

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide economic recovery payments to recipients of social security, supplemental security income, railroad retirement benefits, and veterans disability compensation or pension benefits.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide economic recovery payments to recipients of social security, supplemental security income, railroad retirement benefits, and veterans disability compensation or pension benefits.

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 Emer-
5 gency Inflation Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAYMENTS TO RECIPIENTS**
2 **OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SUPPLEMENTAL SECU-**
3 **RITY INCOME, RAILROAD RETIREMENT BENE-**
4 **FITS, AND VETERANS DISABILITY COMPENSA-**
5 **TION OR PENSION BENEFITS.**

6 (a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—

7 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—

9 (i) ELIGIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC RE-
10 COVERY PAYMENT.—Subject to paragraph
11 (5)(C), for any month during the applica-
12 ble period, the Secretary of the Treasury
13 shall disburse, in accordance with the cer-
14 tification made under subsection (b) by the
15 Commissioner of Social Security, the Rail-
16 road Retirement Board, the Secretary of
17 Veterans Affairs, or the Director of the Of-
18 fice of Personnel Management, as applica-
19 ble, an additional \$200 monthly benefit
20 payment to each individual who, for any
21 month during such applicable period—

22 (I) is entitled to a benefit pay-
23 ment described in clause (i), (ii), (iii),
24 or (iv) of subparagraph (B), or

25 (II) is eligible for a SSI cash
26 benefit described in subparagraph (C).

1 (ii) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For pur-
2 poses of this section, the term “applicable
3 period” means any month during the pe-
4 riod beginning on January 1, 2026, and
5 ending on June 30, 2026.

6 (B) BENEFIT PAYMENT DESCRIBED.—For
7 purposes of subparagraph (A):

8 (i) TITLE II BENEFIT.—A benefit pay-
9 ment described in this clause is a monthly
10 insurance benefit payable under title II of
11 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et
12 seq.), without regard to sections 202(j)(1)
13 and 223(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
14 402(j)(1), 423(b)).

15 (ii) RAILROAD RETIREMENT BEN-
16 EFIT.—A benefit payment described in this
17 clause is a monthly annuity or pension
18 payment payable under the Railroad Re-
19 tirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231 et
20 seq.), without regard to section 5(a)(ii) of
21 such Act (45 U.S.C. 231d(a)(ii)).

22 (iii) VETERANS BENEFIT.—A benefit
23 payment described in this clause is a com-
24 pensation or pension payment payable
25 under—

1 (I) section 1110, 1117, 1121,
2 1131, 1141, or 1151 of title 38,
3 United States Code;

4 (II) section 1310, 1312, 1313,
5 1315, 1316, or 1318 of title 38,
6 United States Code;

7 (III) section 1513, 1521, 1536,
8 1537, 1541, 1542, or 1562 of title 38,
9 United States Code; or

10 (IV) section 1805, 1815, or 1821
11 of title 38, United States Code,
12 to a veteran, surviving spouse, child, or
13 parent as described in paragraph (2), (3),
14 (4)(A)(ii), or (5) of section 101, title 38,
15 United States Code, who received that ben-
16 efit during any month during the applica-
17 ble period.

18 (iv) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYS-
19 TEM BENEFIT.—A benefit payment de-
20 scribed in this clause is an annuity pay-
21 ment under subchapter III of chapter 83
22 of title 5, United States Code

23 (C) SSI CASH BENEFIT DESCRIBED.—A
24 SSI cash benefit described in this subparagraph
25 is a cash benefit payable under section 1611

1 (other than under subsection (e)(1)(B) of such
2 section) or 1619(a) of the Social Security Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 1382, 1382h).

4 (2) REQUIREMENT.—A payment shall be made
5 under paragraph (1) only to individuals who reside
6 in 1 of the 50 States, the District of Columbia,
7 Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Is-
8 lands, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana
9 Islands. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the
10 determination of the individual's residence shall be
11 based on the current address of record under a pro-
12 gram specified in paragraph (1).

13 (3) NO DOUBLE PAYMENTS.—An individual
14 who is eligible for a payment under this section shall
15 be paid only 1 such payment per month, regardless
16 of whether the individual is entitled to, or eligible
17 for, more than 1 benefit or cash payment described
18 in paragraph (1).

