

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1647

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2007

Mrs. HUTCHISON 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 repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants.

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 “Public Servant Retire-
5 ment Protection Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF CURRENT WINDFALL ELIMINATION**
7 **PROVISION.**

8 Paragraph (7) of section 215(a) of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7)) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 3. REPLACEMENT OF THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION**
 2 **PROVISION WITH A FORMULA EQUALIZING**
 3 **BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH**
 4 **NON-COVERED EMPLOYMENT.**

5 (a) SUBSTITUTION OF PROPORTIONAL FORMULA FOR
 6 FORMULA BASED ON COVERED PORTION OF PERIODIC
 7 BENEFIT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of the Social
 9 Security Act (as amended by section 2 of this Act)
 10 is amended further by inserting after paragraph (6)
 11 the following new paragraph:

12 “(7)(A) In the case of an individual whose primary
 13 insurance amount would be computed under paragraph
 14 (1) of this subsection, who—

15 “(i) attains age 62 after 1985 (except where he
 16 or she became entitled to a disability insurance ben-
 17 efit before 1986 and remained so entitled in any of
 18 the 12 months immediately preceding his or her at-
 19 tainment of age 62), or

20 “(ii) would attain age 62 after 1985 and be-
 21 comes eligible for a disability insurance benefit after
 22 1985,

23 and who first becomes eligible after 1985 for a monthly
 24 periodic payment (including a payment determined under
 25 subparagraph (F), but excluding (I) a payment under the
 26 Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 or 1937, (II) a payment

1 by a social security system of a foreign country based on
 2 an agreement concluded between the United States and
 3 such foreign country pursuant to section 233, and (III)
 4 a payment based wholly on service as a member of a uni-
 5 formed service (as defined in section 210(m)) which is
 6 based in whole or in part upon his or her earnings for
 7 service which did not constitute ‘employment’ as defined
 8 in section 210 for purposes of this title (hereafter in this
 9 paragraph and in subsection (d)(3) referred to as ‘non-
 10 covered service’), the primary insurance amount of that
 11 individual during his or her concurrent entitlement to such
 12 monthly periodic payment and to old-age or disability in-
 13 surance benefits shall be computed or recomputed under
 14 this paragraph.

15 “(B) The primary insurance amount of an individual
 16 described in subparagraph (A), as computed or recom-
 17 puted under this paragraph, shall be—

18 “(i) in the case of an individual who first per-
 19 forms noncovered service after the 12th calendar
 20 month following the date of the enactment of the
 21 Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2007,
 22 the primary insurance amount determined under
 23 subparagraph (C), or

24 “(ii) in the case of an individual who has per-
 25 formed noncovered service during or before the 12th

1 calendar month following the date of the enactment
2 of the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of
3 2007, the larger of—

4 “(I) the primary insurance amount deter-
5 mined under subparagraph (C), or

6 “(II) the primary insurance amount deter-
7 mined under subparagraph (E).

8 “(C) An individual’s primary insurance amount de-
9 termined under this subparagraph shall be the product de-
10 rived by multiplying—

11 “(i) the individual’s primary insurance amount,
12 as determined under paragraph (1) of this sub-
13 section and subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, by

14 “(ii) a fraction—

15 “(I) the numerator of which is the individ-
16 ual’s average indexed monthly earnings (deter-
17 mined without regard to subparagraph (D)),
18 and

19 “(II) the denominator of which is an
20 amount equal to the individual’s average in-
21 dexed monthly earnings (as determined under
22 subparagraph (D)),

23 rounded, if not a multiple of \$0.10, to the next lower mul-
24 tiple of \$0.10.

1 “(D)(i) For purposes of determining an individual’s
2 primary insurance amount pursuant to clauses (i) and
3 (ii)(II) of subparagraph (C), the individual’s average in-
4 dexed monthly earnings shall be determined, subject to
5 clause (ii), by treating all recorded noncovered earnings
6 (as defined in clause (iii)(I)) derived by the individual
7 from noncovered service performed in each year after 1950
8 as ‘wages’ (as defined in section 209 for purposes of this
9 title), which shall be treated as included in the individual’s
10 adjusted total covered earnings (as defined in clause
11 (iii)(II)) for such calendar year together with amounts
12 consisting of ‘wages’ (as so defined without regard to this
13 subparagraph) paid during such calendar year and self-
14 employment income (as defined in section 211(b)) for tax-
15 able years ending with or during such calendar year.

