

Public Law 94-202
94th Congress

An Act

To amend the Social Security Act to expedite the holding of hearings under titles II, XVI, and XVIII by establishing uniform review procedures under such titles, and for other purposes.

Jan. 2, 1976
[H.R. 10727]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1631(c) of the Social Security Act is amended to read as follows:

Social Security
Act,
amendments.
42 USC 1383.

“HEARINGS AND REVIEW

“(c) (1) The Secretary is directed to make findings of fact, and decisions as to the rights of any individual applying for payment under this title. The Secretary shall provide reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing to any individual who is or claims to be an eligible individual or eligible spouse and is in disagreement with any determination under this title with respect to eligibility of such individual for benefits, or the amount of such individual's benefits, if such individual requests a hearing on the matter in disagreement within sixty days after notice of such determination is received, and, if a hearing is held, shall, on the basis of evidence adduced at the hearing affirm, modify, or reverse his findings of fact and such decision. The Secretary is further authorized, on his own motion, to hold such hearings and to conduct such investigations and other proceedings as he may deem necessary or proper for the administration of this title. In the course of any hearing, investigation, or other proceeding, he may administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence. Evidence may be received at any hearing before the Secretary even though inadmissible under the rules of evidence applicable to court procedure.

“(2) Determination on the basis of such hearing, except to the extent that the matter in disagreement involves a disability (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(3)), shall be made within ninety days after the individual requests the hearing as provided in paragraph (1).

42 USC 1382c.

“(3) The final determination of the Secretary after a hearing under paragraph (1) shall be subject to judicial review as provided in section 205(g) to the same extent as the Secretary's final determinations under section 205.”

Judicial review.

42 USC 405.

SEC. 2. Section 1631(d) of the Social Security Act is amended by striking out paragraph (2), and by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

42 USC 1383.

SEC. 3. The persons appointed under section 1631(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (as in effect prior to the enactment of this Act) to serve as hearing examiners in hearings under section 1631(c) of such Act may conduct hearings under titles II, XVI, and XVIII of the Social Security Act if the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare finds it will promote the achievement of the objectives of such titles, notwithstanding the fact that their appointments were made without meeting the requirements for hearing examiners appointed under section 3105 of title 5, United States Code; but their appointments shall terminate not later than at the close of the period ending December 31, 1978, and during that period they shall be deemed

42 USC 1383
note.

42 USC 401,
1381, 1395.

5 USC 551. to be hearing examiners appointed under such section 3105 and subject as such to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to the second sentence of such section 3105, and to all of the other provisions of such title 5 which apply to hearing examiners appointed under such section 3105.

42 USC 405. SEC. 4. The third sentence of section 205(b) of the Social Security Act is amended to read as follows: "Any such request with respect to such a decision must be filed within sixty days after notice of such decision is received by the individual making such request."

Effective date.
42 USC 405 note. SEC. 5. The amendments made by the first two sections of this Act, and the provisions of section 3, shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. The amendment made by section 4 of this Act shall apply with respect to any decision or determination of which notice is received, by the individual requesting the hearing involved, after February 29, 1976. The amendment made by the first section of this Act, to the extent that it changes the period within which hearings must be requested, shall apply with respect to any decision or determination of which notice is received, by the individual requesting the hearing involved, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

West Virginia agreement.
42 USC 418 note.
42 USC 418. SEC. 6. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) (5) (A) of section 218 of the Social Security Act and the references thereto in subsections (d) (1) and (d) (3) of such section 218, the agreement with the State of West Virginia heretofore entered into pursuant to such section 218 may, at any time prior to 1977, be modified pursuant to subsection (c) (4) of such section 218 so as to apply to services performed in policemen's or firemen's positions covered by a retirement system on the date of the enactment of this Act by individuals as employees of any class III or class IV municipal corporation (as defined in or under the laws of the State) if the State of West Virginia has at any time prior to the date of the enactment of this Act paid to the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to any of the services performed in such positions by individuals as employees of such municipal corporation, the sums prescribed pursuant to subsection (e) (1) of such section 218. For purposes of this subsection, a retirement system which covers positions of policemen or firemen, or both, and other positions, shall, if the State of West Virginia so desires, be deemed to be a separate retirement system with respect to the positions of such policemen or firemen, or both, as the case may be.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section 218 of the Social Security Act, any modification in the agreement with the State of West Virginia under subsection (a) of this section, to the extent it involves services performed by individuals as employees of any class III or class IV municipal corporation, may be made effective with respect to—

