



SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Chief Actuary

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown and Senator Cassidy:

I am writing in response to your request for our estimate of the program cost effects for the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program of enacting S. 2767, the “SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act,” which you and several other Senators introduced on September 12, 2023. This Bill, as introduced, would increase the limit on countable resources from \$2,000 for unmarried individuals and \$3,000 for married couples to \$10,000 for unmarried individuals and \$20,000 for married couples in 2023 and index these resource limits in 2024 and later by the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). For the purpose of estimates provided here we are assuming that the specified increases in limits would apply upon enactment in 2024, and would be indexed in years thereafter, starting in 2025. We have enjoyed working with Chad Bolt, David Timmons, and Parker Reynolds in the development of this proposal. Our analysis and estimates provided for this proposal reflect the efforts of many in the Office of the Chief Actuary, but particularly Amir Levy, Chelsea Shudtz, and Michael Stephens.

Enactment of this Bill would result in an increase in program cost because some individuals who have countable resources above the current-law limits would become eligible or maintain eligibility under this proposal. If the bill became effective for eligibility starting January 1, 2024, we estimate the increase in Federal SSI payments would be \$9.8 billion over the calendar year period 2023 through 2032. Table 1 below provides our estimates of the cost increases on an annual basis through 2032. All estimates are based on the assumptions underlying the projections presented in the 2023 SSI Annual Report.¹ This Bill would not have any direct effects on the financial status of the Social Security trust funds.

We hope these estimates will be helpful. Please let us know if we may provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Goss, ASA, MAAA
Chief Actuary

¹ See chapter IV in the report at <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ssir/SSI23/index.html> for details. The projections in this report are consistent with the intermediate projections in the 2023 Social Security Trustees Report.

Table 1: Estimated Change in Federal SSI Program Cost for Enacting
S. 2767, the “SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act”
(In billions)

	Calendar Year										<u>Total</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>2030</u>	<u>2031</u>	<u>2032</u>	<u>2023-32</u>
Estimated change in Federal SSI payments	--	\$0.5	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$9.8

Office of the Chief Actuary, SSA
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