOUNT.—  
 20 Section 216 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 416) is amended by  
 21 adding at the end the following new subsection:

22 “Government Pension Reduction Amount  
 23 “(m)(1) The term ‘government pension reduction  
 24 amount’ means, with respect to a benefit for any month,  
 25 the lesser of—

1 “(A) the amount (if any) by which—

2 “(i) the sum of such benefit (before reduc-  
3 tion under subsection (b)(4)(A), (c)(2)(A),  
4 (e)(7)(A), (f)(2)(A), or (g)(4)(A)) and the  
5 amount of any monthly periodic benefit payable  
6 to the beneficiary for such month which is  
7 based upon the beneficiary’s earnings while in  
8 the service of the Federal Government or any  
9 State (or political subdivision thereof, as de-  
10 fined in section 218(b)(2)), exceeds

11 “(ii) the reduction base amount, or

12 “(B) an amount equal to two-thirds of the  
13 amount of any such monthly periodic benefit.

14 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘reduc-  
15 tion base amount’ means, in connection with a benefit for  
16 a month during any calendar year, the greater of—

17 “(A) \$1,200, or

18 “(B) the amount determined under this para-  
19 graph in connection with benefits for months in the  
20 preceding calendar year, increased by the percent  
21 change described in section 8340(b) of title 5,  
22 United States Code (determined without regard to  
23 any other provision of law) taking effect on Decem-  
24 ber 1 of such preceding calendar year.”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       The amendments made by section 1 shall apply with  
3 respect to monthly insurance benefits payable under title  
4 II of the Social Security Act for months ending after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act.

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