

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1655

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the annual mailing of statements of Medicare beneficiary part A contributions and benefits in coordination with the annual mailing of Social Security account statements.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2011

Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the annual mailing of statements of Medicare beneficiary part A contributions and benefits in coordination with the annual mailing of Social Security account statements.

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 “Medicare Information  
5 Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PART A CON-**  
2 **TRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS STATEMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title XI of the Social  
4 Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1143  
5 (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13) the following new section:

6 “ANNUAL MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PART A  
7 CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS STATEMENTS  
8 “SEC. 1143A. (a) PROVISION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 2  
10 years after the date of the enactment of this section,  
11 the Secretary, in coordination with the Commis-  
12 sioner of Social Security, shall provide a statement  
13 described in subsection (b) (in this section referred  
14 to as an ‘annual Medicare part A information state-  
15 ment’) on an annual basis to each eligible individual  
16 (as defined in subsection (d)) for whom a current  
17 mailing address can be determined through such  
18 methods as the Secretary determines to be appro-  
19 priate.

20 “(2) COORDINATION IN SINGLE MAILING WITH  
21 SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENTS.—In order  
22 to avoid sending separate statements under this sec-  
23 tion and section 1143 in the case of an individual  
24 for whom a social security account statement is pro-  
25 vided under section 1143 and a separate annual  
26 Medicare part A information statement would other-

1 wise be provided under this section, the Secretary  
2 shall coordinate with the Commissioner of Social Se-  
3 curity, whether through transmittal of data or other-  
4 wise, in a manner so that the annual Medicare part  
5 A information statement is included and sent with  
6 such social security account statement.

7 “(3) METHODOLOGY.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-  
9 sultation with the Commissioner of Social Secu-  
10 rity and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall  
11 specify the methodology to be used in esti-  
12 mating lifetime contributions and lifetime bene-  
13 fits with respect to annual Medicare part A in-  
14 formation statements. Such methodology for  
15 computing the lifespan of an individual shall be  
16 the same methodology used for purposes of the  
17 social security account statement under section  
18 1143.

19 “(B) INCLUSION OF DESCRIPTION IN  
20 STATEMENT.—The Secretary shall include a  
21 brief description of the key assumptions used in  
22 such methodology in the annual Medicare part  
23 A information statements.

24 “(4) SUMMARY OF MEDICARE PART A PRO-  
25 GRAM.—Each annual Medicare part A information

1 statement shall include a summary of part A of the  
2 Medicare program. Such summary shall also include  
3 a summary description of benefits and enrollment  
4 options under parts B, C, and D of title XVIII, but  
5 shall indicate that the information described in sub-  
6 section (b) does not include information related to  
7 contributions and benefits under those parts.

8 “(b) MEDICARE PART A INFORMATION STATEMENT  
9 DESCRIBED.—In addition to the information described in  
10 paragraphs (3)(B) and (4) of subsection (a), each annual  
11 Medicare part A information statement for an eligible in-  
12 dividual shall contain the following:

13 “(1) HI EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS.—The  
14 total contributions described in section  
15 1143(a)(2)(C) for the individual—

16 “(A) for the most recent year for which  
17 data are available;

18 “(B) to the extent feasible, for previous pe-  
19 riods through the end of such year; and

20 “(C) as projected for the individual during  
21 the individual’s lifetime.

22 To the extent feasible, of such total contributions  
23 the portion that is attributable to employer, em-  
24 ployee, and self-employment contributions.

1           “(2) MEDICARE PART A BENEFITS.—In the  
2 case of an eligible individual—

3           “(A) who, for such most recent year, was  
4 entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII,  
5 the total value of such benefits provided to the  
6 individual under such part as of the end of such  
7 year and, to the extent feasible, the total value  
8 of such benefits for such individual for previous  
9 periods through the end of such year; and

10           “(B) an estimate of the actuarial value of  
11 the expected benefits under such part for the  
12 individual during the individual’s lifetime, in-  
13 cluding (but stated separately) any benefits de-  
14 scribed in subparagraph (A).

15           “(3) COMPARISON.—An appropriate comparison  
16 of such contributions with such benefits.

17           “(c) RECORDS RETENTION.—The Secretary shall  
18 provide for the indefinite retention of information that—

19           “(1) is described in subsection (b), including  
20 benefits described in subsection (b)(2); and

21           “(2) the Secretary has not discarded as of the  
22 date of the enactment of this section.

23           “(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-  
24 tion, the term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual—

25           “(1) who has a social security account number;

1           “(2) who has attained age 25 or over; and

2           “(3) who is entitled to benefits under part A of  
3 title XVIII or who, as of the end of the most recent  
4 year referred to in subsection (b)(1)(A), has had any  
5 contributions described in subsection (b)(1) made  
6 with respect to the individual during such year or a  
7 previous year.”.

8           (b) INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT  
9 STATEMENT FOR THOSE RECEIVING ANNUAL MEDICARE  
10 PART A INFORMATION STATEMENT.—Section 1143(a)(3)  
11 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)(3)) is amended by  
12 adding at the end the following:

13 “Such term includes an individual not described in the  
14 previous sentence who is an eligible individual (as defined  
15 in subsection (d) of section 1143A) for whom an annual  
16 Medicare part A information statement is provided under  
17 such section.”.

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