

matters that involve employing offices and covered employees other than GAO and the Library and their employees. The purpose of this rulemaking is to extend the rules to cover GAO and the Library and their employees for purposes of any proceedings in which GAO or the Library or their employees may be involved as employing offices or covered employees.

The Board of Directors has also proposed to extend its substantive regulations implementing sections 204, 205, and 215 of the CAA to cover GAO and the Library and their employees. The NPRM was published in the September 9, 1997 issue of the Congressional Record, at 143 Cong. Rec. S9014.

2. Record of Earlier Rulemakings

To avoid duplication of effort, the Executive Director plans to rely generally on the record of earlier rulemakings. The current Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance were proposed, adopted, and amended in three phases during the past two years. See 141 Cong. Rec. S17012 (daily ed. Nov. 14, 1995) (NPRM); 141 Cong. Rec. S19239 (daily ed. Dec. 22, 1995) (final rules); 142 Cong. Rec. H7450 (daily ed. July 11, 1996) (NPRM); 142 Cong. Rec. S10980 (daily ed. Sept. 19, 1996) (final rules); 143 Cong. Rec. S25 (daily ed. Jan. 7, 1997) (NPRM); 143 Cong. Rec. H1879 (daily ed. Apr. 24, 1997) (final rules). A copy of the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance is available for inspection at the Law Library Reading Room, at the address and times stated at the beginning of this Notice, and may also be viewed or downloaded from the Office of Compliance's internet Website at <http://www.compliance.gov/proful3.html>, or <http://www.access.gpo.gov/compliance/proful3.html>.

3. Proposed Amendments

The Executive Director is presently aware of no reason why the procedural rules to cover GAO and the Library and their employees should be separate or substantively different from the rules already adopted for other employing offices and their employees. The Executive Director therefore proposes in this NPRM to extend the coverage of the rules already adopted to include GAO and the Library and their employees, and to make no other substantive change to the rules. Specifically, the NPRM proposes to amend the definitions established in section 1.02 of the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance: (a) by including the employees of GAO and the Library in the definition of "covered employee," (b) by including GAO and the Library in the definition of "employing office," and (c) by adding a new paragraph (q) to section 1.02 specifying that GAO and the Library and their employees are included in these definitions only for the purposes of proceedings involving sections 204, 205, 206, 207, or 215 of the CAA or for purposes of the rules regarding ex parte communications. A technical correction is also necessary in the language being amended.¹

4. Request for Comment

The Executive Director invites comment on these proposed amendments generally and invites comment specifically on whether there is any reason why the rules for GAO and the Library and their employees should be separate or different from the rules already adopted for other employing offices and their employees.

Signed at Washington, DC., on this 30th day of September, 1997.

RICKY SILBERMAN,
Executive Director,
Office of Compliance.

Accordingly, the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance hereby proposes the following amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance:

It is proposed that section 1.02 of the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance be amended by revising paragraphs (b) and (h) and by adding at the end of the section a new paragraph (q) to read as follows:

§ 1.02 Definitions.

"Except as otherwise specifically provided in these rules, for purposes of this Part:

- * * * * *
- "(b) *Covered employee.* The term "covered employee" means any employee of
 - "(1) the House of Representatives;
 - "(2) the Senate;
 - "(3) the Capitol Guide Service;
 - "(4) the Capitol Police;
 - "(5) the Congressional Budget Office;
 - "(6) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol;
 - "(7) the Office of the Attending Physician;
 - "(8) the Office of Compliance; or
 - "(9) for the purposes stated in paragraph (q) of this section, the General Accounting Office or the Library of Congress.
- * * * * *

"(h) *Employing Office.* The term "employing office" means:

- "(1) the personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator;
- "(2) a committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee;
- "(3) any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate;
- "(4) the Capitol Guide Board, the Capitol Police Board, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, and the Office of Compliance; or
- "(5) for the purposes stated in paragraph (q) of this section, the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress.

* * * * *

"(q) *Coverage of the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress and their Employees.* The term "employing office" shall include the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress, and the term "covered employee" shall include employees of the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress, for purposes of the proceedings and rulemakings described in subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3):

"(1) The processing of any allegation that section 204, 205, or 206 of the Act has been violated, and any allegation of intimidation or reprisal prohibited under section 207 of the Act. Sections 204, 205, and 206 of the Act apply to covered employees and employing offices certain rights and protections of the following laws:

- "(i) the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988,
- "(ii) the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, and
- "(iii) the Chapter 43 (relating to veterans' employment and reemployment) of title 38, United States Code.

"(2) The enforcement of the inspection and citation provisions of section 215(c)(1), (2), (3) of the Act, and proceedings to grant variances under section 215(c)(4) of the Act. Section 215 of the Act applies to covered employees and employing offices certain rights and protections of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

"(3) Any proceeding or rulemaking, for purposes of section 9.04 of these rules."

TREASURY/POSTAL APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I appreciate the chance to record my comments regarding the conference report on the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill.

