

December 21, 1987

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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today after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Mr. FORD of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments the bill (H.R. 3395) making technical corrections relating to the Federal Employees' Retirement System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 4, line 2, after "(B)" insert "for at least 3 years".

Page 4, line 4, after "years" insert "for at least 3 years".

Page 16, strike out line 2.

Page 16, line 4, strike out "Act." and insert "Act";

Page 16, after line 4, insert:

(C) a contract under which the services of an individual may be terminated by a person other than the individual or the Government; or

(D) a contract for a single transaction or a contract under which services are paid for in a single payment.

Page 29, line 2, strike out "(a)".

Page 29, strike out lines 12 to 18.

Page 35, strike out all after line 17 over to and including line 10 on page 36, and insert:

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies with respect to—

(1) any individual participating in the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System as—

(A) an individual who has entered on approved leave without pay to serve as a full-time officer or employee of an organization composed primarily of employees (as defined by section 8331(1) or 8401(11) of title 5, United States Code);

(B) an individual assigned from a Federal agency to a State or local government under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code; or

(C) an individual appointed or otherwise assigned to one of the cooperative extension services, as defined by section 1404(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 1105(5)); and

(2) any individual who is participating in the Civil Service Retirement System as a result of a provision of law described in section 8347(o).

Page 36, line 18, strike out "(c)(3)" and insert "(c)(1)(C)".

Page 38, line 4, strike out "and" and insert "and"; and

Page 38, after line 4, insert:

(3) by amending clause (v) by striking out "at the time of filing such application" and inserting in lieu thereof "on May 7, 1987".

#### SEC. 12A. REFUNDS OF CERTAIN EXCESS DEDUCTIONS TAKEN AFTER 1983 TO OFFSET EMPLOYEES UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

(a) **REFUND ELIGIBILITY.**—An individual shall upon written application to the Office of Personnel Management, receive a refund under subsection (b), if such individual—

(1) was subject to section 8334(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, for any period of service after December 31, 1983, because of an election under section 208(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Employees' Retirement Contribution Temporary Adjustment Act of 1983 (97 Stat. 1107; 5 U.S.C. 8331 note);

(2) is not eligible to make an election under section 301(b) of the Federal Employ-

ees' Retirement System Act of 1986 (Pub. Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 599); and

(3) becomes subject to section 8334(k) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) **REFUND COMPUTATION.**—An individual eligible for a refund under subsection (a) shall receive a refund—

(1) for the period beginning on January 1, 1984, and ending on December 31, 1986, for the amount by which—

(A) the total amount deducted from such individual's basic pay under section 8334(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, for service described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, exceeds

(B) 1.3 percent of such individual's total basic pay for such period; and

(2) for the period beginning on January 1, 1987, and ending on the day before such individual becomes subject to section 8334(k) of title 5, United States Code, for the amount by which—

(A) the total amount deducted from such individual's basic pay under section 8334(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, for service described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, exceeds

(B) the total amount which would have been deducted if such individual's basic pay had instead been subject to section 8334(k) of title 5, United States Code, during such period.

(c) **INTEREST COMPUTATION.**—A refund under this section shall be computed with interest in accordance with section 8334(e) of title 5, United States Code, and regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management.

#### SEC. 12B. ADJUSTMENTS IN METHODS OF ANNUITY PAYMENTS FOR YEARS WITH ZERO OR NEGATIVE INFLATION.

Section 8434(a)(2) (C) and (D) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(C) a method described in subparagraph (A) which provides for automatic adjustments in the amount of the annuity payable so long as the amount of the annuity payable in any one year shall not be less than the amount payable in the previous year;

"(D) a method described in subparagraph (B) which provides for automatic adjustments in the amount of the annuity payable so long as the amount of the annuity payable in any one year shall not be less than the amount payable in the previous year; and".