19 (4) LIMITATION.—A payment under this section
20 shall not be made—

21 (A) in the case of an individual entitled to
22 a benefit specified in paragraph (1)(B)(i) or a
23 benefit specified in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), if the
24 individual is entitled to such benefit on the
25 basis of section 7(b)(2) of the Railroad Retire-

1 ment Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(2)) if, for
2 the most recent month of such individual's enti-
3 tlement in the applicable period, such individ-
4 ual's benefit under such paragraph was not
5 payable by reason of subsection (x) or (y) of
6 section 202 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 402) or section 1129A of such Act (42 U.S.C.
8 1320a-8a);

9 (B) in the case of an individual entitled to
10 a benefit specified in paragraph (1)(B)(iii) if,
11 for the most recent month of such individual's
12 entitlement in the applicable period, such indi-
13 vidual's benefit under such paragraph was not
14 payable, or was reduced, by reason of section
15 1505, 5313, or 5313B of title 38, United
16 States Code;

17 (C) in the case of an individual eligible for
18 a benefit specified in paragraph (1)(C) if, for
19 the most recent month in which the individual
20 was so eligible in the applicable period, such in-
21 dividual's benefit under such paragraph was not
22 payable by reason of subsection (e)(1)(A) or
23 (e)(4) of section 1611 (42 U.S.C. 1382) or sec-
24 tion 1129A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-8a);
25 or

1 (D) in the case of any individual whose
2 date of death occurs before the date on which
3 the payment is certified.

4 (5) TIMING AND MANNER OF PAYMENTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—At the earliest prac-
6 ticable date but in no event later than 30 days
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
8 Commissioner of Social Security, in coordina-
9 tion with the Railroad Retirement Board, the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Director
11 of the Office of Personnel Management, shall
12 commence certifying monthly payments under
13 this section. Such payments may be certified to
14 be electronically delivered in the same manner
15 and to the same account identified by the payee
16 or on file with the relevant agency through the
17 applicable benefit program described in para-
18 graph (1).

19 (B) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Com-
20 missioner of Social Security, the Railroad Re-
21 tirement Board, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
22 fairs, and the Director of the Office of Per-
23 sonnel Management (as applicable) shall each,
24 as soon as practicable after payments begin to
25 be issued under this section, provide each indi-

1 vidual who is determined to be eligible for such
2 payments with a notice that includes the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (i) Information regarding the individ-
5 ual's eligibility for payments under this
6 section, the amount of payments the indi-
7 vidual is eligible for, and the manner in
8 which the payments will be delivered.

9 (ii) Notice that the payments under
10 this section are disregarded for Federal in-
11 come tax purposes and for purposes of de-
12 termining eligibility for, or the amount of,
13 benefits or assistance under any Federal or
14 Federally-assisted benefit program.

15 (C) DEADLINE.—No payments shall be
16 disbursed by the Secretary of the Treasury
17 under this section after July 1, 2026, regard-
18 less of any determinations of entitlement to, or
19 eligibility for, such payments made after such
20 date.

21 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social
23 Security (in coordination with the Railroad Retire-
24 ment Board, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and

1 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management)
2 shall—

3 (A) identify individuals entitled to, or eligi-
4 ble for, more than 1 benefit or cash payment
5 described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) for
6 purposes of ensuring compliance with para-
7 graph (3) of such subsection, and

8 (B) certify the individuals entitled to re-
9 ceive payments under this section and provide
10 the Secretary of the Treasury with the informa-
11 tion needed for the Secretary of the Treasury to
12 disburse such payments.

13 (2) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF ENTI-
14 TLEMENT OR ELIGIBILITY.—A certification of an in-
15 dividual under this subsection shall be unaffected by
16 any subsequent determination or redetermination of
17 the individual's entitlement to, or eligibility for, a
18 benefit specified in subparagraph (B) or (C) of sub-
19 section (a)(1).