This legislation will help fund national functions, such as law enforcement and delivery of the mail. The law-enforcement provisions include an important anticrime initiative for Florida, which is strongly supported by public-safety officials. The anticrime provision would fund the establishment of a high intensity drug trafficking area in central Florida.

I have worked closely with colleagues Senator CONNIE MACK and Congressman JOHN MICA of Florida to include this measure in the conference report.

In an effort to fight crime and to support law enforcement, I voted for the conference report for the appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998.

This conference report also contains a provision to adjust congressional pay for cost of living. When the Senate considered its version of this appropriations bill, the legislation did not include a pay adjustment for Members of Congress. The record reflects that I support the Senate version of this legislation that was submitted to a House-Senate conference.

If I had the opportunity to vote on the proposed adjustment as a separate, stand-alone measure, I would have voted "no."

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 1, 1997, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2203. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the enrolled bill was signed on October 1,

¹In section 1.02(b) of the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance, reference to the Office of Technology Assessment is being removed, as that office no longer exists.

1997, by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:59 p.m. a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2516. An act to extend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 through March 31, 1998.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1198. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for entry into the United States of certain religious workers.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2516. An act to extend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 through March 31, 1998.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 1173. A bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-95).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the nonrefundable personal credits, the standard deduction, and the deduction for personal exemptions in determining alternative minimum tax liability; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1243. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to enhance safety on 2-lane rural highways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1244. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to protect certain charitable contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 1245. A bill to establish procedures to ensure a balanced Federal budget by fiscal year 2002 and to create a tax cut reserve fund to protect revenues generated by economic growth; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 1246. A bill to reform the financing of Federal elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1247. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the amount of recoupment from veterans' disability compensation that is required in the case of veterans who have received special separation benefits from the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 129. A resolution referring S. 1168 entitled "A bill for the relief of Retired Sergeant First Class James D. Beniot, Wan Sook Beniot, and the estate of David Beniot, and for other purposes," to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report on bill; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the nonrefundable personal credits, the standard deduction, and the deduction for personal exemptions in determining alternative minimum tax liability; to the Committee on Finance.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX LIABILITY LEGISLATION

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today to ensure that families are not denied the tax relief we promised them under the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

What we promised under the Taxpayer Relief Act was a child credit to help families raise their kids and an education credit to help make higher education more affordable. As it turns out, the reality may be far different. What we may be doing is throwing middle-class families into the alternative minimum tax [AMT] simply because they take advantage of the new child and education credits. This will happen because under current law, individuals pay the greater of their regular tax owed minus nonrefundable tax credits or the AMT which cannot be reduced by these nonrefundable credits.

Under current law, the child credit and the education credit won't be allowed under the AMT. As a result, average-sized families with children are more likely to be thrown into the AMT simply by using these credits. Believe me, this is not the place we want to be sending them.

The bill I am introducing today is identical to one that was introduced last week by Congresswoman KENNELLY of Connecticut. By her calculations, in 2002, a full 2 million families will be in the AMT because of the family credit alone. For illustrative purposes, I will give you just one example of the kinds of people who will get

hurt: A two-parent family with a gross income of \$67,700 and three children, including one in college, would fall into the AMT and lose nearly \$1,500 of the \$2,500 in combined child and education credits that we promised them.

The legislation I am introducing today is simple. It would allow taxpayers to take the nonrefundable personal credits—the dependent care credit, the child credit, and the education credit under the AMT. It would also make the standard deduction and the personal exemptions deductible under the AMT.

As Congresswoman KENNELLY has noted, "The AMT was meant to ensure that sophisticated taxpayers couldn't zero out their taxes. It was never intended that your children would throw you into the AMT." We need to deliver on the family tax relief promises we made in the Taxpayer Relief Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 1243. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to enhance safety on two-lane rural highways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE RURAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I recently introduced the Highway Safety Priority Act which proposed to make safety a primary consideration in highway investments.

Traffic accidents are part of a national health epidemic responsible for the loss of 1.2 million preretirement years of life a year; more than is lost to cancer or heart disease. It is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 15 and 24. Last year, more than 41,900 Americans died from this epidemic and more than 3 million suffered serious injury. In Nebraska traffic accidents claimed 293 lives in 1996 up from 254 the year before. Most tragic, is the fact that this epidemic is almost 100 percent preventable.

To address this problem, the Congress must focus resources where they will do the most good. Throughout America there are two lane, two way roads which expose drivers to an unacceptably high level of risk. These high risk "killer roads" suffer from poor engineering, poor pavement, narrow shoulders and increasing levels of traffic. Because these roads are often in rural areas, feeding into the larger arteries, they are frequently overlooked by State and local roads departments in favor of the larger more modern and inherently safe portions of the National Highway System.

If we are to be serious about reducing death and accidents on America's roads, we need to pay greater attention to the roads which feed into the National Highway System. The Lincoln Journal Star reported in May that 70 percent of all Nebraska accidents occur on rural roads.

Today, I introduce legislation which proposes an aggressive efforts to make