#### SEC. 130. COVERAGE UNDER THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE PENSION SYSTEM WHO ENTER FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 8402 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter following subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (b) by inserting "subsection (d) of this section or" before "title III"; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

"(d) Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) shall not apply to an individual who becomes subject to subchapter II of chapter 8 of title I of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (relating to the Foreign Service Pension System) pursuant to an election and who subsequently enters a position in which, but for such paragraph (2), he would be subject to this chapter.".

#### SEC. 131. ANNUITY COMPUTATIONS FOR THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

(a) **SURVIVOR REDUCTION COMPUTATION.**—Section 8419(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking out "shall be reduced" and inserting in lieu

thereof "or one-half of the annuity, if jointly designated for this purpose by the employee or Member and the spouse of the employee or Member under procedures prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, shall be reduced"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking out "shall be reduced" and inserting in lieu thereof "or one-half of the annuity, if jointly designated for this purpose by the employee or Member and the spouse of the employee or Member under procedures prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, shall be reduced".

(b) **SURVIVOR BENEFITS.**—Section 8442 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by inserting after "with respect to the annuitant," the following: "(or one-half thereof, if designated for this purpose under section 8419 of this title);"; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1) by inserting after "paragraph (2)" the following: "(or one-half thereof if designated for this purpose under section 8419 of this title)".

#### SEC. 132. LOANS FROM EMPLOYEES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.

Section 8433(i)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(3) Loans under this subsection shall be available to all employees and Members on a reasonably equivalent basis, and shall be subject to such other conditions as the Board may by regulation prescribe. The restrictions of section 8477(c)(1) of this title shall not apply to loans made under this subsection.".

#### SEC. 133. FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES IN MANAGEMENT OF THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.

(a) **FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES.**—Section 8477(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence a comma and "except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection";

(2) in paragraph (1)(B) by striking out "Internal Revenue Code of 1954" and inserting in lieu thereof "Internal Revenue Code of 1986";

(3) in paragraph (1)(D) by inserting "only" before "if" in the matter preceding clause (i);

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively; and

(5) by striking out paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting in lieu thereof:

"(2) No civil action may be maintained against any fiduciary with respect to the responsibilities, liabilities, and penalties authorized or provided for in this section except in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4).

"(3) A civil action may be brought in the district courts of the United States—

"(A) by the Secretary of Labor against any fiduciary other than a Member of the Board or the Executive Director of the Board—

"(i) to determine and enforce a liability under paragraph (1)(A);

"(ii) to collect any civil penalty under paragraph (1)(B);

"(iii) to enjoin any act or practice which violates any provision of subsection (b) or (c);

"(iv) to obtain any other appropriate equitable relief to redress a violation of any such provision; or

"(v) to enjoin any act or practice which violates subsection (g)(2) or (h) of section 8472 of this title;

"(B) by any participant, beneficiary, or fiduciary against any fiduciary—

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"(i) to enjoin any act or practice which violates any provision of subsection (b) or (c);

"(ii) to obtain any other appropriate equitable relief to redress a violation of any such provision;

"(iii) to enjoin any act or practice which violates subsection (g)(2) or (h) of section 8472 of this title; or

"(C) by any participant or beneficiary—

"(i) to recover benefits of such participant or beneficiary under the provisions of subchapter III of this chapter, to enforce any right of such participant or beneficiary under such provisions, or to clarify any such right to future benefits under such provisions; or

"(ii) to enforce any claim otherwise cognizable under sections 1346(b) and 2671 through 2680 of title 28, if the remedy against the United States provided by sections 1346(b) and 2672 of title 28 for damages for injury or loss of property caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any fiduciary while acting within the scope of his duties or employment is exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding by the participant or beneficiary for recovery of money by reason of the same subject matter against the fiduciary (or the estate of such fiduciary) whose act or omission gave rise to such action or proceeding, whether or not such action or proceeding is based on an alleged violation of subsection (b) or (c).

"(4)(A) In all civil actions under paragraph (3)(A), attorneys appointed by the Secretary may represent the Secretary (except as provided in section 518(a) of title 28), however all such litigation shall be subject to the direction and control of the Attorney General.

