

H

Provisions Affecting Taxation of Benefits

These provisions revise the current rules for subjecting Social Security benefits to personal income tax. 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 2014 Trustees Report.

Category H: Taxation of Benefits (2014 Trustees Report intermediate assumptions)					
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
Present law shortfall in long-range actuarial balance is 2.88 percent of payroll and annual balance for 75th year is 4.90 percent of payroll.					
H1	Starting in 2015, tax Social Security benefits in a manner similar to private pension income. Phase out the lower-income thresholds during 2015-2024.	0.21	0.15	7%	3%
H2	Starting in 2015, tax Social Security benefits in a manner similar to private pension income. Phase out the lower-income thresholds during 2015-2034.	0.19	0.15	7%	3%
H3	Tax Reform for Individuals: Starting in 2016, modify personal income tax by: (a) establishing two-brackets with marginal rates of 15 and 27 percent separated at \$51,000 (CPI indexed); (b) creating a non-refundable credit for low-income tax filers age 65 and older; and (c) treating capital gains as regular income. Tax all Social Security benefits at the applicable marginal rate (15 or 27 percent) less 7.5 percent, with 60 percent of this revenue going to OASDI and 40 percent going to HI.	0.04	0.00	1%	0%
H4	Increase the threshold for taxation of OASDI benefits to \$50,000 for single filers and \$100,000 for joint filers starting in 2016. Taxation of benefits revenues transferred to the Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund would be the same as if the current-law computation applied.	-0.12	-0.01	-4%	0%