

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 633

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to require that investment decisions regarding the social security trust funds be made on the basis of the best interests of beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 1999

Mr. ASHCROFT 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 require that investment decisions regarding the social security trust funds be made on the basis of the best interests of beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

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 “Social Security Trust
5 Funds Management Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. INVESTMENT OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SUR-**
2 **VIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE**
3 **FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST**
4 **FUND.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(d) of the Social Secu-
6 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 401(d)) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(d)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), it shall
8 be the duty of the Managing Trustee to invest such por-
9 tion of the Trust Funds as is not, in the judgment of the
10 Trustee, required to meet current withdrawals. The Man-
11 aging Trustee may purchase interest-bearing obligations
12 of the United States or obligations guaranteed as to both
13 principal and interest by the United States, on original
14 issue or at the market price.

15 “(2)(A) If the Managing Trustee, after consultation
16 with the Commissioner of Social Security, determines that
17 the purchase of obligations issued in accordance with
18 paragraph (4) is in the best interest of paying current and
19 future benefits under this title, and will not jeopardize the
20 payment of such benefits, the Managing Trustee may pur-
21 chase such obligations.

22 “(B) If the Commissioner of Social Security does not
23 concur with the investment decisions of the Managing
24 Trustee, or believes that other investment strategies are
25 appropriate, the Commissioner shall promptly so inform
26 the President and Congress in writing.

1 “(3) In investing contributions made to the Trust
2 Funds, the Managing Trustee may not invest such con-
3 tributions in private financial markets. Neither the Man-
4 aging Trustee nor any other officer or employee of the
5 Federal Government shall direct private pension plans as
6 to what type of investments to make or in which financial
7 markets to invest.

8 “(4) The purposes for which obligations of the United
9 States may be issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United
10 States Code, are hereby extended to authorize the issuance
11 at par of public-debt obligations for purchase by the Trust
12 Funds. Such obligations issued for purchase by the Trust
13 Funds shall have maturities fixed with due regard for the
14 needs of the Trust Funds and shall bear interest at a rate
15 equal to the average market yield (computed by the Man-
16 aging Trustee on the basis of market quotations as of the
17 end of the calendar month next preceding the date of such
18 issue) on all marketable interest-bearing obligations of the
19 United States then forming a part of the public debt which
20 are not due or callable until after the expiration of four
21 years from the end of such calendar month; except that
22 where such average market yield is not a multiple of one-
23 eighth of 1 percent, the rate of interest of such obligations
24 shall be the multiple of one-eighth of 1 percent nearest
25 such market yield. Each obligation issued for purchase by

1 the Trust Funds under this subsection shall be evidenced
 2 by a paper instrument in the form of a bond, note, or
 3 certificate of indebtedness issued by the Secretary of the
 4 Treasury setting forth the principal amount, date of matu-
 5 rity, and interest rate of the obligation, and stating on
 6 its face that the obligation shall be incontestable in the
 7 hands of the Trust Fund to which it is issued, that the
 8 obligation is supported by the full faith and credit of the
 9 United States, and that the United States is pledged to
 10 the payment of the obligation with respect to both prin-
 11 cipal and interest.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 13 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment
 14 of this Act.

15 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL SECU-**
 16 **RITY ACCOUNT STATEMENTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1143(a) of the Social Se-
 18 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
 21 including a separate estimate of the amount of
 22 interest earned on the contributions,” after
 23 “disability insurance”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (i) by inserting “, including a separate
 2 estimate of the amount of interest earned
 3 on the contributions,” after “hospital in-
 4 surance”; and

5 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
 6 colon;

7 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
 8 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

9 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (A),
 10 (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (B), (C),
 11 (D), and (E), respectively;

12 (E) by inserting after the matter preceding
 13 subparagraph (B), as redesignated by subpara-
 14 graph (D), the following:

15 “(A) the name, age, gender, mailing address,
 16 and marital status of the eligible individual;”;

17 (F) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(F) the total amount of the employer and em-
 19 ployee contributions for the eligible individual for
 20 old-age and survivors insurance benefits, as of the
 21 end of the month preceding the date of the state-
 22 ment, in both actual dollars and dollars adjusted for
 23 inflation;

24 “(G) the projected value of—

1 “(i) the aggregate amount of the employer
 2 and employee contributions for old-age and sur-
 3 vivors insurance benefits that are expected to be
 4 made by or on behalf of the individual prior to
 5 the individual attaining retirement age, in both
 6 actual dollars and dollars adjusted for inflation;

7 “(ii) the annual amount of old-age and
 8 survivors insurance benefits that are expected
 9 to be payable on the eligible individual’s ac-
 10 count for a single individual and for a married
 11 couple, in dollars adjusted for inflation;

