

drug addiction, to avoid clinically based certification and licensure standards. This legislation should not be allowed to go forward without necessary improvements to the bill to provide essential church-state protections, and without closer examination of the consequences of allowing sectarian care providers to avoid compliance with applicable state education, training and credentialing standards.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD T. FOLTIN,
Legislative Director and Counsel.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS,
Washington, DC, November 2, 1999.

STATEMENT OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS OPPOSITION
TO THE "CHARITABLE CHOICE" PROVISIONS OF
S. 976

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has a long, proud record of support for both religious freedom and the separation of church and state. Our General Assembly has issued 10 resolutions since 1961 to this effect. It is thus with little hesitation that we voice our strong opposition to the "Charitable Choice" provisions of S. 976, SAMHSA, the Youth, Drug, and Mental Health Services Act.

These and other similar Charitable Choice provisions undermine the separation of church and state by (1) promoting excessive entanglement between church and state; and (2) privileging certain religions and religious institutions above others.

It does this in the following ways:

By channeling government money into "pervasively sectarian" institutions. The Supreme Court has already clearly ruled that the government cannot fund "pervasively sectarian" institutions.

By fostering inappropriate competition among religious groups for government money. With limited funding available for any one service, governments will be required to decide which religious institutions will receive funding and which will not. This necessarily puts those governments in the wholly un-Constitutional position of discriminating among religious groups.

By allowing government-funded institutions to discriminate in their employment on the basis of religion. This amounts to federally-funded employment discrimination, thus violating myriad employment and civil rights laws.

By subjecting service-recipients to government-sanctioned proselytization and religious oppression. Individuals receiving government services should not have "religious strings" attached to those services.

By encouraging religious institutions to "follow the dollars" when deciding what type of social services to provide. As a result, it may encourage these organizations to move away from their historic commitment to providing social services designed to meet basic human needs. We believe that religious groups are better suited to address these urgent human needs than they are to deal with the more complex mental and other health services that require trained professionals. These services are best left to government agencies or institutions closely regulated by governments.

We in the faith community speak often of "right relationship." We strive for "right relationship" in the world on many levels, both personal (such as between worshipper and God) and political (such as between church and state). To the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, Charitable Choice legislation violates the right relationship between church and state.

In our vision of "right" church-state relations, "pervasively sectarian" institutions have the freedom to provide whatever services they chose with their own financial resources. "Religiously affiliated" institutions can accept government funding to provide basic human needs services, so long as they do so with no "religious strings" attached.

If mental and other health-related human needs are not being met by government agencies, than those agencies should adopt new strategies and approaches. Rather than throwing money at religious groups—who are not situated to handle such needs—adequate freedom and resources should be given to the relevant government agencies so that they may innovate and expand in the necessary ways.

Many Americans struggle with disease, drug addiction, hunger, and poverty. Both religious groups and the government have a responsibility to help those in need. Each is best suited to provide a particular kind of service. Rather than blurring the lines of responsibility, each should re-examine how it can do better what it is better suited to do.

The information available now indicates that very few religious institutions are pursuing funding under the "Charitable Choice" provisions of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law. Wisely, they are wary of the problems associated with government funding of religious institutions. Congress should take this as a clear sign that "Charitable Choice" is not an appropriate answer to the problems of adequate service provision.

Like others in the religious world, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is fully committed to helping those in need. We are concerned, however, that the public policies relating to these issues are good ones—appropriate and responsible—that fully respect both the needs and rights of those people receiving services. For the reasons stated above, we do not believe that "Charitable Choice" provisions are appropriate or responsible policy.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations opposes "Charitable Choice" and urges Congress to do the same.

Sincerely,

ROB CAVENAUGH,
Legislative Director.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2507) was agreed to.

The committee substitute amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 976), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H. Con. Res. 102 be discharged from the Judiciary Committee and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 102) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and recognizing humanitarian safeguards these treaties provide in times of armed conflict.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 102) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

FEDERAL ERRONEOUS RETIREMENT COVERAGE CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 309, S. 1232.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1232) to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2508

(Purpose: To provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code)

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, Senators COCHRAN and AKAKA have a substitute amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM] for Mr. COCHRAN, for himself and Mr. AKAKA, proposes an amendment numbered 2508.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2508) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1232), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1232