(1) all services performed by such individual, in any policemen's or firemen's position to which the modification relates, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) all services performed by such individual in such a position before such date of enactment with respect to which the State of West Virginia has paid to the Secretary of the Treasury the sums prescribed pursuant to subsection (e) (1) of such section 218 at the time or times established pursuant to such subsection (e) (1), if and to the extent that—

(A) no refund of the sums so paid has been obtained, or

(B) a refund of part or all of the sums so paid has been obtained but the State of West Virginia repays to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount of such refund within ninety

days after the date that the modification is agreed to by the State and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no regulation and no modification of any regulation, promulgated by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, after the date of enactment of this Act, shall become effective prior to the end of the eighteen-month period which begins with the first day of the first calendar month which begins after the date on which such regulation or modification of a regulation is published in the Federal Register, if and insofar as such regulation or modification of a regulation pertains, directly or indirectly, to the frequency or due dates for payments and reports required under section 218(e) of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 8. (a) This section may be cited as the "Combined Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance-Income Tax Reporting Amendments of 1975".

(b) Title II of the Social Security Act is amended by adding after section 231 the following section:

"PROCESSING OF TAX DATA

"SEC. 232. The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available information returns filed pursuant to part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, to the Secretary for the purposes of this title and title XI. The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury are authorized to enter into an agreement for the processing by the Secretary of information contained in returns filed pursuant to part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Secretary such documents as may be agreed upon as being necessary for purposes of such processing. The Secretary shall process any withholding tax statements or other documents made available to him by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this section. Any agreement made pursuant to this section shall remain in full force and effect until modified or otherwise changed by mutual agreement of the Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury."

(c) Section 232 of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section, shall be effective with respect to statements reporting income received after 1977.

(d) (1) Section 201(g)(1) of such Act is amended to read as follows:

"(g) (1) (A) The Managing Trustee of the Trust Funds (which for purposes of this paragraph shall include also the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established by title XVIII) is directed to pay from the Trust Funds into the Treasury—

"(i) the amounts estimated by him and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare which will be expended, out of moneys appropriated from the general fund in the Treasury, during a three-month period by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Treasury Department for the administration of titles II, XVI, and XVIII of this Act and subchapter E of chapter 1 and subchapter A of chapter 9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, and chapters 2 and 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, less

Regulation,
publication in
Federal Register.
42 USC 405a.

42 USC 418.
Combined Old-
Age, Survivors,
and Disability
Insurance-
Income Tax
Reporting
Amendments of
1975.

42 USC 432 note.
42 USC 432.

26 USC 6031.
42 USC 1301.

26 USC 6103.

42 USC 432 note.

42 USC 401.

42 USC 1395.

42 USC 401,
1381.

26 USC 641,
3101.

26 USC 1401,
3101.

Ante, p. 1137.

42 USC 401,
1381, 1395,
26 USC 641,
3101.
26 USC 1401,
3101.

“(ii) the amounts estimated (pursuant to the method prescribed by the Board of Trustees under paragraph (4) of this subsection) by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare which will be expended, out of moneys made available for expenditures from the Trust Funds, during such three-month period to cover the cost of carrying out the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, specified in section 232, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 other than those referred to in clause (i).

Such payments shall be carried into the Treasury as the net amount of repayments due the general fund account for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with the administration of titles II, XVI, and XVIII of this Act and subchapter E of chapter 1 and subchapter A of chapter 9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, and chapters 2 and 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. A final accounting of such payments for any fiscal year shall be made at the earliest practicable date after the close thereof. There are hereby authorized to be made available for expenditure, out of any or all of the Trust Funds, such amounts as the Congress may deem appropriate to pay the costs of the part of the administration of this title, title XVI, and title XVIII for which the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is responsible and of carrying out the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, specified in section 232, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 other than those referred to in clause (i) of the first sentence of this subparagraph.