12 “(iii) the total amount of old-age and sur-
 13 vivors insurance benefits payable on the eligible
 14 individual’s account for the individual’s life ex-
 15 pectancy, in dollars adjusted for inflation,
 16 identifying—

17 “(I) the life expectancy assumed;

18 “(II) the amount of benefits received
 19 on the basis of each \$1 of contributions
 20 made by or on behalf of the individual; and

21 “(III) the projected annual rate of re-
 22 turn for the individual, taking into account
 23 the date on which the contributions are
 24 made in the eligible individual’s account

1 and the date on which the benefits are
2 paid;

3 “(iv) the total amount of old-age and sur-
4 vivors insurance benefits that would have accu-
5 mulated on the eligible individual’s account on
6 the date on which the individual attains retire-
7 ment age if the contributions for such indi-
8 vidual had been invested in Treasury 10-year
9 saving bonds at the prevailing interest rate for
10 such bonds as of the end of the month pre-
11 ceding the date of the statement, and, alter-
12 natively, in the Standard and Poor’s 500, or an
13 equivalent portfolio of common stock equities
14 that are based on a broad index of United
15 States market performance, in dollars adjusted
16 for inflation, identifying—

17 “(I) the date of retirement assumed;

18 “(II) the interest rate used for the
19 projection; and

20 “(III) the amount that would be re-
21 ceived on the basis of each \$1 of contribu-
22 tions made by or on behalf of the indi-
23 vidual;

1 “(H) the average annual rate of return, ad-
2 justed for inflation, on the Treasury 10-year saving
3 bond as of the date of the statement;

4 “(I) the average annual rate of return, adjusted
5 for inflation, on the Standard and Poor’s 500, or an
6 equivalent portfolio of common stock equities that
7 are based on a broad index of United States market
8 performance, for the preceding 25 years;

9 “(J) a brief statement that identifies—

10 “(i) the balance of the trust fund accounts
11 as of the end of the month preceding the date
12 of the statement;

13 “(ii) the annual estimated balance of the
14 trust fund accounts for each of the succeeding
15 30 years; and

16 “(iii) the assumptions used to provide the
17 information described in clauses (i) and (ii), in-
18 cluding the rates of return and the nature of
19 the investments of such trust fund accounts;
20 and

21 “(K) a simple 1-page summary and comparison
22 of the information that is provided to an eligible in-
23 dividual under subparagraphs (G), (H), and (I).”;
24 and

1 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(3) The estimated amounts required to be provided
4 in a statement under this section shall be determined by
5 the Commissioner using a general methodology for making
6 such estimates, as formulated and published at the begin-
7 ning of each calendar year by the Board of Trustees of
8 the trust fund accounts. A description of the general meth-
9 odology used shall be provided to the eligible individual
10 as part of the statement required under this section.

11 “(4) The Commissioner of Social Security shall notify
12 an individual who receives a social security account state-
13 ment under this section that the individual may request
14 that the information described in paragraph (2) be deter-
15 mined on the basis of relevant information provided by the
16 individual, including information regarding the individ-
17 ual’s future income, marital status, date of retirement, or
18 race.

19 “(5) For purposes of this section—

20 “(A) the term ‘dollars adjusted for inflation’
21 means—

22 “(i) dollars in constant or real value terms
23 on the date on which the statement is issued;
24 and

1 “(ii) an amount that is adjusted on the
2 basis of the Consumer Price Index.

3 “(B) the term ‘eligible individual’ means an in-
4 dividual who—

5 “(i) has a social security account number;

6 “(ii) has attained age 25 or over; and

7 “(iii) has wages or net earnings from self-
8 employment; and

9 “(C) the term ‘trust fund account’ means—

10 “(i) the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-
11 surance Trust Fund; and

12 “(ii) the Federal Disability Insurance
13 Trust Fund.”.

14 (b) MANDATORY PROVISION OF STATEMENTS
15 THROUGH MEANS SUCH AS THE INTERNET.—Section
16 1143(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-
17 13(c)(2)) is amended—

18 (1) in the first sentence, by inserting “(which
19 shall include the Internet as soon as the Commis-
20 sioner of Social Security determines that adequate
21 measures are in place to protect the confidentiality
22 of the information contained in the statement)” be-
23 fore the period; and

24 (2) by striking the second and third sentences.

1 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1143 of the
2 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13) is amended by
3 striking “Secretary” each place it appears and inserting
4 “Commissioner of Social Security”.

5 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this Act shall apply to statements provided for fiscal years
7 beginning with fiscal year 2000.

