

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2777

To direct the Commissioner of Social Security to implement certain record keeping recommendations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To direct the Commissioner of Social Security to implement certain record keeping recommendations, 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 Integ-  
5       rity Act of 2015”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Individuals can commit various types of  
9       fraud against the Government by reporting earnings

1 under deceased individuals' Social Security Numbers  
2 (SSNs).

3 (2) Various Federal entities rely on the Social  
4 Security Administration's (SSA) death information  
5 to detect unreported deaths and verify the accuracy  
6 of reported deaths.

7 (3) The Numident is the SSA's computer data-  
8 base file on all who have applied for a Social Secu-  
9 rity number. The Office of the Inspector General  
10 (OIG) of the SSA conducted an audit and deter-  
11 mined that the SSA did not have controls in place  
12 to annotate death information on the Numident  
13 records of numberholders who exceeded maximum  
14 reasonable life expectancies and were likely deceased.

15 (4) The OIG identified approximately 6.5 mil-  
16 lion numberholders age 112 or older who did not  
17 have death information on the Numident.

18 (5) The OIG identified 34 cases in which it ap-  
19 peared that the deceased numberholder's name and  
20 Social Security Number (SSN) had been misused. In  
21 one instance an employer reported paying wages to  
22 someone from 2008 through 2012 using a  
23 numberholder's name and SSN that had been born  
24 in 1886. SSA payment records indicated that the  
25 numberholder died in January 1965, but the SSA

1 did not record the numberholder's death on the  
2 Numident. SSA continued paying benefits to the  
3 numberholder's widow until her death in February  
4 1973. SSA's Master Earning File (MEF) contained  
5 no reported earnings information for this  
6 numberholder from 1956 through 2007.

7 (6) The OIG determined that thousands of the  
8 SSNs could have been used to commit identity  
9 fraud. For tax years 2006 through 2011, SSA re-  
10 ceived reports that individuals using 66,920 SSNs  
11 had approximately \$3.1 billion in wages, tips, and  
12 self-employment income. SSA transferred the earn-  
13 ings to the Earnings Suspense File because the em-  
14 ployees' or self-employed individuals' names on the  
15 earnings reports did not match the numberholders'  
16 names.

17 (7) During calendar years 2008 through 2011,  
18 employers made 4,024 E-Verify inquiries using  
19 3,873 SSNs belonging to numberholders born before  
20 June 16, 1901. According to the OIG, these inquir-  
21 ies indicate individuals' attempts to use the SSNs to  
22 apply for work.

23 (8) The OIG determined that resolving these  
24 discrepancies will improve the accuracy and com-

1        pleteness of the Death Master File and help prevent  
2        future misuse of these SSNs.

3            (9) The American taxpayer deserves to have the  
4        surety of knowing that every agency and department  
5        within the Federal Government takes the prudent  
6        actions necessary to prevent future fraud and waste  
7        of hard-earned dollars.

8            (10) In line with the OIG's recommendations,  
9        the SSA should take proactive action to protect the  
10       American taxpayer by ensuring that there are con-  
11       trols in place to annotate death information on the  
12       Numident records of numberholders who exceeded  
13       maximum reasonable life expectancies.

14   **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF OIG RECOMMENDATIONS.**

15        (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
16       date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of  
17       Social Security shall implement all of the recommenda-  
18       tions described in the memorandum from the Office of the  
19       Inspector General of the Social Security Administration  
20       entitled “Numberholders Age 112 or Older Who Did Not  
21       Have a Death Entry on the Numident (A-06-14-34030)”  
22       and dated March 4, 2015.

23        (b) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each  
24       calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment  
25       of this Act and ends before the date that is 3 years after

1 such date of enactment, the Commissioner shall submit  
2 to the Congress a report on the progress made toward im-  
3 plementation of each of the recommendations described in  
4 the memorandum specified in subsection (a), the methods  
5 used to implement such recommendations, the amount of  
6 funds expended and any other resources utilized to imple-  
7 ment such recommendations, and the projected date of full  
8 implementation.

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