"(B) The Attorney General shall defend any civil action or proceeding brought in any court against any fiduciary referred to in paragraph (3)(C)(ii) (or the estate of such fiduciary) for any such injury. Any fiduciary against whom such a civil action or proceeding is brought shall deliver, within such time after date of service or knowledge of service as determined by the Attorney General, all process served upon such fiduciary (or an attested copy thereof) to the Executive Director of the Board, who shall promptly furnish copies of the pleading and process to the Attorney General and the United States Attorney for the district wherein the action or proceeding is brought.

"(C) Upon certification by the Attorney General that a fiduciary described in paragraph (3)(C)(ii) was acting in the scope of such fiduciary's duties or employment as a fiduciary at the time of the occurrence or omission out of which the action arose, any such civil action or proceeding commenced in a State court shall be—

"(i) removed without bond at any time before trial by the Attorney General to the district court of the United States for the district and division in which it is pending; and

"(ii) deemed a tort action brought against the United States under the provisions of title 28 and all references thereto.

"(D) The Attorney General may compromise or settle any claim asserted in such civil action or proceeding in the manner provided in section 2677 of title 28, and with the same effect. To the extent section 2672 of title 28 provides that persons other than the Attorney General or his designee may compromise and settle claims, and that payment of such claims may be made from agency appropriations, such provisions shall not apply to claims based upon an alleged violation of subsections (b) or (c).

"(E) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(C)(H) the provisions of sections 2680(h) of title 28 shall not apply to any claim based

upon an alleged violation of subsection (b) or (c).

"(F) Notwithstanding sections 1346(b) and 2671 through 2680 of title 28, whenever an award, compromise, or settlement is made under such sections upon any claim based upon an alleged violation of subsection (b) or (c), payment of such award, compromise, or settlement shall be made to the appropriate account within the Thrift Savings Fund, or where there is no such appropriate account, to the participant or beneficiary bringing the claim.

"(G) For purposes of paragraph (3)(C)(ii), fiduciary includes only the Members of the Board and the Board's Executive Director.

"(5) Any relief awarded against a Member of the Board or the Executive Director of the Board in a civil action authorized by paragraphs (3) and (4) may not include any monetary damages or any other recovery of money.

"(6) An action may not be commenced under paragraph (3)(A) or (B) with respect to a fiduciary's breach of any responsibility, duty, or obligation under subsection (b) or a violation of subsection (c) after the earlier of—

"(A) 6 years after (i) the date of the last action which constituted a part of the breach or violation, or (ii) in the case of an omission, the latest date on which the fiduciary could have cured the breach or violation; or

"(B) 3 years after the earliest date on which the plaintiff had actual knowledge of the breach or violation, except that, in the case of fraud or concealment, such action may be commenced not later than 6 years after the date of discovery of such breach or violation."

"(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of section 8477(e) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) of title 5, United States Code, (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) shall apply to any civil action or proceeding arising from any act or omission occurring on or after October 1, 1986.

"(c) REPEAL.—The provisions of subsection (a) (and the amendments to section 8477(e) of title 5, United States Code, contained therein) and subsection (b) of this section are repealed effective on December 31, 1990. On and after December 31, 1990 the provisions of section 8477(e) of title 5, United States Code, shall be in effect as such provisions were in effect on the date immediately preceding the date of enactment of this section.

#### SEC. 334. AMENDMENTS CONCERNING REEMPLOYED ANNUITANTS.

"(a) AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 84 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 8468 is amended to read as follows:

##### "8468. Annuities and pay on reemployment

"(a) If an annuitant, except a disability annuitant whose annuity is terminated because of the annuitant's recovery or restoration of earning capacity, becomes employed in an appointive or elective position, an amount equal to the annuity allocable to the period of actual employment shall be deducted from the annuitant's pay, except for lump-sum leave payment purposes under section 5551. Unless the annuitant's appointment is on an intermittent basis or is to a position as a justice or judge (as defined by section 451 of title 28) or as an employee subject to another retirement system for Government employees, or unless the annuitant is serving as President, deductions for the Fund shall be withheld from the annuitant's pay under section 8422(a) and contributions under section 8423 shall be made. The deductions and contributions referred to in the preceding provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury of

the United States to the credit of the Fund. The annuitant's lump-sum credit may not be reduced by annuity paid during the reemployment.

