

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5095

To provide for an indefinite freeze on increases in the monthly premiums for Medicare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for an indefinite freeze on increases in the monthly premiums for Medicare, 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 “Medicare Equity Act
5 of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FREEZE IN MONTHLY PREMIUMS FOR MEDICARE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 1839(a)
8 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(a)) is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Not-

1 withstanding the preceding provisions of this paragraph,
 2 the monthly premium rate for any period after December
 3 31, 2004, shall be the monthly premium rate in effect for
 4 a month in 2004.”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 6 subsection (a) shall apply to periods beginning after De-
 7 cember 31, 2004.

8 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN TOP RATE OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME**
 9 **TAX.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The table contained in paragraph
 11 (2) of section 1(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
 12 (relating to reductions in rates after June 30, 2001) is
 13 amended by striking the last row and inserting the fol-
 14 lowing:

“2003 and 2004	25.0%	28.0%	33.0%	35.0%
2005 and thereafter	25.0%	28.0%	33.0%	36.0%”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 16 subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 17 December 31, 2004.

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