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Erroneous Retirement Coverage Corrections Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.	TITLE IV—TAX PROVISIONS
Sec. 2. Definitions.	Sec. 401. Tax provisions.
Sec. 3. Applicability.	TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS RETIREMENT PROVISIONS
Sec. 4. Irrevocability of elections.	Sec. 501. Federal Reserve Board portability of service credit.
TITLE I—DESCRIPTION OF RETIREMENT COVERAGE ERRORS TO WHICH THIS ACT APPLIES AND MEASURES FOR THEIR RECTIFICATION	Sec. 502. Certain transfers to be treated as a separation from service for purposes of the Thrift Savings Plan.
Subtitle A—Employees and Annuitants Who Should Have Been FERS Covered, but Who Were Erroneously CSRS Covered or CSRS-Offset Covered Instead, and Survivors of Such Employees and Annuitants	TITLE VI—EFFECTIVE DATE
Sec. 101. Employees.	Sec. 601. Effective date.
Sec. 102. Annuitants and survivors.	SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
Subtitle B—Employee Who Should Have Been FERS Covered, CSRS-Offset Covered, or CSRS Covered, but Who Was Erroneously Social Security-Only Covered Instead	For purposes of this Act:
Sec. 111. Applicability.	(1) ANNUITANT.—The term “annuitant” has the meaning given such term under section 8331(9) or 8401(2) of title 5, United States Code.
Sec. 112. Correction mandatory.	(2) CSRS.—The term “CSRS” means the Civil Service Retirement System.
Subtitle C—Employee Who Should or Could Have Been Social Security-Only Covered but Who Was Erroneously CSRS-Offset Covered or CSRS Covered Instead	(3) CSRDF.—The term “CSRDF” means the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.
Sec. 121. Employee who should be Social Security-Only covered, but who is erroneously CSRS or CSRS-Offset covered instead.	(4) CSRS COVERED.—The term “CSRS covered”, with respect to any service, means service that is subject to the provisions of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, other than service subject to section 8334(k) of such title.
Subtitle D—Employee Who Was Erroneously FERS Covered.	(5) CSRS-OFFSET COVERED.—The term “CSRS-Offset covered”, with respect to any service, means service that is subject to the provisions of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, and to section 8334(k) of such title.
Sec. 131. Employee who should be Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered and is not FERS-eligible, but who is erroneously FERS covered instead.	(6) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the meaning given such term under section 8331(1) or 8401(11) of title 5, United States Code.
Sec. 132. FERS-Eligible Employee Who Should Have Been CSRS Covered, CSRS-Offset Covered, or Social Security-Only Covered, but Who Was Erroneously FERS Covered Instead Without an Election.	(7) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term “Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board” or “Executive Director” means the Executive Director appointed under section 8474 of title 5, United States Code.
Sec. 133. Retroactive effect.	(8) FERS.—The term “FERS” means the Federal Employees’ Retirement System.
Subtitle E—Employee Who Should Have Been CSRS-Offset Covered, but Who Was Erroneously CSRS Covered Instead	(9) FERS COVERED.—The term “FERS covered”, with respect to any service, means service that is subject to chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code.
Sec. 141. Applicability.	(10) FORMER EMPLOYEE.—The term “former employee” means an individual who was an employee, but who is not an annuitant.
Sec. 142. Correction mandatory.	(11) OASDI TAXES.—The term “OASDI taxes” means the OASDI employee tax and the OASDI employer tax.
Subtitle F—Employee Who Should Have Been CSRS Covered, but Who Was Erroneously CSRS-Offset Covered Instead	(12) OASDI EMPLOYEE TAX.—The term “OASDI employee tax” means the tax imposed under section 3101(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance).
Sec. 151. Applicability.	(13) OASDI EMPLOYER TAX.—The term “OASDI employer tax” means the tax imposed under section 3111(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance).
Sec. 152. Correction mandatory.	(14) OASDI TRUST FUNDS.—The term “OASDI trust funds” means the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.
TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS	(15) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Office of Personnel Management.
Sec. 201. Identification and notification requirements.	(16) RETIREMENT COVERAGE DETERMINATION.—The term “retirement coverage determination” means a determination by an employee or agent of the Government as to whether a particular type of Government service is CSRS covered, CSRS-Offset covered, FERS covered, or Social Security-Only covered.
Sec. 202. Information to be furnished to and by authorities administering this Act.	(17) RETIREMENT COVERAGE ERROR.—The term “retirement coverage error” means an erroneous retirement coverage determination that was in effect for a minimum period of 3 years of service after December 31, 1986.
Sec. 203. Service credit deposits.	
Sec. 204. Provisions related to Social Security coverage of misclassified employees.	
Sec. 205. Thrift Savings Plan treatment for certain individuals.	
Sec. 206. Certain agency amounts to be paid into or remain in the CSRDF.	
Sec. 207. CSRS coverage determinations to be approved by OPM.	
Sec. 208. Discretionary actions by Director.	
Sec. 209. Regulations.	
TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS	
Sec. 301. Provisions to authorize continued conformity of other Federal retirement systems.	
Sec. 302. Authorization of payments.	
Sec. 303. Individual right of action preserved for amounts not otherwise provided for under this Act.	