"(b)(1)(A) If an annuitant subject to deductions under the second sentence of subsection (a) serves on a full-time basis for at least 1 year, or on a part-time basis for periods equivalent to at least 1 year of full-time service, the annuitant's annuity on termination of reemployment shall be increased by an annuity computed under section 8415 (a) through (f) as may apply based on the period of reemployment and the basic pay, before deduction, averaged during the reemployment.

"(B)(i) If the annuitant is receiving a reduced annuity as provided in section 8419, the increase in annuity payable under subparagraph (A) is reduced by 10 percent and the survivor annuity or combination of survivor annuities payable under section 8442 or 8445 (or both) is increased by 50 percent of the increase in annuity payable under subparagraph (A), unless, at the time of claiming the increase payable under subparagraph (A), the annuitant notifies the Office in writing that the annuitant does not desire the survivor annuity to be increased.

"(ii) If an annuitant who is subject to the deductions referred to in subparagraph (A) dies while still reemployed, after having been reemployed for not less than 1 year of full-time service (or the equivalent thereof, in the case of full-time employment), the survivor annuity payable is increased as though the reemployment had otherwise terminated.

"(2)(A) If an annuitant subject to deductions under the second sentence of subsection (a) serves on a full-time basis for at least 5 years, or on a part-time basis for periods equivalent to at least 5 years of full-time service, the annuitant may elect, instead of the benefit provided by paragraph (1), to have such annuitant's rights redetermined under this chapter.

"(B) If an annuitant who is subject to the deductions referred to in subparagraph (A) dies while still reemployed, after having been reemployed for at least 5 years of full-time service (or the equivalent thereof in the case of part-time employment), any person entitled to a survivor annuity under section 8442 or 8445 based on the service of such annuitant shall be permitted to elect, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, to have such person's rights under subchapter IV redetermined. A redetermined survivor annuity elected under this subparagraph shall be in lieu of an increased annuity which would otherwise be payable in accordance with paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

"(3) If an annuitant subject to deductions under the second sentence of subsection (a) serves on a full-time basis for a period of less than 1 year, or on a part-time basis for periods equivalent to less than 1 year of full-time service, the total amount withheld under section 8422(a) from the annuitant's basic pay for the period or periods involved shall, upon written application to the Office, be payable to the annuitant (or the appropriate survivor or survivors, determined in the order set forth in section 8424(d)).

"(c) This section does not apply to an individual appointed to serve as a Governor of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service.

"(d) If an annuitant becomes employed as a justice or judge of the United States, as defined by section 451 of title 28, the annuitant may, at any time prior to resignation or retirement from regular active service as

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such a justice or judge, apply for and be paid, in accordance with section 8424(a), the amount (if any) by which the lump-sum credit exceeds the total annuity paid, notwithstanding the time limitation contained in such section for filing an application for payment.

"(e) A reference in this section to an 'annuity' shall not be considered to include any amount payable from a source other than the Fund."

(b) AMENDMENT TO FERSA.—Section 302(a)(12) of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(12)(A)(i) If the electing individual is a reemployed annuitant under section 8344 of title 5, United States Code, under conditions allowing the annuity to continue during reemployment, payment of the annuitant's annuity shall continue after the effective date of the election, and an amount equal to the annuity allocable to the period of actual employment shall continue to be deducted from the annuitant's pay and deposited as provided in subsection (a) of such section. Deductions from pay under section 8422(a) of such title and contributions under section 8423 of such title shall begin effective on the effective date of the election.

