

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7706

To change the spousal notification and consent requirements for the payment of lump-sum retirement benefits in cases of domestic violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To change the spousal notification and consent requirements for the payment of lump-sum retirement benefits in cases of domestic violence, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Retirement
5 Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LUMP-SUM RETIREMENT BENEFIT NOTICE AND**
2 **CONSENT REQUIREMENTS IN CASE OF DO-**
3 **MESTIC VIOLENCE.**

4 (a) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—
5 Section 8424(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
8 following new subparagraph:

9 “(C) Under the regulations, the Office
10 shall provide that paragraph (1)(A) may be
11 waived with respect to a spouse or former
12 spouse to the extent necessary to protect the
13 safety of the employee or Member, or any other
14 person, if the employee or Member establishes
15 to the satisfaction of the Office that—

16 “(i) such spouse or former spouse en-
17 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic
18 violence crime (as defined in section
19 3561(b) of title 18) against the employee
20 or Member; and

21 “(ii) providing notice in accordance
22 with such paragraph poses a risk to the
23 safety of the employee or Member or any
24 other person.”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following new
26 paragraphs:

1 “(4)(A) The Office shall prescribe regulations
2 that provide—

3 “(i) that, notwithstanding paragraph
4 (1)(B), the lump-sum credit may be paid with-
5 out the consent of a spouse or former spouse to
6 the extent permitted by the applicable court
7 order and necessary to protect the safety of the
8 employee or Member, or any other person, if
9 the employee or Member establishes to the sat-
10 isfaction of the Office the criteria described in
11 subparagraph (B); and

12 “(ii) procedures to obtain the consent of a
13 spouse or former spouse for the payment of the
14 lump-sum credit in a manner that protects the
15 safety of the employee or Member if the lump-
16 sum credit may not be paid in accordance with
17 the applicable court order without obtaining
18 such consent and the employee or Member es-
19 tablishes to the satisfaction of the Office the
20 criteria described in subparagraph (B).

21 “(B) The criteria described in this subpara-
22 graph are—

23 “(i) that the spouse or former spouse en-
24 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic vio-

1 lence crime (as defined in section 3561(b) of
2 title 18) against the employee or Member; and

3 “(ii) obtaining consent in accordance with
4 the regulations under paragraph (1)(B) poses a
5 risk to the safety of the employee or Member or
6 any other person.

7 “(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (2)(C) and
8 (4)(A), an employee or Member establishes to the
9 satisfaction of the Office the criteria described in
10 paragraph (4)(B) with respect to a spouse or former
11 spouse for payment of the lump-sum credit if such
12 employee or Member self-certifies to the Office in
13 writing that such spouse or former spouse engaged
14 in conduct constituting a domestic violence crime (as
15 defined in section 3561(b) of title 18) against the
16 employee or Member during the one-year period end-
17 ing on the date on which such employee or Member
18 submits to the Office the application for such pay-
19 ment.”.

20 (b) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section
21 8342(j) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
23 following new subparagraph:

24 “(C) Under the regulations, the Office
25 shall provide that paragraph (1)(A) may be

1 waived with respect to a spouse or former
2 spouse to the extent necessary to protect the
3 safety of the employee or Member, or any other
4 person, if the employee or Member establishes
5 to the satisfaction of the Office that—

6 “(i) such spouse or former spouse en-
7 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic
8 violence crime (as defined in section
9 3561(b) of title 18) against the employee
10 or Member; and

11 “(ii) providing notice in accordance
12 with such paragraph poses a risk to the
13 safety of the employee or Member or any
14 other person.”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraphs:

17 “(4)(A) The Office shall prescribe regulations
18 that provide—

19 “(i) that, notwithstanding paragraph
20 (1)(B), the lump-sum credit may be paid with-
21 out the consent of a spouse or former spouse to
22 the extent permitted by the applicable court
23 order and necessary to protect the safety of the
24 employee or Member, or any other person, if
25 the employee or Member establishes to the sat-

1 isfaction of the Office the criteria described in
2 subparagraph (B); and

3 “(ii) procedures to obtain the consent of a
4 spouse or former spouse for the payment of the
5 lump-sum credit in a manner that protects the
6 safety of the employee or Member if the lump-
7 sum credit may not be paid in accordance with
8 the applicable court order without obtaining
9 such consent and the employee or Member es-
10 tablishes to the satisfaction of the Office the
11 criteria described in subparagraph (B).

12 “(B) The criteria described in this subpara-
13 graph are—

14 “(i) that the spouse or former spouse en-
15 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic vio-
16 lence crime (as defined in section 3561(b) of
17 title 18) against the employee or Member; and

18 “(ii) obtaining consent in accordance with
19 the regulations under paragraph (1)(B) poses a
20 risk to the safety of the employee or Member or
21 any other person.

22 “(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (2)(C) and
23 (4)(A), an employee or Member establishes to the
24 satisfaction of the Office the criteria described in
25 paragraph (4)(B) with respect to a spouse or former

1 spouse for payment of the lump-sum credit if such
2 employee or Member self-certifies to the Office in
3 writing that such spouse or former spouse engaged
4 in conduct constituting a domestic violence crime (as
5 defined in section 3561(b) of title 18) against the
6 employee or Member during the one-year period end-
7 ing on the date on which such employee or Member
8 submits to the Office the application for such pay-
9 ment.”.

10 (c) APPLICABILITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
12 this Act shall not affect the requirements to provide
13 notice to or obtain consent from an individual under
14 section 8342(j) or 8424(b) of title 5, United States
15 Code, with respect to a lump-sum credit (as such
16 term is defined under section 8331 or 8401 of such
17 title) to the extent that such notice or consent would
18 have been required if the payment of such lump-sum
19 credit occurred prior to the date of the enactment of
20 this Act, except that, to the extent that such amend-
21 ments would, but for this subsection, affect such a
22 requirement with respect to an individual, the Direc-
23 tor of the Office of Personnel Management shall es-
24 tablish procedures to provide such notice to or ob-
25 tain consent from such individual in a manner that

1 ensures the safety of the relevant employee or Mem-
2 ber.

3 (2) EMPLOYEE; LUMP-SUM; MEMBER DE-
4 FINED.—In this subsection, the terms “employee”,
5 “lump-sum”, and “Member”—

6 (A) with respect to section 8342(j) of title
7 5, United States Code, have the meanings given
8 such terms, respectively, in section 8331 of
9 such title; and

10 (B) with respect to section 8424(b) of such
11 title, have the meanings given such terms, re-
12 spectively, in section 8401 of such title.

13 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-
15 fice of Personnel Management shall issue regulations im-
16 plementing the amendments made by this Act.

17 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amend-
18 ments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that
19 is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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