20 (c) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—

21 (1) PAYMENT TO BE DISREGARDED FOR PUR-
22 POSES OF ALL FEDERAL AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED
23 PROGRAMS.—A payment under subsection (a) shall
24 not be regarded as income and shall not be regarded
25 as a resource, for purposes of determining the eligi-

1 bility of the recipient (or the recipient's spouse or
2 family) for benefits or assistance, or the amount or
3 extent of benefits or assistance, under any Federal
4 program or under any State or local program fi-
5 nanced in whole or in part with Federal funds.

6 (2) PAYMENT NOT CONSIDERED INCOME FOR
7 PURPOSES OF TAXATION.—A payment under sub-
8 section (a) shall not be considered as gross income
9 for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

10 (3) PAYMENTS PROTECTED FROM ASSIGN-
11 MENT.—The provisions of sections 207 and
12 1631(d)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 407, 1383(d)(1)), section 14(a) of the Railroad Re-
14 tirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231m(a)), and sec-
15 tion 5301 of title 38, United States Code, shall
16 apply to any payment made under subsection (a) as
17 if such payment was a benefit payment or cash ben-
18 efit to such individual under the applicable program
19 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection
20 (a)(1).

21 (4) PAYMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO OFFSET.—
22 Notwithstanding section 3716 of title 31, United
23 States Code, any payment made under this section
24 shall not—

1 (A) be subject to offset under such section;

2 and

3 (B) be counted towards the amount of the
4 exemption for Federal benefit programs under
5 subsection (c)(3)(A)(ii) of such section.

6 (d) PAYMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES AND FI-
7 DUCIARIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which an in-
9 dividual who is entitled to a payment under sub-
10 section (a) and whose benefit payment or cash ben-
11 efit described in paragraph (1) of that subsection is
12 paid to a representative payee or fiduciary, the pay-
13 ment under subsection (a) shall be made to the indi-
14 vidual's representative payee or fiduciary and the en-
15 tire payment shall be used only for the benefit of the
16 individual who is entitled to the payment.

17 (2) APPLICABILITY.—

18 (A) PAYMENT ON THE BASIS OF A TITLE
19 II OR SSI BENEFIT.—Section 1129(a)(3) of the
20 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–8(a)(3))
21 shall apply to any payment made on the basis
22 of an entitlement to a benefit specified in para-
23 graph (1)(B)(i) or (1)(C) of subsection (a) in
24 the same manner as such section applies to a
25 payment under title II or XVI of such Act.

1 (B) PAYMENT ON THE BASIS OF A RAIL-
2 ROAD RETIREMENT BENEFIT.—Section 13 of
3 the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231l)
4 shall apply to any payment made on the basis
5 of an entitlement to a benefit specified in para-
6 graph (1)(B)(ii) of subsection (a) in the same
7 manner as such section applies to a payment
8 under such Act.

9 (C) PAYMENT ON THE BASIS OF A VET-
10 ERANS BENEFIT.—Sections 5502, 6106, and
11 6108 of title 38, United States Code, shall
12 apply to any payment made on the basis of an
13 entitlement to a benefit specified in paragraph
14 (1)(B)(iii) of subsection (a) in the same manner
15 as those sections apply to a payment under that
16 title.

17 (e) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any sums in the Treas-
18 ury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, the
19 following sums are appropriated for fiscal year 2026, to
20 carry out this section:

21 (1) For the Secretary of the Treasury—

22 (A) such sums as may be necessary for
23 payments to individuals certified by the Com-
24 missioner of Social Security, Railroad Retire-
25 ment Board, or the Secretary of Veterans Af-

1 fairs as entitled to receive payments under this
2 section; and

3 (B) \$11,000,000 for administrative costs
4 incurred in carrying out this section.

5 (2) For the Commissioner of Social Security,
6 \$83,000,000 for the Social Security Administration's
7 Limitation on Administrative Expenses for costs in-
8 curred in carrying out this section.

9 (3) For the Railroad Retirement Board,
10 \$1,100,000 to the Railroad Retirement Board's
11 Limitation on Administration for administrative
12 costs incurred in carrying out this section.

13 (4) For the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
14 \$3,000,000 for the Information Systems Technology
15 account and \$5,000,000 for the General Operating
16 Expenses account for administrative costs incurred
17 in carrying out this section.

18 (5) For the Director of the Office of Personnel
19 Management, \$10,000,000 for administrative costs
20 incurred in carrying out this section.