

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6234

To establish a baby bonus program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. OMAR, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To establish a baby bonus program.

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 “Baby Bonus Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF BABY ASSIST-**
6 **ANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
8 Social Security Administration an office to be known as
9 the Office of Baby Assistance. The Office shall be headed
10 by a Deputy Commissioner appointed by the Commis-
11 sioner of Social Security.

1 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY COMMIS-
2 SIONER.—The Commissioner, acting through the Deputy
3 Commissioner, shall—

4 (1) hire such personnel as are necessary for the
5 Office of Baby Assistance and make employment de-
6 cisions with regard to such personnel;

7 (2) have the authority to enter into contracts or
8 cooperative agreements with other agencies and de-
9 partments as are necessary to ensure the efficiency
10 of the program;

11 (3) make baby bonus payments to eligible par-
12 ents pursuant to section 3;

13 (4) review applications for baby bonus pay-
14 ments;

15 (5) establish and maintain a system of records
16 relating to the administration of this Act;

17 (6) prevent fraud and abuse relating to baby
18 bonus payments;

19 (7) provide information to the public in relation
20 to baby bonus payments, including eligibility require-
21 ments, the application process, payment amounts,
22 and limitations on payments;

23 (8) tailor culturally and linguistically competent
24 education and outreach toward increasing utilization
25 rates of baby bonus payments;

1 (9) issue an annual report to Congress detailing
2 the effect of baby bonus payments, including—

3 (A) the number of individuals receiving
4 payments;

5 (B) the total amount of funds disbursed;

6 (C) demographic data of individuals receiv-
7 ing payments; and

8 (D) such other information as the Deputy
9 Commissioner determines is necessary; and

10 (10) issue such regulations as are necessary to
11 carry out this Act.

12 (c) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Commissioner
13 shall make available to the Deputy Commissioner such
14 data as the Commissioner determines necessary to enable
15 the Deputy Commissioner to effectively carry out the re-
16 sponsibilities described in subsection (b).

17 **SEC. 3. BABY BONUS PAYMENTS.**

18 (a) BABY BONUS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1st,
20 2026, and subject to paragraph (2), the Commis-
21 sioner shall pay, in relation to each qualifying child,
22 a baby bonus to one or more eligible parents of such
23 child in accordance with this section. In the case of
24 multiple qualifying children from a single pregnancy,

1 a separate payment shall be made for each quali-
2 fying child.

3 (2) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—In order to re-
4 ceive a payment under this section, an eligible par-
5 ent (or an authorized representative described in
6 subsection (c)(5)) of a qualifying child shall submit
7 an application in accordance with subsection (c).
8 Such application shall be submitted not later than 1
9 year after—

10 (A) the birth of the qualifying child in re-
11 lation to which such application is submitted; or

12 (B) in the case of the death of a fetus or
13 qualifying child as described in subsection (e),
14 the date of such death.

15 (3) AMOUNT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a baby
17 bonus shall be—

18 (i) for calendar year 2026, \$2,000;

19 and

20 (ii) for any calendar year after such
21 year—

22 (I) the amount in clause (i), mul-
23 tiplied by

24 (II) the cost-of-living adjustment
25 determined under section 1(f)(3) of

1 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
2 for the calendar year in which the tax-
3 able year begins, determined by sub-
4 stituting “2026” for “2016” in sub-
5 paragraph (A)(ii) thereof.

6 (B) ROUNDING.—If any amount deter-
7 mined under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple
8 of \$1, such increase shall be rounded to the
9 next lower multiple of \$1.

10 (b) PAYMENT.—

11 (1) DATE OF PAYMENT.—Payment shall be
12 made—

13 (A) if no objection is made as described in
14 paragraph (3)(A), during the 6-business day pe-
15 riod immediately following the 21-day period
16 beginning on the date on which notice is pro-
17 vided pursuant to such paragraph;

18 (B) if such an objection is raised, during
19 the 6-business day period following the date on
20 which the Commissioner determines which eligi-
21 ble parent is entitled to such money; or

22 (C) if the Commissioner determines pursu-
23 ant to paragraph (3)(A) that notice is not nec-
24 essary, during the 10-business day period be-

1 ginning on the date on which the application is
2 approved under subsection (c)(1).

