

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6870

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow disabled individuals with incurable terminal illnesses listed on the Compassionate Allowance list to receive disability insurance benefits without a waiting period, to prohibit concurrent receipt of disability insurance benefits and unemployment insurance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Mrs. HARSHBARGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow disabled individuals with incurable terminal illnesses listed on the Compassionate Allowance list to receive disability insurance benefits without a waiting period, to prohibit concurrent receipt of disability insurance benefits and unemployment insurance, 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 “Immediate Access for  
5 the Terminally Ill Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPTION FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH INCUR-**  
2 **ABLE TERMINAL ILLNESSES LISTED ON THE**  
3 **COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE LIST TO RE-**  
4 **CEIVE DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS**  
5 **WITHOUT A WAITING PERIOD.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223 of the Social Security  
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 423) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1), in the matter following  
9 subparagraph (E)—

10 (A) by inserting “and who files an applica-  
11 tion for disability insurance benefits during the  
12 period that begins on December 22, 2020, and  
13 ends on the date that is 1 year after the date  
14 of enactment of the Immediate Access for the  
15 Terminally Ill Act” after “amyotrophic lateral  
16 sclerosis”; and

17 (B) by striking “, or (iii)” and inserting “,  
18 (iii) in the case of an individual who makes an  
19 election under subsection (k), for each month  
20 beginning with the first month during all of  
21 which the individual is under a disability and in  
22 which the individual becomes entitled to such  
23 insurance benefits, or (iv)”;

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
25 section:

1       “(k) OPTION FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH  
2       TERMINAL ILLNESSES TO RECEIVE DISABILITY INSUR-  
3       ANCE BENEFITS WITHOUT A WAITING PERIOD.—

4               “(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is enti-  
5       tled to a disability insurance benefit and has been  
6       diagnosed with a medical condition or disease that  
7       is included in the most recent list published by the  
8       Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph  
9       (2) may elect to receive such benefit beginning with  
10      the first month during all of which the individual is  
11      under a disability and in which the individual be-  
12      comes entitled to such benefit.

13              “(2) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—Not later than 6  
14      months after the date of enactment of this sub-  
15      section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commis-  
16      sioner of Social Security shall, through a formal  
17      rulemaking process in accordance with sections 556  
18      and 557 of title 5, United States Code, publish a list  
19      of medical conditions and diseases—

20                      “(A) which are included in the most recent  
21                      list of Compassionate Allowance Conditions  
22                      published by the Social Security Administra-  
23                      tion;

24                      “(B) for which the average life expectancy  
25                      for all individuals diagnosed with such condition

1 or disease does not exceed 5 years from the  
2 date of diagnosis; and

3 “(C) for which there is no known cure.

4 “(3) REDUCTION IN BENEFIT AMOUNT.—If an  
5 individual described in paragraph (1) elects to re-  
6 ceive a disability insurance benefit beginning with  
7 the first month during all of which the individual is  
8 under a disability and in which the individual be-  
9 comes entitled to such benefit, the amount of such  
10 benefit for any month shall be equal to 93 percent  
11 of the amount otherwise determined for the indi-  
12 vidual under subsection (a)(2) (after the application  
13 of sections 202(q) and 215(b)(2)(A)(ii)).

14 “(4) TIMING AND EFFECT OF ELECTION.—An  
15 individual may only make an election under this sub-  
16 section at the time the individual files an application  
17 for a disability insurance benefit under subsection  
18 (b), and any election under this subsection shall be  
19 irrevocable.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 223(a)(2)  
21 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(2)) is amend-  
22 ed—

23 (1) by striking “section 202(q) and” and insert-  
24 ing “subsection (k)(3), section 202(q), and”; and

1           (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “clause  
2           (ii) of paragraph (1)” and inserting “clause (ii),  
3           (iii), or (iv) of the matter following subparagraph  
4           (E) of paragraph (1)”.

5           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6 this section shall apply with respect to applications for dis-  
7 ability insurance benefits filed on or after the date that  
8 is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

9   **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ADDI-**  
10                   **TIONS TO COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE**  
11                   **CONDITIONS LIST.**

12           Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, no  
13 disease or medical condition may be added to the Compas-  
14 sionate Allowance list that is compiled and maintained by  
15 the Social Security Administration unless there is enacted  
16 into law a bill or joint resolution approving such addition.

17   **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY**  
18                   **DISABILITY BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF**  
19                   **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**

20           (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Social Security Act  
21 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-  
22 tion 224 the following new section:

1 “PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS BASED ON  
2 RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

3 “SEC. 224A. (a) If for any month prior to the month  
4 in which an individual attains retirement age (as defined  
5 in section 216(l)(1))—

6 “(1) such individual is entitled to benefits  
7 under section 223, and

8 “(2) such individual is entitled for such month  
9 to unemployment compensation,

10 the total of the individual’s benefits under section 223 for  
11 such month and of any benefits under subsections (b)  
12 through (h) of section 202 for such month based on the  
13 individual’s wages and self-employment income shall be re-  
14 duced to zero.

15 “(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
16 the head of any Federal agency shall provide such infor-  
17 mation within its possession as the Commissioner may re-  
18 quire for purposes of making a timely determination under  
19 this section for reduction of benefits payable under this  
20 title, or verifying other information necessary in carrying  
21 out the provisions of this section.

22 “(2) The Commissioner is authorized to enter into  
23 agreements with States, political subdivisions, and other  
24 organizations that administer unemployment compensa-  
25 tion, in order to obtain such information as the Commis-

1 sioner may require to carry out the provisions of this sec-  
2 tion.

3 “(3) Any determination by the Commissioner pursu-  
4 ant to this section shall be subject to the requirements  
5 described in section 205(b)(1), including provision of rea-  
6 sonable notice and opportunity for a hearing.

7 “(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘unem-  
8 ployment compensation’ has the meaning given that term  
9 in section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

10 **SEC. 5. INCREASING THE OVERPAYMENT COLLECTION**  
11 **THRESHOLD FOR OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND**  
12 **DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1)(A) of the Social  
14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “With respect to” and ‘inserting  
16 “(i) Subject to clause (ii), with respect to”;

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
18 clause:

19 “(ii) For purposes of clause (i), if the  
20 Commissioner of Social Security deter-  
21 mines that decreasing a payment under  
22 this title to an individual by 100 percent  
23 would defeat the purpose of this title, the  
24 Commissioner may decrease such payment  
25 by a smaller amount, provided that such

1 smaller amount is not less than 10 percent  
2 of the amount of such payment.”.

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