16 “(ii) In any case in which some or all of the earnings
17 derived from noncovered service performed by an indi-
18 vidual during any calendar year after 1950 are not re-
19 corded noncovered earnings (as defined in clause (iii)(I)),
20 for purposes of determining the individual’s average in-
21 dexed monthly earnings as described in clause (i), the
22 amount of the individual’s adjusted total covered earnings
23 (as defined in clause (iii)(II)) for such calendar year shall
24 be deemed to be, in lieu of the amount determined without

1 regard to this clause, an amount equal to the quotient de-
 2 rived by dividing—

3 “(I) the sum of all adjusted total covered earn-
 4 ings (determined without regard to this clause) of
 5 the individual for all calendar years after 1950, plus
 6 all recorded noncovered earnings which are paid to
 7 the individual during such calendar years (after ad-
 8 justment under subsection (b)(3) as if such earnings
 9 were wages), by

10 “(II) the number of calendar years after 1950
 11 for which there are, with respect to the individual,
 12 any earnings described in subclause (I).

13 “(iii) For purposes of this subparagraph—

14 “(I) The term ‘recorded noncovered earnings’
 15 means earnings derived from noncovered service
 16 (other than noncovered service as a member of a
 17 uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m)) for
 18 which satisfactory evidence is determined by the
 19 Commissioner to be available in the records of the
 20 Commissioner.

21 “(II) The term ‘adjusted total covered earnings’
 22 means, in connection with an individual for any cal-
 23 endar year, the sum of the wages paid to the indi-
 24 vidual during such calendar year (as adjusted under
 25 subsection (b)(3)) plus the self-employment income

1 derived by the individual during any taxable year
2 ending with or during such calendar year (as ad-
3 justed under subsection (b)(3)).

4 “(iv) The Commissioner of Social Security shall pro-
5 vide by regulation for methods for determining whether
6 satisfactory evidence is available in the records of the
7 Commissioner for earnings for noncovered service (other
8 than noncovered service as a member of a uniformed serv-
9 ice (as defined in section 210(m)) to be treated as re-
10 corded noncovered earnings. Such methods shall provide
11 for reliance on earnings information which is provided to
12 the Commissioner by employers and which, as determined
13 by the Commissioner, constitute a reasonable basis for
14 treatment of earnings for noncovered service as recorded
15 noncovered earnings. In making determinations under this
16 clause, the Commissioner shall also take into account any
17 documentary evidence of earnings derived from non-
18 covered service by an individual which is provided by the
19 individual to the Commissioner and which the Commis-
20 sioner considers appropriate as a reasonable basis for
21 treatment of such earnings as recorded noncovered earn-
22 ings, except that such evidence provided by the individual
23 shall be taken into account only to the extent that such
24 evidence does not relate to earnings for service with re-
25 spect to which information regarding earnings has already

1 been obtained by the Commissioner from the employer and
 2 only to the extent that such evidence does not result in
 3 a reduction in the individual's primary insurance amount
 4 as calculated under subparagraph (C).

5 “(E)(i) For purposes of determining the primary in-
 6 surance amount under this subparagraph pursuant to sub-
 7 paragraph (B)(ii)(II)—

8 “(I) there shall first be computed an amount
 9 equal to the individual's primary insurance amount
 10 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, except that
 11 for purposes of such computation the percentage of
 12 the individual's average indexed monthly earnings
 13 established by subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph (1)
 14 shall be the percent specified in clause (ii), and

15 “(II) there shall then be computed (without re-
 16 gard to this paragraph) a second amount, which
 17 shall be equal to the individual's primary insurance
 18 amount under paragraph (1) of this subsection, ex-
 19 cept that such second amount shall be reduced by an
 20 amount equal to one-half of the portion of the
 21 monthly periodic payment which is attributable to
 22 noncovered service performed after 1956 (with such
 23 attribution being based on the proportionate number
 24 of years of such noncovered service) and to which
 25 the individual is entitled (or is deemed to be enti-

1 tled) for the initial month of his or her concurrent
 2 entitlement to such monthly periodic payment and
 3 old-age or disability insurance benefits.

4 An individual's primary insurance amount determined
 5 under this subparagraph shall be the larger of the two
 6 amounts computed under this clause (before the applica-
 7 tion of subsection (i)).

