

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- Legislation introduced by Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), to aid Social Security recipients is gaining support in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill, HR 2978, would improve the delivery of monthly benefit checks to the 36.8 million Americans who receive either Social Security benefits or S.S.I., or both.

Congressman Rahall pointed out, "At the present time, 32.6 million Americans now receive monthly Social Security checks which are mailed for delivery on the 3rd of the month. Approximately 4.2 million Americans, 2.2 million of whom receive Social Security, receive S.S.I. which are due to arrive the first of the month."

Rahall went on to say, "However, when the regular delivery date falls on a Saturday, the check is difficult to cash or deposit, and if it falls on a Sunday or on a legal holiday, the benefit check has usually been delivered on the next business day."

Congressman Rahall stated that this poses a hardship on individuals and families who rely on timely delivery of their benefit checks to pay monthly rent, utility, food, or medical bills.

"This legislation simply provides that when normal check delivery falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, the benefit check shall be delivered instead on the Friday before," Rahall stated.

In 1977, there are 7 months in which normal delivery dates for either Social Security or S.S.I. checks would fall on a weekend. In 1978, there are also 7 monthly payments which would be affected.

Rahall explained that, "This legislation calls for no additional appropriation of funds. It simply makes the benefit payment system more responsive to the needs of the recipients."

The House Ways and Means Committee has included this provision in their consideration of Social Security reform legislation.