"(ii) Notwithstanding any provision of section 301, an election under such section shall not be available to any reemployed annuitant who would be excluded from the operation of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, under section 8402(c) of such title (relating to exclusions based on the temporary or intermittent nature of one's employment).

"(B) If the annuitant serves on a full-time basis for at least 1 year, or on a part-time basis for periods equivalent to at least 1 year of full-time service, such annuitant's annuity, on termination of reemployment, shall be increased by an annuity computed—

"(i) with respect to reemployment service before the effective date of the election, under section 8339 (a), (b), (d), (e), (h), (i), and (n) of title 5, United States Code, as may apply based on the reemployment in which such annuitant was engaged before such effective date; and

"(ii) with respect to reemployment service on or after the effective date of the election, under section 8415(a) through (f) of such title, as may apply based on the reemployment in which such annuitant was engaged on or after such effective date;

with the 'average pay' used in any computation under clause (i) or (ii) being determined (based on rates of pay in effect during the period of reemployment, whether before, on, or after the effective date of the election) in the same way as provided for in paragraph (6). If the annuitant is receiving a reduced annuity as provided in section 8339(j) or section 8339(k)(2) of title 5, United States Code, the increase in annuity payable under this subparagraph is reduced by 10 percent and the survivor annuity payable under section 8341(b) of such title is increased by 55 percent of the increase in annuity payable under this subparagraph, unless, at the time of claiming the increase payable under this subparagraph, the annuitant notifies the Office of Personnel Management in writing that such annuitant does not desire the survivor annuity to be increased. If the annuitant dies while still reemployed, after having been reemployed for at least 1 full year (or the equivalent thereof, in the case of part-time employment), any survivor annuity payable under section 8341(b) of such title based on the service of such annuitant is increased as though the reemployment had otherwise terminated. In applying paragraph (7) to an

amount under this subparagraph, any portion of such amount attributable to clause (i) shall be adjusted under subparagraph (A) of such paragraph, and any portion of such amount attributable to clause (ii) shall be adjusted under subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

"(C)(i) If the annuitant serves on a full-time basis for at least 5 years, or on a part-time basis for periods equivalent to at least 5 years of full-time service, such annuitant may elect, instead of the benefit provided by subparagraph (B), to have such annuitant's rights redetermined, effective upon separation from employment. If the annuitant so elects, the redetermined annuity will become payable as if such annuitant were retiring for the first time based on the separation from reemployment service, and the provisions of this section concerning computation of annuity (other than any provision of this paragraph) shall apply.

"(ii) If the annuitant dies while still reemployed, after having been reemployed for at least 5 full years (or the equivalent thereof, in the case of part-time employment), any person entitled to a survivor annuity under section 8341(b) of title 5, United States Code, based on the service of such annuitant shall be permitted to elect to have such person's rights redetermined in accordance with regulations which the Office shall prescribe. Redetermined benefits elected under this clause shall be in lieu of any increased benefits which would otherwise be payable in accordance with the next to last sentence of subparagraph (B).

"(D) If the annuitant serves on a full-time basis for less than 1 year (or the equivalent thereof, in the case of part-time employment), any amounts withheld under section 8422(a) of title 5, United States Code, from such annuitant's pay for the period (or periods) involved shall, upon written application to the Office, be payable to such annuitant (or the appropriate survivor or survivors, determined in the order set forth in section 8342(c) of such title).

"(E) For purposes of determining the period of an annuitant's reemployment service under this paragraph, a period of reemployment service shall not be taken into account unless—

"(i) with respect to service performed before the effective date of the election under section 301, it is service which, if performed for at least 1 full year, would have allowed such annuitant to elect under section 8344(a) of title 5, United States Code, to have deductions withheld from pay; or

"(ii) with respect to service performed on or after the effective date of the election under section 301, it is service with respect to which deductions from pay would be required to be withheld under the second sentence of section 8468(a) of title 5, United States Code."

