

The Company has complied with Amex Rule 18 by filing with the Amex a certified copy of the preambles and resolutions adopted by the Company's Board of Directors authorizing the withdrawal of its Securities from listing and registration on the Amex and by setting forth in detail to the Amex the reasons for such proposed withdrawal and the facts in support thereof. The Amex has in turn informed the Company that it has no objection to the proposed withdrawal of the Company's Securities from listing and registration on the Amex.

In making the decision to withdraw the Securities from listing and registration on the Amex, the Company hopes to avoid the direct and indirect costs of maintaining listings simultaneously on two exchanges. The Company does not see any particular advantage to having its Securities trade on two exchanges and believes that this dual trading would result in a fragmentation of the market for its Securities.

The Company's application relates solely to the withdrawal of the Securities from listing and registration on the Amex and shall have no effect upon the Securities' continued listing and registration on the NYSE. By reason of Section 12(b) of the Act³ and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, the Company shall continue to be obligated to file reports with the Commission under Section 13 of the Act.⁴

Any interested person may, on or before March 15, 2000, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the Exchange and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-4696 Filed 2-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority

This statement amends Part TB of the Statement of the Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority which covers the Social Security Administration (SSA). It realigns work within the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs (ODCLCA). The Disability Insurance Program Staff (TBB), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program Staff (TBE), the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Benefits Staff (TBG), and the Program Administration and Financing Staff (TBH) are all abolished. The functions of these staffs are transferred to a new Office of Legislative Development. Also, legislative liaison activities in the Immediate Office of the Deputy Commissioner are consolidated in a new Office of Legislative Relations. In addition, the legislative reference function is transferred from the immediate Office of the Deputy Commissioner to the Congressional Relations Staff, which is being retitled the Legislative Research and Congressional Constituent Relations Staff (TBC). Because this is a major realignment, the entire chapter is being reissued.

TB.00 Mission

TB.10 Organization

TB.20 Functions

Section TB.00 The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs—(Mission): The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs develops and conducts the legislative program of SSA, serves as the focal point for all legislative activity in SSA, analyzes legislative and regulatory initiatives and develops specific positions and amendments. The Office evaluates the effectiveness of programs administered by SSA in terms of legislative needs, and analyzes and develops recommendations on related income maintenance, social service and rehabilitation program proposals, particularly those which may involve coordination with SSA-administered programs, and on other methods of providing economic security. It provides advisory service to SSA officials on legislation of interest to SSA pending in Congress. It also provides legislative drafting to officials within the Executive Branch, congressional committees, individual Members of Congress and private organizations interested in Social Security legislation. It establishes and maintains a working relationship

with all Members of Congress. It serves as SSA's information gathering and dissemination staff on congressional activities affecting SSA programs and handles certain claims and administrative matters that are particularly urgent or sensitive to Members of Congress.

Section TB.10 *The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs*—(Organization): The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs, under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, includes:

A. The Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TB).

B. The Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TB).

C. The Immediate Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TBA).

D. The Office of Legislative Development (TBJ).

E. The Office of Legislative Relations (TBH).

F. The Legislative Research and Congressional Constituent Relations Staff (TBC).

Section TB.20 *The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legislation and Congressional Affairs*—(Functions)

A. The Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TB) is directly responsible to the Commissioner for carrying out DCLCA's mission and providing general supervision to the major components of DCLCA.

B. The Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TB) assists the Deputy Commissioner in carrying out his/her responsibilities and performs other duties as the Deputy Commissioner may prescribe.

C. The Immediate Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs (TBA) provides the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Deputy Commissioner with staff assistance on the full range of their responsibilities.

D. The Office of Legislative Development (TBJ) develops and evaluates legislative proposals for changes in the Social Security program. Reviews regulations dealing with the Social Security program including inter-program relationships to assure cross-program consistency with policy requirements and decisions. Provides technical and advisory services to other agencies within the Executive Branch, congressional committees, State officials and private organizations having an

³ 15 U.S.C. 78j(b).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78m.

⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).

interest in Social Security programs or emerging legislative issues. Provides analytical support on broad programmatic issues. Identifies and analyzes far-reaching economic, political and societal issues that impact/influence the development and modification of Social Security program policies and procedures. Recommends methods for coordinating the protection afforded under Social Security with that afforded under other public and private benefit programs.