(18) SOCIAL SECURITY-ONLY COVERED.—The term “Social Security-Only covered”, with respect to any service, means Government service that—

(A) constitutes employment under section 210 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 410); and

(B)(i) is subject to OASDI taxes; but

(ii) is not subject to CSRS or FERS.

(19) SURVIVOR.—The term “survivor” has the meaning given such term under section 8331(10) or 8401(28) of title 5, United States Code.

(20) THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—The term “Thrift Savings Fund” means the Thrift Savings Fund established under section 8437 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

(A) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall apply with respect to retirement coverage errors that occur before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act shall not apply to any erroneous retirement coverage determination that was in effect for a period of less than 3 years of service after December 31, 1986.

SEC. 4. IRREVOCABILITY OF ELECTIONS.

Any election made (or deemed to have been made) by an employee or any other individual under this Act shall be irrevocable.

TITLE I—DESCRIPTION OF RETIREMENT COVERAGE ERRORS TO WHICH THIS ACT APPLIES AND MEASURES FOR THEIR RECTIFICATION

Subtitle A—Employees and Annuitants Who Should Have Been FERS Covered, but Who Were Erroneously CSRS Covered or CSRS-Offset Covered Instead, and Survivors of Such Employees and Annuitants

SEC. 101. EMPLOYEES.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply in the case of any employee or former employee who should be (or should have been) FERS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered instead.

(b) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error has not been corrected before the effective date of the regulations described under paragraph (3). As soon as practicable after discovery of the error, and subject to the right of an election under paragraph (2), if CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered, such individual shall be treated as CSRS-Offset covered, retroactive to the date of the retirement coverage error.

(2) COVERAGE.—

(A) ELECTION.—Upon written notice of a retirement coverage error, an individual may elect to be CSRS-Offset covered or FERS covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error. Such election shall be made not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of such notice.

(B) NONELECTION.—If the individual does not make an election by the date provided under subparagraph (A), a CSRS-Offset covered individual shall remain CSRS-Offset covered and a CSRS covered individual shall be treated as CSRS-Offset covered.

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

(c) CORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error was corrected before the effective date of the regulations described under subsection (b).

(2) COVERAGE.—

(A) ELECTION.—

(i) CSRS-OFFSET COVERED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this

Act, the Office shall prescribe regulations authorizing individuals to elect, during the 18-month period immediately following the effective date of such regulations, to be CSRS-Offset covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(ii) THRIFT SAVINGS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS.—If under this section an individual elects to be CSRS-Offset covered, all employee contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund made during the period of FERS coverage (and earnings on such contributions) may remain in the Thrift Savings Fund in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Executive Director, notwithstanding any limit that would otherwise be applicable.

(B) PREVIOUS SETTLEMENT PAYMENT.—An individual who previously received a payment ordered by a court or provided as a settlement of claim for losses resulting from a retirement coverage error shall not be entitled to make an election under this subsection unless that amount is waived in whole or in part under section 208, and any amount not waived is repaid.

(C) INELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION.—An individual who, subsequent to correction of the retirement coverage error, received a refund of retirement deductions under section 8424 of title 5, United States Code, or a distribution under section 8433 (b), (c), or (h)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, may not make an election under this subsection.

(3) CORRECTIVE ACTION TO REMAIN IN EFFECT.—If an individual is ineligible to make an election or does not make an election under paragraph (2) before the end of any time limitation under this subsection, the corrective action taken before such time limitation shall remain in effect.

SEC. 102. ANNUITANTS AND SURVIVORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This section shall apply in the case of an individual who is—

(1) an annuitant who should have been FERS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, was CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered instead; or

(2) a survivor of an employee who should have been FERS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, was CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered instead.