3 (2) ADVANCED PAYMENT.—An eligible parent
4 who has an approved application under subsection
5 (c)(2) is eligible to receive a baby bonus up to 60
6 days before the expected due date.

7 (3) CONSIDERATION OF CUSTODY.—

8 (A) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—The Com-
9 missioner shall provide notice to all known eligi-
10 ble parents when an application for child pay-
11 ments is approved under subsection (c)(1) pro-
12 viding 21 days for any objections before pay-
13 ment is made. Notwithstanding the prior sen-
14 tence, the Commissioner may elect not to pro-
15 vide such notice if the Commissioner determines
16 that the applicant has produced clear evidence
17 that providing such notice will not result in an
18 individual other than the eligible parent receiv-
19 ing the baby bonus payment.

20 (B) CHILD PAYMENTS.—Where multiple
21 eligible parents submit applications for the
22 same qualifying child, payment shall be made to
23 the eligible parent who—

24 (i) has primary or sole physical cus-
25 tody, as evidenced by a court order;

1 (ii) the child primarily resides with, in
2 the absence of such a court order; or

3 (iii) if neither clause (i) or (ii) can be
4 determined, the first approved applicant.

5 (C) JOINT CUSTODY EXCEPTION.—Not-
6 withstanding subparagraph (B), where parents
7 have a court order establishing equal shared
8 physical custody, either parent may request
9 that the payment be divided equally. The Com-
10 missioner shall so divide the payment unless the
11 other parent declines, in writing, their share of
12 the payment within 21 days of notification.

13 (D) DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—In cases in
14 which a dispute exists as to which eligible par-
15 ent should receive the payment pursuant to
16 subparagraph (B) and there is no applicable
17 court order, the Commissioner may require sub-
18 mission of such additional documentation as the
19 Commissioner determines appropriate before
20 making payment.

21 (E) CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwith-
22 standing subsection (a)(1), the Commissioner
23 may transfer payment to a different eligible
24 parent (or if payment has already been made,
25 may issue payment to a different eligible parent

1 and attempt to recover the original payment in
2 accordance with subsection (e)) upon receiving
3 documentation showing that—

4 (i) during the 1-year period beginning
5 on the date on which the child is born—

6 (I) custody arrangements were
7 modified by court order subsequent to
8 the initial application; or

9 (II) the original recipient died or
10 became legally incapacitated;

11 (ii) the original application contained
12 fraudulent information; and

13 (iii) in the case of payment made to a
14 prospective adoptive parent described in
15 section 4(4)(C)(ii)(II), the adoption is not
16 completed within 60 days of the birth of
17 the qualifying child.

18 (c) APPLICATION.—

19 (1) APPROVAL PROCESS.—Not later than 14
20 days after the receipt of an application, the Commis-
21 sioner shall verify that the applicant meets the re-
22 quirements established under this section. The appli-
23 cation of any applicant so verified shall be consid-
24 ered approved.

1 (2) APPLICATION.—Subject to paragraph (3),
2 an eligible parent (or an authorized representative
3 described in paragraph (5)) applying for a baby
4 bonus payment shall provide the Commissioner with
5 an application in such form and manner as the Com-
6 missioner may require. The application shall in-
7 clude—

8 (A) the name and social security account
9 number or taxpayer identification number of
10 the eligible parent;

11 (B)(i) if the eligible parent is applying be-
12 fore birth of the child, verification of gestational
13 age obtained under paragraph (4); or

14 (ii) if the eligible parent is applying
15 after the birth of the child, documentation
16 determined appropriate by the Commis-
17 sioner to prove the age and identity of the
18 child;

19 (C) a written statement from the gesta-
20 tional parent stating, under penalty of perjury
21 pursuant to section 1746 of title 28, United
22 States Code—

23 (i) whether such person is the biologi-
24 cal parent of such fetus; and

25 (ii) whether such person—

1 (I) intends to retain custody of
2 and parental rights to such child once
3 born;

4 (II) is acting as a gestational
5 surrogate pursuant to a written
6 surrogacy agreement and consents to
7 the intended parent receiving the baby
8 bonus payment; or

9 (III) has entered into a pre-birth
10 adoption agreement and consents to
11 the prospective adoptive parent receiv-
12 ing the baby bonus payment;

13 (D) the contact information of any other
14 eligible parent known to the applicant; and

15 (E) such other information as the Commis-
16 sioner determines necessary.