E. The Office of Legislative Relations (TBH). Serves as consultant to the Deputy Commissioner, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs with regard to establishing and maintaining effective congressional relationships. Focuses on legislative relationships for planning and coordination among Executive Branch offices/Agencies and Hill components. Establishes and maintains liaison functions with the White House, other Executive Branch Agencies, and with congressional committees and Members' offices. Networks with counterparts in other agencies to foster a coordinative approach to legislative strategy. Directs the activities of the Washington, D.C., DCLCA staff in carrying out activities related to liaison with the Congress and coordination with other Agencies.

F. The Legislative Research and Congressional Constituent Relations Staff (TBC).

1. Develops and preserves working relationships with Members of Congress, on behalf of the Agency, covering the full range of program and administrative constituent matters. Conducts dialogue on a routine basis, and participates in negotiations on highly sensitive constituent matters with Members.

2. Tracks legislative bills, highlights items of interest from the Congressional Record and other publications for DCLCA and SSA's Executive Staff and provides support for other DCLCA and SSA components at congressional hearings. Assists individual Members of Congress and their staffs and congressional committee staffs by responding to requests for information on pending and proposed Social Security legislation, related legislative proposals and the legislative history of the Social Security program. Reviews legislative proposals for consistency with existing program goals, philosophy and program requirements.

Dated: February 2, 2000.

Kenneth S. Apfel,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 00-4755 Filed 2-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Free Trade Area of the Americas: Request for Identification of Private Sector Experts Related to Electronic Commerce

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative

ACTION: Identification of private sector experts in electronic commerce who may wish to participate in the work of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce (Joint Committee).

SUMMARY: The Joint Committee was established by the 34 countries in the Western Hemisphere participating in the Free Trade Area of the Americas to make recommendations on how to increase and broaden the benefits to be derived from the electronic marketplace. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) seeks to identify U.S. private sector experts on issues related to electronic commerce who may be interested in participating in the work of the Joint Committee. Interested members of the public are invited to submit written notice of their interest and their qualifications.

DATES: Written expressions of interest in participating in the work of the Joint Committee should be submitted no later than March 24, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475. All other questions concerning the Joint Committee may be directed to Regina Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce (202) 482-5324, Regina_Vargo@ita.doc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the Second Summit of the Americas in April 1998, in Santiago, Chile, the 34 democratically elected Western Hemisphere leaders initiated negotiations to create the FTAA no later than the year 2005. They established nine initial negotiating groups, a consultative group, and two committees, one of which is the Joint Committee, which began its work in August 1998. The trade ministers mandated that both government and private sector experts meet as the Joint Committee to make recommendations on how to increase and broaden the benefits of electronic commerce; the Joint Committee is not a negotiating group. Inclusion of the private sector on the committee is

consistent with President Clinton's principle that the private sector should take the lead in global electronic commerce.

The Joint Committee was chaired by the Government of Barbados during the initial 18-month period and will be chaired by an Uruguayan private sector representative and vice chaired by a Canadian government representative through April 2001. Ms. Regina Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, leads the joint U.S. government-pride sector delegation to the Joint Committee.

Status of Work in the Joint Committee: At the FTAA Ministerial meeting in Toronto in November 1999, trade minister received, and released to the public, a report prepared by the Joint Committee reflecting the culmination of its discussions over the preceding 18 months on a broad range of electronic commerce issues; its recommendations on increasing and broadening the benefits of electronic commerce were drafted with the full participation of government and private sector experts from every region in the Hemisphere. FTAA trade ministers committed to share the report and its recommendations with other relevant authorities within their governments. They also requested that the Joint Committee continue its work as a non-negotiating group and produce further recommendations over the next 18-month period. The full report ("Report with Recommendations to Ministers," FTAA.ecom/01) is available in English and Spanish on the official FTAA website (<http://www.ftaa-alca.org>) and the U.S. Government Electronic Commerce website (<http://www.ecommerce.gov>).

The Joint Committee met most recently on January 25-26, 2000 in Miami. At this meeting, the Joint Committee's private sector and government representatives identified issues to be discussed during the next phase of its work. The Joint Committee will focus on issues related to access and infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises, authentication, and online payments, and consider developments in other areas such as intellectual property, taxation and consumer protection. The Joint Committee will make further recommendations to trade ministers for their consideration at the next FTAA Ministerial meeting in April 2001.

Private Sector Participation: During the first 18-month period, 13 U.S. private sector representatives, reflecting a balance of interests and electronic commerce issue expertise, participated