(b) COVERAGE.—

(1) ELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall prescribe regulations authorizing an individual described under subsection (a) to elect CSRS-Offset coverage or FERS coverage, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(2) TIME LIMITATION.—An election under this subsection shall be made not later than 18 months after the effective date of the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1).

(3) REDUCED ANNUITY.—

(A) AMOUNT IN ACCOUNT.—If the individual elects CSRS-Offset coverage, the amount in the employee's Thrift Savings Fund account under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, on the date of retirement that represents the Government's contributions and earnings on those contributions (whether or not such amount was subsequently distributed from the Thrift Savings Fund) will form the basis for a reduction in the individual's annuity, under regulations prescribed by the Office.

(B) REDUCTION.—The reduced annuity to which the individual is entitled shall be equal to an amount which, when taken together with the amount referred to in subparagraph (A), would result in the present value of the total being actuarially equivalent to the present value of an unreduced CSRS-Offset annuity that would have been provided the individual.

(4) REDUCED BENEFIT.—If—

(A) a surviving spouse elects CSRS-Offset benefits; and

(B) a FERS basic employee death benefit under section 8442(b) of title 5, United States Code, was previously paid;

then the survivor's CSRS-Offset benefit shall be subject to a reduction, under regulations prescribed by the Office. The reduced annuity to which the individual is entitled shall be equal to an amount which, when taken together with the amount of the payment referred to under subparagraph (B) would result in the present value of the total being actuarially equivalent to the present value of an unreduced CSRS-Offset annuity that would have been provided the individual.

(5) PREVIOUS SETTLEMENT PAYMENT.—An individual who previously received a payment ordered by a court or provided as a settlement of claim for losses resulting from a retirement coverage error may not make an election under this subsection unless repayment of that amount is waived in whole or in part under section 208, and any amount not waived is repaid.

(c) NONELECTION.—If the individual does not make an election under subsection (b) before any time limitation under this section, the retirement coverage shall be subject to the following rules:

(1) CORRECTIVE ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN.—If corrective action was taken before the end of any time limitation under this section, that corrective action shall remain in effect.

(2) CORRECTIVE ACTION NOT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN.—If corrective action was not taken before such time limitation, the employee shall be CSRS-Offset covered, retroactive to the date of the retirement coverage error.

Subtitle B—Employee Who Should Have Been FERS Covered, CSRS-Offset Covered, or CSRS Covered, but Who Was Erroneously Social Security-Only Covered Instead

SEC. 111. APPLICABILITY.

This subtitle shall apply in the case of any employee who—

(1) should be (or should have been) FERS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) Social Security-Only covered instead;

(2) should be (or should have been) CSRS-Offset covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) Social Security-Only covered instead; or

(3) should be (or should have been) CSRS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) Social Security-Only covered instead.

SEC. 112. CORRECTION MANDATORY.

(a) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has not been corrected, as soon as practicable after discovery of the error, such individual shall be covered under the correct retirement coverage, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(b) CORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has been corrected, the corrective action previously taken shall remain in effect.

Subtitle C—Employee Who Should or Could Have Been Social Security-Only Covered but Who Was Erroneously CSRS-Offset Covered or CSRS Covered Instead

SEC. 121. EMPLOYEE WHO SHOULD BE SOCIAL SECURITY-ONLY COVERED, BUT WHO IS ERRONEOUSLY CSRS OR CSRS OFFSET COVERED INSTEAD.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies in the case of a retirement coverage error in which a Social Security-Only covered employee was erroneously CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered.

(b) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error has not been corrected before the effective date of the regulations described in paragraph (3).

(2) COVERAGE.—In the case of an individual who is erroneously CSRS covered, as soon as

practicable after discovery of the error, and subject to the right of an election under paragraph (3), such individual shall be CSRS-Offset covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(3) ELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written notice of a retirement coverage error, an individual may elect to be CSRS-Offset covered or Social Security-Only covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error. Such election shall be made not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of such notice.

(B) NONELECTION.—If the individual does not make an election before the date provided under subparagraph (A), the individual shall remain CSRS-Offset covered.

(C) REGULATIONS.—The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this paragraph.

(c) CORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error was corrected before the effective date of the regulations described under subsection (b)(3).

(2) ELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall prescribe regulations authorizing individuals to elect, during the 18-month period immediately following the effective date of such regulations, to be CSRS-Offset covered or Social Security-Only covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(3) NONELECTION.—If an eligible individual does not make an election under paragraph (2) before the end of any time limitation under this subsection, the corrective action taken before such time limitation shall remain in effect.