17 (3) SIMULTANEOUS APPLICATION.—If an eligi-
18 ble parent has not received a baby bonus and does
19 not have an application under paragraph (2), the
20 Commissioner shall treat an application for a social
21 security account number for a qualifying child as an
22 application for a baby bonus payment under this
23 section unless the eligible parent affirmatively indi-
24 cates on such social security account number appli-
25 cation an intent to opt out of receiving a baby

1 bonus. The Commissioner may require, as a condi-
2 tion of receiving a payment under subsection (a),
3 that the eligible parent submit information required
4 under paragraph (2) in addition to the application
5 for a social security account number.

6 (4) VERIFICATION OF GESTATIONAL AGE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of a
8 gestational parent, a physician may make a de-
9 termination with respect to the gestational age
10 and expected due date of the fetus. Any deter-
11 mination made under this paragraph shall be
12 based on the reasonable medical judgment of
13 the physician following such inquiries, examina-
14 tions, and tests as a reasonably prudent physi-
15 cian would deem necessary for purposes of mak-
16 ing such determination.

17 (B) FORM.—If the physician has made a
18 determination pursuant to subparagraph (A)
19 that the gestational age of the fetus is 20 weeks
20 or greater and the expected due date is on or
21 after January 1st, 2026, such physician shall,
22 upon the request of the gestational parent, pro-
23 vide the gestational parent with a form which
24 includes the following:

1 (i) The gestational age and the ex-
2 pected due date of the fetus.

3 (ii) The name and social security ac-
4 count number or taxpayer identification
5 number of the gestational parent.

6 (iii) If the application is being sub-
7 mitted by a spouse or domestic partner of
8 a gestational parent, the name and social
9 security account number or taxpayer iden-
10 tification number of such spouse or domes-
11 tic partner.

12 (iv) The name and contact informa-
13 tion of the physician.

14 (v) A written documentation from
15 such physician stating, under penalty of
16 perjury pursuant to section 1746 of title
17 28, United States Code, that—

18 (I) the gestational parent was de-
19 termined to be pregnant with the
20 fetus, according to standard medical
21 practice, by such physician; and

22 (II) such physician has deter-
23 mined that, in their reasonable med-
24 ical judgment, the gestational age of
25 the fetus is 20 weeks or greater and

1 the expected due date is on or after
2 January 1st, 2026.

3 (5) AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—An application may be
5 submitted on behalf of an eligible parent by—

6 (i) a spouse or domestic partner;

7 (ii) a legal representative;

8 (iii) a healthcare provider involved in
9 providing prenatal or postnatal care to the
10 eligible parent; or

11 (iv) an social service agency deter-
12 mined appropriate by the Commissioner to
13 submit such applications.

14 (B) DOCUMENTATION.—The Commissioner
15 may require that a person submitting a request
16 in accordance with subparagraph (A) provide
17 such documentation as the Commissioner deter-
18 mines appropriate to prevent fraud or abuse.

19 (d) EFFECT OF DEATH OR LOSS OF QUALIFYING
20 CHILD.—In the case of the involuntary death of a fetus
21 or qualifying child, or the death of a fetus or qualifying
22 child as a result of any treatment intended to save the
23 life of the gestational parent or any treatment of an ec-
24 topic pregnancy, occurring after 20 weeks gestation, such
25 death shall have no effect with respect to whether the pay-

1 ment is allowed under this section to an eligible parent,
2 provided that such person otherwise satisfies the applica-
3 ble requirements under this section.

4 (e) PAYMENT RECOVERY; PENALTIES.—

5 (1) OVERPAYMENTS AND UNDERPAYMENT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Commis-
7 sioner determines that more or less than the
8 correct amount of payment has been made to a
9 person, proper adjustment or recovery shall be
10 made in the same manner as adjustment or re-
11 covery is made under section 204 of the Social
12 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404) with respect to
13 overpayments or underpayments under title II
14 of such Act. Notwithstanding the previous sen-
15 tence, payments under such title may not be
16 adjusted for the purpose of recovering a pay-
17 ment under this section.