8 “(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the percent specified
 9 in this clause is—

10 “(I) 80.0 percent with respect to individuals
 11 who become eligible (as defined in paragraph (3)(B))
 12 for old-age insurance benefits (or became eligible as
 13 so defined for disability insurance benefits before at-
 14 taining age 62) in 1986;

15 “(II) 70.0 percent with respect to individuals
 16 who so become eligible in 1987;

17 “(III) 60.0 percent with respect to individuals
 18 who so become eligible in 1988;

19 “(IV) 50.0 percent with respect to individuals
 20 who so become eligible in 1989; and

21 “(V) 40.0 percent with respect to individuals
 22 who so become eligible in 1990 or thereafter.

23 “(F)(i) Any periodic payment which otherwise meets
 24 the requirements of subparagraph (A), but which is paid
 25 on other than a monthly basis, shall be allocated on a basis

1 equivalent to a monthly payment (as determined by the
2 Commissioner of Social Security), and such equivalent
3 monthly payment shall constitute a monthly periodic pay-
4 ment for purposes of this paragraph.

5 “(ii) In the case of an individual who has elected to
6 receive a periodic payment that has been reduced so as
7 to provide a survivor’s benefit to any other individual, the
8 payment shall be deemed to be increased (for purposes of
9 any computation under this paragraph or subsection
10 (d)(3) by the amount of such reduction.

11 “(iii) For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘peri-
12 odic payment’ includes a payment payable in a lump sum
13 if it is a commutation of, or a substitute for, periodic pay-
14 ments.

15 “(G)(i) In any case in which the primary insurance
16 amount would otherwise be calculated under subparagraph
17 (E)—

18 “(I) this paragraph shall not apply in the case
19 of an individual who has 30 years or more of cov-
20 erage; and

21 “(II) in the case of an individual who has more
22 than 20 years of coverage but less than 30 years of
23 coverage (as so defined), the percent specified in the
24 applicable subdivision of subparagraph (E)(ii) shall
25 (if such percent is smaller than the applicable per-

1 cent specified in the following table) be deemed to be
 2 the applicable percent specified in the following
 3 table:

“If the number of the individual’s years of coverage (as so de- fined) is:	The applicable percent is:
29	85
28	80
27	75
26	70
25	65
24	60
23	55
22	50
21	45.

4 “(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘year of cov-
 5 erage’ shall have the meaning provided in paragraph
 6 (1)(C)(ii), except that the reference to ‘15 percent’ therein
 7 shall be deemed to be a reference to ‘25 percent’.

8 “(H) An individual’s primary insurance amount de-
 9 termined under this paragraph shall be deemed to be com-
 10 puted under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the pur-
 11 pose of applying other provisions of this title.

12 “(I) This paragraph shall not apply in the case of
 13 an individual whose eligibility for old-age or disability in-
 14 surance benefits is based on an agreement concluded pur-
 15 suant to section 233 or an individual who on January 1,
 16 1984—

17 “(i) is an employee performing service to which
 18 social security coverage is extended on that date
 19 solely by reason of the amendments made by section
 20 101 of the Social Security Amendments of 1983; or

1 “(ii) is an employee of a nonprofit organization
 2 which (on December 31, 1983) did not have in effect
 3 a waiver certificate under section 3121(k) of the In-
 4 ternal Revenue Code of 1954 and to the employees
 5 of which social security coverage is extended on that
 6 date solely by reason of the amendments made by
 7 section 102 of that Act, unless social security cov-
 8 erage had previously extended to service performed
 9 by such individual as an employee of that organiza-
 10 tion under a waiver certificate which was subse-
 11 quently (prior to December 31, 1983) terminated.”.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

13 (A) Section 215(d)(3) of such Act (42
 14 U.S.C. 415(d)(3)) is amended—

15 (i) by striking “subsection (a)(7)(C)”
 16 each place it appears and inserting “sub-
 17 section (a)(7)(F)”;

18 (ii) by striking “subparagraph (E)”
 19 and inserting “subparagraph (I)”; and

20 (iii) by striking “subparagraph (D)”
 21 and inserting “subparagraph (G)(i)”.

22 (B) Section 215(f)(9)(A) of such Act (42
 23 U.S.C. 415(f)(9)(A)) is amended by striking
 24 “(a)(7)(C)” and inserting “(a)(7)(F)”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
3 respect to monthly insurance benefits for months com-
4 mencing with or after the 12th calendar month following
5 the date of the enactment of this Act. Notwithstanding
6 section 215(f) of the Social Security Act, the Commis-
7 sioner of Social Security shall recompute primary insur-
8 ance amounts to the extent necessary to carry out the
9 amendments made by this Act.

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