Subtitle D—Employee Who Was Erroneously FERS Covered

SEC. 131. EMPLOYEE WHO SHOULD BE SOCIAL SECURITY-ONLY COVERED, CSRS COVERED, OR CSRS-OFFSET COVERED AND IS NOT FERS-ELIGIBLE, BUT WHO IS ERRONEOUSLY FERS COVERED INSTEAD.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies in the case of a retirement coverage error in which a Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered employee not eligible to elect FERS coverage under authority of section 8402(c) of title 5, United States Code, was erroneously FERS covered.

(b) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error has not been corrected before the effective date of the regulations described in paragraph (2).

(2) COVERAGE.—

(A) ELECTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon written notice of a retirement coverage error, an individual may elect to remain FERS covered or to be Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered, as would have applied in the absence of the erroneous retirement coverage determination, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error. Such election shall be made not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of such notice.

(ii) TREATMENT OF FERS ELECTION.—An election of FERS coverage under this subsection is deemed to be an election under section 301 of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act of 1986 (5 U.S.C. 8331 note; Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 599).

(B) NONELECTION.—If the individual does not make an election before the date provided under subparagraph (A), the individual shall remain FERS covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(3) EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—If under this section, an individual elects to be Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered,

all employee contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund made during the period of erroneous FERS coverage (and all earnings on such contributions) may remain in the Thrift Savings Fund in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Executive Director, notwithstanding any limit under section 8351 or 8432 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) REGULATIONS.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), the Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

(c) CORRECTED ERROR.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies if the retirement coverage error was corrected before the effective date of the regulations described under paragraph (2).

(2) ELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall prescribe regulations authorizing individuals to elect, during the 18-month period immediately following the effective date of such regulations to remain Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered, or to be FERS covered, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(3) NONELECTION.—If an eligible individual does not make an election under paragraph (2), the corrective action taken before the end of any time limitation under this subsection shall remain in effect.

(4) TREATMENT OF FERS ELECTION.—An election of FERS coverage under this subsection is deemed to be an election under section 301 of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act of 1986 (5 U.S.C. 8331 note; Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 599).

SEC. 132. FERS-ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN CSRS COVERED, CSRS-OFFSET COVERED, OR SOCIAL SECURITY-ONLY COVERED, BUT WHO WAS ERRONEOUSLY FERS COVERED INSTEAD WITHOUT AN ELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) FERS ELECTION PREVENTED.—If an individual was prevented from electing FERS coverage because the individual was erroneously FERS covered during the period when the individual was eligible to elect FERS under title III of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act or the Federal Employees' Retirement System Open Enrollment Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-61; 111 Stat. 1318 et seq.), the individual—

(A) is deemed to have elected FERS coverage; and

(B) shall remain covered by FERS, unless the individual declines, under regulations prescribed by the Office, to be FERS covered.

(2) DECLINING FERS COVERAGE.—If an individual described under paragraph (1)(B) declines to be FERS covered, such individual shall be CSRS covered, CSRS-Offset covered, or Social Security-Only covered, as would apply in the absence of a FERS election, effective as of the date of the erroneous retirement coverage determination.

(b) EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—If under this section, an individual declines to be FERS covered and instead is Social Security-Only covered, CSRS covered, or CSRS-Offset covered, as would apply in the absence of a FERS election, all employee contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund made during the period of erroneous FERS coverage (and all earnings on such contributions) may remain in the Thrift Savings Fund in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Executive Director, notwithstanding any limit that would otherwise be applicable.

(c) INAPPLICABILITY OF DURATION OF ERRONEOUS COVERAGE.—This section shall apply regardless of the length of time the erroneous coverage determination remained in effect.

SEC. 133. RETROACTIVE EFFECT.

This subtitle shall be effective as of January 1, 1987, except that section 132 shall not apply to individuals who made or were deemed to have made elections similar to those provided in this section under regulations prescribed by the Office before the effective date of this Act.

Subtitle E—Employee Who Should Have Been CSRS-Offset Covered, but Who Was Erroneously CSRS Covered Instead

SEC. 141. APPLICABILITY.

This subtitle shall apply in the case of any employee who should be (or should have been) CSRS-Offset covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) CSRS covered instead.

SEC. 142. CORRECTION MANDATORY.

(a) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has not been corrected, as soon as practicable after discovery of the error, such individual shall be covered under the correct retirement coverage, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(b) CORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has been corrected before the effective date of this Act, the corrective action taken before such date shall remain in effect.