“(B) After the close of each fiscal year the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall determine the portion of the costs, incurred during such fiscal year, of administration of this title, title XVI, and title XVIII and of carrying out the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, specified in section 232, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (other than those referred to in clauses (i) of the first sentence of subparagraph (A)), which should have been borne by the general fund in the Treasury and the portion of such costs which should have been borne by each of the Trust Funds; except that the determination of the amounts to be borne by the general fund in the Treasury with respect to expenditures incurred in carrying out such functions specified in section 232 shall be made pursuant to the method prescribed by the Board of Trustees under paragraph (4) of this subsection. After such determination has been made, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall certify to the Managing Trustee the amounts, if any, which should be transferred from one to any of the other of such Trust Funds and the amounts, if any, which should be transferred between the Trust Funds (or one of the Trust Funds) and the general fund in the Treasury, in order to insure that each of the Trust Funds and the general fund in the Treasury have borne their proper share of the costs, incurred during such fiscal year, for the part of the administration of this title, title XVI, and title XVIII for which the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is responsible and of carrying out the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, specified in section 232, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (other than those referred to in clause (i) of the first sentence of subparagraph (A)). The Managing Trustee is authorized and directed to transfer any such amounts in accordance with any certification so made.”

(2) Subsection (g) of such section is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: 42 USC 401.

“(4) The Board of Trustees shall prescribe before January 1, 1981, the method of determining the costs which should be borne by the general fund in the Treasury of carrying out the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, specified in section 232, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (other than those referred to in clause (i) of the first sentence of paragraph (1)(A)). If at any time or times thereafter the Boards of Trustees of such Trust Funds deem such action advisable they may modify the method so determined.”. *Ante*, p. 1137.

(e) Any persons the Board of Trustees finds necessary to employ to assist it in performing its functions under section 201(g) (4) of the Social Security Act may be appointed without regard to the civil service or classification laws, shall be compensated, while so employed at rates fixed by the Board of Trustees, but not exceeding \$100 per day, and, while away from their homes or regular places of business, they may be allowed traveling expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons in the Government service employed intermittently. 42 USC 401 note. *Supra*.

(f) The Secretary shall not make any estimates pursuant to section 201(g) (1) (A) (ii) of the Social Security Act before the Board of Trustees prescribes the method of determining costs as provided in section 201(g) (4) of such Act. The determinations pursuant to section 201(g) (1) (B) of the Social Security Act with respect to the carrying out of the functions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare specified in section 232 of such Act, which relate to the administration of provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (other than those referred to in clause (i) of the first sentence of section 201(g) (1) (A) of the Social Security Act), during fiscal years ending before the Board of Trustees prescribes the method of making such determinations, shall be made after the Board of Trustees has prescribed such method. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall certify to the Managing Trustee the amounts that should be transferred from the general fund in the Treasury to the Trust Funds (as referred to in section 201(g) (1) (A) of the Social Security Act) to insure that the general fund in the Treasury bears its proper share of the costs of carrying out such functions in such fiscal years. The Managing Trustee is authorized and directed to transfer any such amounts in accordance with any certification so made. 42 USC 401 note.

(g) Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection: 26 USC 6103.

“(g) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE.—The Secretary or his delegate is authorized to make available to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare information returns filed pursuant to part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of subtitle F for the purpose of carrying out, in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to section 232 of the Social Security Act, an effective information return processing program.”. 26 USC 6031.

(h) (1) Section 230(b) (2) of the Social Security Act is amended to read as follows: 42 USC 430.

“(2) the ratio of (A) the average of the wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary of the Treasury for the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the determination under subsection (a) with respect to such particular calendar

year was made to (B) the average of the wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary of the Treasury for the calendar year 1973 or, if later, the calendar year preceding the most recent calendar year in which an increase in the contribution and benefit base was enacted or a determination resulting in such an increase was made under subsection (a),”.

