

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3916

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to strengthen Social Security for long career workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to strengthen Social Security for long career workers, 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 “Strengthening Social
5 Security for Long Career Workers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR LONG CA-**
7 **REER WORKERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a)(1) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(1)) (as amended by sec-
10 tion 101) is further amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (E) (as re-
 2 designated by section 101) as subparagraph (F);
 3 and

4 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) (as re-
 5 designated by section 101) the following new sub-
 6 paragraph:

7 “(E)(i) In the case of an individual who initially be-
 8 comes eligible for old-age or disability insurance benefits,
 9 or who dies (before becoming eligible for such benefits),
 10 in any calendar year after 2027, the primary insurance
 11 amount computed under subparagraph (A) with respect
 12 to the individual shall not be less than the greater of—

13 “(I) the minimum amount computed under sub-
 14 paragraph (C), or

15 “(II) except as provided in clause (iv), in the
 16 case of an individual who has at least 10 years of
 17 work (as defined in clause (iii)), the minimum
 18 amount determined under clause (ii).

19 “(ii)(I) The minimum amount determined under this
 20 clause is the dollar amount equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ of the applicable
 21 percentage of the national average wage index (as defined
 22 in section 209(k)(1)) for the second year prior to the year
 23 for which the amount is computed.

24 “(II) For purposes of subclause (I), the applicable
 25 percentage is the percentage specified in connection with

- 1 the number of years of work, as set forth in the following
 2 table:

“If the number of years of work is:	The applicable percentage is:
11	3
12	6
13	9
14	12
15	15
16	16
17	17
18	18
19	19
20	25
21	25 ² / ₃
22	26 ¹ / ₃
23	27
24	27 ² / ₃
25	28 ¹ / ₃
26	29
27	29 ² / ₃
28	30 ¹ / ₃
29	31
30	31 ² / ₃
31	32 ¹ / ₃
32	33
33	33 ² / ₃
34	34 ¹ / ₃
35 or greater	35.

- 3 “(iii)(I) For purposes of this subparagraph, the term
 4 ‘year of work’ means, with respect to an individual, a year
 5 to which there is credited wages and self-employment in-
 6 come earned or derived by such individual in an amount
 7 equal to not less than, in the case of any such year,
 8 \$10,875, multiplied by the ratio that the national average
 9 wage index (as defined in section 209(k)(1)) for the sec-
 10 ond year prior to such year bears to the national average
 11 wage index (as so defined) for 2022.

1 “(II) For purposes of applying the table in clause (ii)
2 in the case of an individual entitled to disability insurance
3 benefits under section 223, the number of years of work
4 of such individual shall be deemed to be the product of
5 35 times the ratio of the actual number of years of work
6 of such individual to the number of such individual’s ben-
7 efit computation years. Any such product which is not a
8 multiple of one shall be rounded to the next higher mul-
9 tiple of one.

10 “(III) In the case of a widow, surviving divorced wife,
11 widower, surviving divorced husband, or surviving divorced
12 parent (hereinafter in this subclause referred to as the
13 ‘surviving beneficiary’) of an individual whose primary in-
14 surance amount is otherwise determined, but for this sub-
15 clause, under the preceding provisions of this subpara-
16 graph (hereinafter in this subclause referred to as the ‘in-
17 sured individual’), for purposes of determining the wid-
18 ow’s, widower’s, mother’s, or father’s insurance benefit of
19 the surviving beneficiary under subsection (e), (f), or (g)
20 of section 202 on the basis of such primary insurance
21 amount, such primary insurance amount shall be deemed
22 to be equal to the primary insurance amount which would
23 be determined under this subparagraph (before applica-
24 tion of this subclause) if the number of years of work of
25 the insured individual were equal to the product of 35

1 times the ratio (not greater than one) of the actual num-
 2 ber of years of work of the surviving beneficiary to the
 3 number of the benefit computation years of the insured
 4 individual. Any such product which is not a multiple of
 5 one shall be rounded to the next higher multiple of one.

6 “(iv) In the case of an individual who initially be-
 7 comes eligible for old-age or disability insurance benefits,
 8 or who dies (before becoming eligible for such benefits),
 9 in any year during the 9-year period beginning with 2028,
 10 the primary insurance amount computed under subpara-
 11 graph (A) with respect to the individual shall not be less
 12 than the greater of—

13 “(I) the minimum amount computed under sub-
 14 paragraph (C), or

15 “(II) the applicable phase-in percentage (speci-
 16 fied for such calendar year in the table set forth in
 17 clause (v)) of the minimum amount determined
 18 under clause (ii).

19 “(v) The table set forth in this clause is as follows:

“For the calendar year:	The applicable phase-in percentage is:
2028	10
2029	20
2030	30
2031	40
2032	50
2033	60
2034	70
2035	80
2036	90.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 209(k)(1)
2 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 409(k)(1)) (as amended by section
3 101) is further amended by inserting “215(a)(1)(F),”
4 after “215(a)(1)(E),”.

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