Subtitle F—Employee Who Should Have Been CSRS Covered, but Who Was Erroneously CSRS-Offset Covered Instead

SEC. 151. APPLICABILITY.

This subtitle shall apply in the case of any employee who should be (or should have been) CSRS covered but, as a result of a retirement coverage error, is (or was) CSRS-Offset covered instead.

SEC. 152. CORRECTION MANDATORY.

(a) UNCORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has not been corrected, as soon as practicable after discovery of the error, such individual shall be covered under the correct retirement coverage, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error.

(b) CORRECTED ERROR.—If the retirement coverage error has been corrected before the effective date of this Act, the corrective action taken before such date shall remain in effect.

TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Government agencies shall take all such measures as may be reasonable and appropriate to promptly identify and notify individuals who are (or have been) affected by a retirement coverage error of their rights under this Act.

SEC. 202. INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED TO AND BY AUTHORITIES ADMINISTERING THIS ACT.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—The authorities identified in this subsection are—

(1) the Director of the Office of Personnel Management;

(2) the Commissioner of Social Security; and

(3) the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

(b) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.—Each authority identified in subsection (a) may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable such authority to carry out its responsibilities under this Act. Upon request of the authority involved, the head of the department or agency involved shall furnish that information to the requesting authority.

(c) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.—Each authority identified in subsection (a) may provide directly to any department or agency of the United States all information such authority believes necessary to enable

the department or agency to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(d) LIMITATION; SAFEGUARDS.—Each of the respective authorities under subsection (a) shall—

(1) request or provide only such information as that authority considers necessary; and

(2) establish, by regulation or otherwise, appropriate safeguards to ensure that any information obtained under this section shall be used only for the purpose authorized.

SEC. 203. SERVICE CREDIT DEPOSITS.

(a) CSRS DEPOSIT.—In the case of a retirement coverage error in which—

(1) a FERS covered employee was erroneously CSRS covered or CSRS-Offset covered;

(2) the employee made a service credit deposit under the CSRS rules; and

(3) there is a subsequent retroactive change to FERS coverage;

the excess of the amount of the CSRS civilian or military service credit deposit over the FERS civilian or military service credit deposit, together with interest computed in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 8334(e) of title 5, United States Code, and regulations prescribed by the Office, shall be paid to the employee, the annuitant or, in the case of a deceased employee, to the individual entitled to lump-sum benefits under section 8424(d) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) FERS DEPOSIT.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies in the case of an erroneous retirement coverage determination in which—

(A) the employee owed a service credit deposit under section 8411(f) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B)(i) there is a subsequent retroactive change to CSRS or CSRS-Offset coverage; or

(ii) the service becomes creditable under chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) REDUCED ANNUITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If at the time of commencement of an annuity there is remaining unpaid CSRS civilian or military service credit deposit for service described under paragraph (1), the annuity shall be reduced based upon the amount unpaid together with interest computed in accordance with section 8334(e) (2) and (3) of title 5, United States Code, and regulations prescribed by the Office.

(B) AMOUNT.—The reduced annuity to which the individual is entitled shall be equal to an amount that, when taken together with the amount referred to under subparagraph (A), would result in the present value of the total being actuarially equivalent to the present value of the unreduced annuity benefit that would have been provided the individual.

(3) SURVIVOR ANNUITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If at the time of commencement of a survivor annuity, there is remaining unpaid any CSRS service credit deposit described under paragraph (1), and there has been no actuarial reduction in an annuity under paragraph (2), the survivor annuity shall be reduced based upon the amount unpaid together with interest computed in accordance with section 8334(e) (2) and (3) of title 5, United States Code, and regulations prescribed by the Office.

(B) AMOUNT.—The reduced survivor annuity to which the individual is entitled shall be equal to an amount that, when taken together with the amount referred to under subparagraph (A), would result in the present value of the total being actuarially equivalent to the present value of an unreduced survivor annuity benefit that would have been provided the individual.

SEC. 204. PROVISIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE OF MISCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term—

(1) “covered individual” means any employee, former employee, or annuitant who—

(A) is or was employed erroneously subject to CSRS coverage as a result of a retirement coverage error; and

(B) is or was retroactively converted to CSRS-offset coverage, FERS coverage, or Social Security-only coverage; and

(2) “excess CSRS deduction amount” means an amount equal to the difference between the CSRS deductions withheld and the CSRS-Offset or FERS deductions, if any, due with respect to a covered individual during the entire period the individual was erroneously subject to CSRS coverage as a result of a retirement coverage error.