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 302(a)(4) of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 is amended by striking out all before "benefits" and inserting "Accrued".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) GENERALLY.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and as provided in paragraph (2), shall apply with respect to any individual who becomes a reemployed annuitant on or after such date.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply with respect to any election made by a reemployed annuitant on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 135. DESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

The United States Post Office Building located at 809 Nueces Bay Boulevard, Corpus

Christi, Texas, shall be designated and hereafter known as the "Dr. Hector Perez Garcia Post Office Building". Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to that building shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dr. Hector Perez Garcia Post Office Building".

SEC. 136. CONTINUED COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND ANNUITANTS OF THE ALASKA RAILROAD IN FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFITS PLANS AND LIFE INSURANCE PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO ALASKA RAILROAD TRANSFER ACT OF 1982.—Section 607 of the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982 (45 U.S.C. 1206) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(e)(1) Any person described under the provisions of paragraph (2) may elect life insurance coverage under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, and enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

"(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall apply to any person who—

"(A)(i) retired from the State-owned railroad during the period beginning on or after January 4, 1985 through the date of enactment of this subsection; and

"(ii)(1) was covered under a life insurance policy pursuant to chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, on January 4, 1985, for the purpose of electing life insurance coverage under the provisions of paragraph (1); or

"(ii) was enrolled in a health benefits plan pursuant to chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, on January 4, 1985, for the purpose of enrolling in a health benefits plan under the provisions of paragraph (1); or

"(B)(1) on the date of enactment of this subsection is an employee of the State-owned railroad; and

"(ii)(1) has 26 years or more of service (in the civil service as a Federal employee or as an employee of the State-owned railroad, combined) on the date of retirement from the State-owned railroad; and

"(ii)(aa) was covered under a life insurance policy pursuant to chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, on January 4, 1985, for the purpose of electing life insurance coverage under the provisions of paragraph (1); or

"(bb) was enrolled in a health benefits plan pursuant to chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, on January 4, 1985, for the purpose of enrolling in a health benefits plan under the provisions of paragraph (1).

"(3) For purposes of this section, any person described under the provisions of paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been covered under a life insurance policy under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, and to have been enrolled in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, during the period beginning on January 5, 1985 through the date of retirement of any such person.

"(4) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply to any person described under paragraph (2)(B), until the date such person retires from the State-owned railroad."

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall notify any person described under the provisions of section 607(e)(2)(A) of such Act, for the purpose of the election of a life insurance policy or the enrollment in a health benefits plan pursuant to the provisions of section 607(e)(1) of the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982

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(as amended by subsection (a) of this section).

Sec. 137, Section 5402 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f) by striking out "January 1, 1989" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1999"; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(g)(1) The Postal Service, in selecting carriers of non-priority bypass mail to any point served by more than one carrier in the State of Alaska, shall, at a minimum, require that any such carrier shall—

"(A) hold a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1371);

"(B) operate at least 3 scheduled flights each week to such point;

"(C) exhibit an adherence to such scheduled flights to the best of the abilities of such carrier; and

"(D) have provided scheduled service within the State of Alaska for at least 12 months before being selected as a carrier of non-priority bypass mail.

"(2) The Postal Service—

"(A) may provide direct mainline non-priority bypass mail service to any bush point in the State of Alaska, without regard to paragraph (1)(B), if such service is equal to or better than interline service in cost and quality; and

"(B) shall deduct the non-priority bypass mail poundage flown on direct mainline flights to bush points within the State of Alaska by any carrier, from such carrier's allocation of the total poundage of non-priority bypass mail transported to the nearest appropriate Postal Service hub point in any month.

"(3)(A) The Postal Service shall determine the bypass mail bush points and hub points described under paragraph (2)(B) after consultation with the State of Alaska and the affected local communities and air carriers.

"(B) Any changes in the determinations of the Postal Service under subparagraph (A) shall be made—

"(i) after consultation with the State of Alaska and the affected local communities and air carriers; and

"(ii) after giving 12 months public notice before any such change takes effect.