18 (B) OTHER RECOVERY.—In the case of an
19 overpayment to an individual who later becomes
20 entitled to a benefit under this section, the
21 Commissioner may decrease such benefit in
22 order to recover such overpayment.

23 (2) PENALTIES.—Section 208 of the Social Se-
24 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 408) shall apply with respect
25 to baby bonus payments under this section in the

1 same manner as such section applies with respect to
2 monthly insurance benefits under title II of such
3 Act.

4 (f) INCOME DISREGARD.—A baby bonus payment
5 made under this section shall not be taken into account
6 as income for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of
7 1986, and shall not be taken into account as income or
8 resources for purposes of determining the eligibility of
9 such individual or any other individual for benefits or as-
10 sistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance,
11 under any Federal program or under any State or local
12 program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13 (g) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of law, information submitted pursuant to subsection
15 (c) may not be used for any purpose other than to deter-
16 mine eligibility for a baby bonus payment under this sec-
17 tion.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this section:

20 (1) BUSINESS DAY.—The term “business day”
21 means any day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a
22 legal public holiday described in section 6103 of title
23 5, United States Code.

24 (2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
25 sioner” means the Commissioner of Social Security.

1 (3) DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.—The term “Dep-
2 uty Commissioner” means the Deputy Commissioner
3 of the Office of Baby Assistance established under
4 section 2(a).

5 (4) ELIGIBLE PARENT.—The term “eligible
6 parent” means an individual (other than an ineli-
7 gible person) who—

8 (A) resides in the United States;

9 (B) is—

10 (i) a citizen or national of the United
11 States; or

12 (ii) a qualified alien (as defined in
13 section 431 of the Personal Responsibility
14 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
15 of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641)); and

16 (C) is—

17 (i) the parent (other than an ineligible
18 person) or legal guardian of a qualifying
19 child; or

20 (ii) if the parent is an ineligible per-
21 son—

22 (I) an intended parent in a
23 surrogacy arrangement; or

1 (II) a prospective adoptive parent
2 with a court-approved pre-birth adop-
3 tion agreement

4 (5) FETUS.—The term “fetus” means a human
5 fetus and includes an embryo.

6 (6) GESTATIONAL AGE.—The term “gestational
7 age” means the age of a fetus, as calculated from
8 the first day of the pregnant person’s last menstrual
9 period.

10 (7) GESTATIONAL PARENT.—The term “gesta-
11 tional parent” means an individual who is or was
12 pregnant with a qualifying child, including an indi-
13 vidual who is an ineligible person.

14 (8) INELIGIBLE PERSON.—The term “ineligible
15 person” means—

16 (A) a gestational parent who—

17 (i) enters into a court-approved pre-
18 birth adoption agreement with an adoptive
19 parent; and

20 (ii) completes the adoption process for
21 the child within 60 days of birth; or

22 (B) a surrogate who has a surrogacy ar-
23 rangement in a State that recognizes the in-
24 tended parent’s legal rights to the qualifying
25 child upon birth.

1 (9) PHYSICIAN.—The term “physician” means
2 an individual who is—

3 (A) licensed by a State or territory of the
4 United States to practice—

5 (i) medicine and surgery;

6 (ii) osteopathic medicine and surgery;

7 or

8 (iii) midwifery; or

9 (B) otherwise legally authorized to—

10 (i) perform births and to diagnose and
11 attend miscarriages or stillbirths; and

12 (ii) perform examinations to deter-
13 mine the gestational age of a fetus by the
14 State in which such practice is performed.

15 (10) QUALIFYING CHILD.—The term “quali-
16 fying child” means—

17 (A) a child born on or after January 1st,
18 2026; or

19 (B) a fetus with a gestational age of at
20 least 20 weeks and an expected due date on or
21 after January 1st, 2026, as certified by a physi-
22 cian.

23 (11) SURROGATE.—The term “surrogate”
24 means an individual who carries a fetus conceived

- 1 through assisted reproductive technology and who
- 2 has entered into a surrogacy arrangement.

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