(b) **REPORTS TO COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out the Commissioner of Social Security’s responsibilities under title II of the Social Security Act, the Commissioner may request the head of each agency that employs or employed a covered individual to report (in coordination with the Office of Personnel Management) in such form and within such timeframe as the Commissioner may specify, any or all of—

(A) the total wages (as defined in section 3121(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) paid to such individual during each year of the entire period of the erroneous CSRS coverage; and

(B) such additional information as the Commissioner may require for the purpose of carrying out the Commissioner’s responsibilities under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(2) **COMPLIANCE.**—The head of an agency or the Office shall comply with a request from the Commissioner under paragraph (1).

(3) **WAGES.**—For purposes of section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401), wages reported under this subsection shall be deemed to be wages reported to the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegates pursuant to subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) **PAYMENT RELATING TO OASDI EMPLOYEE TAXES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall transfer from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund to the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the lesser of the excess CSRS deduction amount or the OASDI taxes due for covered individuals (as adjusted by amounts transferred relating to applicable OASDI employee taxes as a result of corrections made, including corrections made before the date of enactment of this Act). If the excess CSRS deductions exceed the OASDI taxes, any difference shall be paid to the covered individual or survivors, as appropriate.

(2) **TRANSFER.**—Amounts transferred under this subsection shall be determined notwithstanding any limitation under section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(d) **PAYMENT OF OASDI EMPLOYER TAXES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each employing agency shall pay an amount equal to the OASDI employer taxes owed with respect to covered individuals during the applicable period of erroneous coverage (as adjusted by amounts transferred for the payment of such taxes as a result of corrections made, including corrections made before the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) **PAYMENT.**—Amounts paid under this subsection shall be determined subject to any limitation under section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(e) **APPLICATION OF OASDI TAX PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO**

AFFECTIONED INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYING AGENCIES.—A covered individual and the individual’s employing agency shall be deemed to have fully satisfied in a timely manner their responsibilities with respect to the taxes imposed by sections 3101(a), 3102(a), and 3111(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the wages paid by the employing agency to such individual during the entire period such individual was erroneously subject to CSRS coverage as a result of a retirement coverage error based on the payments and transfers made under subsections (c) and (d). No credit or refund of taxes on such wages shall be allowed as a result of this subsection.

SEC. 205. THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies to an individual who—

(1) is eligible to make an election of coverage under section 101 or 102, and only if FERS coverage is elected (or remains in effect) for the employee involved; or

(2) is described in section 111, and makes or has made retroactive employee contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund under regulations prescribed by the Executive Director.

(b) **PAYMENT INTO THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **PAYMENT.**—With respect to an individual to whom this section applies, the employing agency shall pay to the Thrift Savings Fund under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, for credit to the account of the employee involved, an amount equal to the earnings which are disallowed under section 8432a(a)(2) of such title on the employee’s retroactive contributions to such Fund.

(B) **AMOUNT.**—Earnings under subparagraph (A) shall be computed in accordance with the procedures for computing lost earnings under section 8432a of title 5, United States Code. The amount paid by the employing agency shall be treated for all purposes as if that amount had actually been earned on the basis of the employee’s contributions.

(C) **EXCEPTIONS.**—If an individual made retroactive contributions before the effective date of the regulations under section 101(c), the Director may provide for an alternative calculation of lost earnings to the extent that a calculation under subparagraph (B) is not administratively feasible. The alternative calculation shall yield an amount that is as close as practicable to the amount computed under subparagraph (B), taking into account earnings previously paid.

(2) **ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION.**—In cases in which the retirement coverage error was corrected before the effective date of the regulations under section 101(c), the employee involved shall have an additional opportunity to make retroactive contributions for the period of the retirement coverage error (subject to applicable limits), and such contributions (including any contributions made after the date of the correction) shall be treated in accordance with paragraph (1).

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Executive Director shall prescribe regulations appropriate to carry out this section relating to retroactive employee contributions and payments made on or after the effective date of the regulations under section 101(c).

(2) **OFFICE.**—The Office, in consultation with the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, shall prescribe regulations appropriate to carry out this section relating to the calculation of lost earnings on retroactive employee contributions made before the effective date of the regulations under section 101(c).

