

D

Provisions Affecting Family Member Benefits

These provisions modify the specific benefit amounts received by widow(er)s, spouses, and/or children based on a worker's Social Security account. For each provision, we provide an estimate of the financial effect on the OASDI program over the long-range period (the next 75 years) and for the 75th year. We base all estimates on the intermediate assumptions described in the 2015 Trustees Report.

Category D: Family Members (2015 Trustees Report intermediate assumptions)

Present law shortfall in long-range actuarial balance is **2.68** percent of payroll and in annual balance for the 75th year is **4.65** percent of payroll.

Description of proposed provisions		Change from present law (percent of payroll)		Shortfall eliminated	
		Long-range actuarial balance	Annual balance in 75th year	Long-range actuarial balance	Annual balance in 75th year
D1	Beginning in 2016, continue benefits for children of disabled or deceased workers until age 22 if the child is in high school, college or vocational school.	-0.06	-0.06	-2%	-1%
D2	The current spouse benefit is based on 50 percent of the PIA of the other spouse. Reduce this percent each year by 1 percentage point beginning with newly eligible spouses in 2016, until the percent reaches 33 in 2032.	0.12	0.19	5%	4%
D3	Allow divorced aged spouses and divorced surviving spouses married 5 to 9 years to get benefits based on the former spouse's account. Divorced aged and surviving spouses would receive 50% of the applicable current-law PIA percentage if married 5 years, 60% of the applicable PIA percentage if married 6 years, ..., 90% of the applicable PIA percentage if married 9 years. This benefit would be available to divorced spouses on the rolls at the beginning of 2017 and those becoming eligible after 2017.	-0.02	-0.01	-1%	0%
D4	Establish an alternative benefit for a surviving spouse. For the surviving spouse, the alternative benefit would equal 75 percent of the sum of the survivor's own worker benefit and the deceased worker's PIA (including any actuarial reductions or delayed retirement credits). If the deceased worker died before becoming entitled, use the age 62 actuarial reduction if deceased before age 62, or the applicable actuarial reduction/DRC for entitlement at the age of death if deceased after 62. The alternative benefit would not exceed the PIA of a hypothetical earner who earns the SSA average wage index (AWI) every year, and who becomes eligible for retired-worker benefits in the same year in which the deceased worker became entitled to worker benefits or died (if before entitlement). The alternative benefit would be paid only if more than the current-law benefit. This benefit would be available to surviving spouses on the rolls at the beginning of 2017 and those becoming eligible after 2017.	-0.11	-0.11	-4%	-2%