Page 40, line 7, after "Representatives" insert "and the Committee on Governmental Affairs".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a second demanded?

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. FORD] will be recognized for 20 minutes and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TAYLOR] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. FORD].

Mr. FORD of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3395 was passed by the House on October 19, 1987. The bill consists of numerous necessary technical changes in the laws relating to the Federal Employees' Retirement System, the Civil Service Retirement System, and the two retirement sys-

tems applicable to Foreign Service personnel.

The Senate amendments include additional technical changes, many of which were requested by the executive branch agencies responsible for administering the retirement programs.

In addition, the Senate amendments include an extremely important amendment providing for the indemnification of the members and Executive Director of the Thrift Investment Board, which was established by the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986.

As fiduciaries of the Thrift Savings Plan, the members and Executive Director of the Board are personally liable for decisions regarding the plan if those decisions are found to be a violation of their fiduciary responsibilities. The original act provided for the procurement of liability insurance to protect the fiduciaries against personal financial loss in such cases. Unfortunately, the Board has discovered that it is not possible to obtain an adequate amount of insurance in the private sector. Thus, the Board members and Executive Director are left with little or no protection against the possibility of incurring substantial personal financial losses.

As a result, the Chairman of the Thrift Board has advised me that all of the present members of the Board have agreed that they will submit their resignations from the Board unless some form of acceptable indemnification legislation is enacted into law this year.

The indemnification provisions of the Senate amendment were developed jointly by the Department of Justice and the Office of Management and Budget, and are acceptable to the members of the Thrift Board.

In the absence of this indemnification protection, we will have no one willing to serve as a member of the Thrift Board and the entire thrift savings plan will be in danger of collapse.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment and the other technical amendments to the retirement act contained in H.R. 3395 are vital to ensuring that the new Federal Employees' Retirement System will function in a fair and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out a clerical error concerning two Senate amendments that occurred during the engrossment of this bill in the Senate. The amendments relate to a certain service requirement necessary to qualify as a law enforcement officer. The amendments which are to page 4, appear in correct form on page S18561 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for December 19, 1987. The thrust of the amendments is that the time period required is 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, these technical corrections represent another in a series of

efforts on the part of Congress to further fine tune the Federal Employees' Retirement System. As might be expected with legislation as complex as the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act, the need for numerous technical corrections has become apparent as implementation of the act proceeds. These and future efforts by the Congress prove that every effort is being made to provide for a fair and equitable retirement for postal and Federal employees.

H.R. 3395 makes numerous technical amendments concerning both the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act and the Civil Service Retirement System. Some minor substantive amendments made by the bill include:

The reduction to 3 years in the FERSA requirement that a law enforcement officer or firefighter who transfers to a supervisory or administrative position must have completed at least 10 years of law enforcement of firefighter service in order to continue coverage under the law enforcement officer and firefighter retirement provisions;

Providing retirement credit for certain service by Foreign Service national employees which prior to a 1982 OPM policy change had been deemed creditable;

Exclusion of Foreign Service nationals from FERS and from the Thrift Savings Plan;

Providing that the expenses of the Thrift Savings Plan shall be paid from the earnings on all contributions held in the fund, not just from earnings on matching Government contributions;

Extending the application deadline for certain former spouses to apply for survivor benefits from May 7, 1987 to May 7, 1989;

Providing for fiduciary responsibilities and liabilities in management of the Thrift Savings Fund; and

Providing for deductions and recomputations of a reemployed annuitant's annuity where the survivor benefit has been elected.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act, represented historic legislation in providing for a sound retirement system for postal and Federal employees. It is an excellent system and Congress should facilitate all means to make it an even better system. These technical amendments represent just one area where Congress can further fine tune a system which can benefit all Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORD of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. OAKAR].

Ms. OAKAR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I simply wanted to congratulate the chairman and the distinguished minority leader for the work they did in this area. This was a plan