42 USC 430.

(2) Section 230(b) of such Act is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: “For purposes of this subsection, the average of the wages for the calendar year 1978 (or any prior calendar year) shall, in the case of determinations made under subsection (a) prior to December 31, 1979, be deemed to be an amount equal to 400 per centum of the amount of the average of the taxable wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary for the first calendar quarter of such calendar year.”

42 USC 403.

(i) (1) Section 203(f) (8) (B) (ii) of the Social Security Act as amended—

(A) in clause (I) thereof, by striking out “taxable wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary for the first calendar quarter of the calendar year”, and inserting in lieu thereof “wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary of the Treasury for the calendar year preceding the calendar year”, and

(B) in clause (II) thereof, by striking out “taxable wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary for the first calendar quarter of 1973, or, if later, the first calendar quarter of the most recent calendar year”, and inserting in lieu thereof “wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary of the Treasury for the calendar year 1973, or, if later, the calendar year preceding the most recent calendar year”.

(2) Section 203(f) (8) (B) (ii) of such Act is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: “For purposes of this clause (ii), the average of the wages for the calendar year 1978 (or any prior calendar year) shall, in the case of determinations made under subparagraph (A) prior to December 31, 1979, be deemed to be an amount equal to 400 per centum of the amount of the average of the taxable wages of all employees as reported to the Secretary for the first calendar quarter of such calendar year.”

42 USC 424a.

(j) Section 224(f) (2) of the Social Security Act is amended, in the first sentence thereof, by—

(1) inserting “before the calendar year” immediately after “calendar year”, and

(2) inserting “before the calendar year” immediately after “taxable year”.

42 USC 418 note.

42 USC 418.

(k) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 218(i) of the Social Security Act, nothing contained in the amendments made by the preceding provisions of this section shall be construed to authorize or require the Secretary, in promulgating regulations or amendments thereto under such section 218(i), substantially to modify the procedures, as in effect on December 1, 1975, for the reporting by States to the Secretary of the wages of individuals covered by social security pursuant to Federal-State agreements entered into pursuant to section 218 of the Social Security Act.

42 USC 1382a.

SEC. 9. Section 1612(b) (2) of the Social Security Act (as enacted by section 301 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972) is amended (1) by inserting (A) immediately after (2), and (2) by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Monthly (or other periodic) payments received by any individual, under a program established prior to July 1, 1973, if such payments are made by the State of which the individual receiving such payments is a resident, and if eligibility of any individual for such payments is not based on need and is based solely on attainment of age 65 and duration of residence in such State by such individual.”

SEC. 10. (a) Section 7652(b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 is amended—

(1) by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “Beginning with the calendar quarter ending September 30, 1975, and quarterly thereafter, the Secretary or his delegate shall determine the amount of all taxes imposed by, and collected during the quarter under, the internal revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in the Virgin Islands and transported to the United States.”;

(2) by amending the first sentence of subparagraph (A) to read as follows: “There shall be transferred and paid over, as soon as practicable after the close of the quarter, to the Government of the Virgin Islands from the amounts so determined a sum equal to the total amount of the revenue collected by the Government of the Virgin Islands during the quarter, as certified by the Government Comptroller of the Virgin Islands.”; and

(3) by amending the sentence immediately following subparagraph (C) by striking out “at the beginning” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “with respect to the four calendar quarters immediately preceding the beginning”.

(b) The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall apply with respect to all taxes imposed by, and collected after June 30, 1975, under, the internal revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in the Virgin Islands and transported to the United States.

Virgin Islands,
shipments to the
U.S.
26 USC 7652.

Effective date.
26 USC 7652
note.

Approved January 2, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-679 (Comm. on Ways and Means).

SENATE REPORT No. 94-550 (Comm. on Finance).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 121 (1975):

Dec. 1, considered and passed House.

Dec. 17, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Dec. 19, House concurred in Senate amendments with amendments; Senate receded and concurred in House amendments.