SEC. 206. CERTAIN AGENCY AMOUNTS TO BE PAID INTO OR REMAIN IN THE CSRDF.

(a) **CERTAIN EXCESS AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO REMAIN IN THE CSRDF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any amount described under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) remain in the CSRDF; and

(B) may not be paid or credited to an agency.

(2) **AMOUNTS.**—Paragraph (1) refers to any amount of contributions made by an agency under section 8423 of title 5, United States Code, on behalf of any employee, former employee, or annuitant (or survivor of such employee, former employee, or annuitant) who makes an election to correct a retirement coverage error under this Act, that the Office determines to be excess as a result of such election.

(b) **ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT DEDUCTIONS TO BE PAID BY AGENCY.**—If a correction in a retirement coverage error results in an increase in employee deductions under section 8334 or 8422 of title 5, United States Code, that cannot be fully paid by a reallocation of otherwise available amounts previously deducted from the employee’s pay as employment taxes or retirement deductions, the employing agency—

(1) shall pay the required additional amount into the CSRDF; and

(2) shall not seek repayment of that amount from the employee, former employee, annuitant, or survivor.

SEC. 207. CSRS COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS TO BE APPROVED BY OPM.

No agency shall place an individual under CSRS coverage unless—

(1) the individual has been employed with CSRS coverage within the preceding 365 days; or

(2) the Office has agreed in writing that the agency’s coverage determination is correct.

SEC. 208. DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS BY DIRECTOR.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may—

(1) extend the deadlines for making elections under this Act in circumstances involving an individual’s inability to make a timely election due to a cause beyond the individual’s control;

(2) provide for the reimbursement of necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by an individual with respect to settlement of a claim for losses resulting from a retirement coverage error, including attorney’s fees, court costs, and other actual expenses;

(3) compensate an individual for monetary losses that are a direct and proximate result of a retirement coverage error, excluding claimed losses relating to forgone contributions and earnings under the Thrift Savings Plan under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, and all other investment opportunities; and

(4) waive payments required due to correction of a retirement coverage error under this Act.

(b) **SIMILAR ACTIONS.**—In exercising the authority under this section, the Director shall, to the extent practicable, provide for similar actions in situations involving similar circumstances.

(c) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Actions taken under this section are final and conclusive, and are not subject to administrative or judicial review.

(d) **REGULATIONS.**—The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations regarding the process and criteria used in exercising the authority under this section.

(e) **REPORT.**—The Office of Personnel Management shall, not later than 180 days after

the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each year in which the authority provided in this section is used, submit a report to each House of Congress on the operation of this section.

SEC. 209. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the regulations specifically authorized in this Act, the Office may prescribe such other regulations as are necessary for the administration of this Act.

(b) FORMER SPOUSE.—The regulations prescribed under this Act shall provide for protection of the rights of a former spouse with entitlement to an apportionment of benefits or to survivor benefits based on the service of the employee.

TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. PROVISIONS TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUED CONFORMITY OF OTHER FEDERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.

(a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—Sections 827 and 851 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4067 and 4071) shall apply with respect to this Act in the same manner as if this Act were part of—

(1) the Civil Service Retirement System, to the extent this Act relates to the Civil Service Retirement System; and

(2) the Federal Employees' Retirement System, to the extent this Act relates to the Federal Employees' Retirement System.

(b) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Sections 292 and 301 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2141 and 2151) shall apply with respect to this Act in the same manner as if this Act were part of—

(1) the Civil Service Retirement System, to the extent this Act relates to the Civil Service Retirement System; and

(2) the Federal Employees' Retirement System, to the extent this Act relates to the Federal Employees' Retirement System.

SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.

All payments authorized or required by this Act to be paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, together with administrative expenses incurred by the Office in administering this Act, shall be deemed to have been authorized to be paid from that Fund, which is appropriated for the payment thereof.

SEC. 303. INDIVIDUAL RIGHT OF ACTION PRESERVED FOR AMOUNTS NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS ACT.

Nothing in this Act shall preclude an individual from bringing a claim against the Government of the United States which such individual may have under section 1346(b) or chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law (except to the extent the claim is for any amounts otherwise provided for under this Act).

TITLE IV—TAX PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TAX PROVISIONS.

(a) PLAN QUALIFICATION.—No retirement plan of the United States (or any agency thereof) shall fail to be treated as a qualified plan under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by reason of—

(1) any failure to follow plan terms as addressed by this Act; or

(2) any action taken under this Act.

(b) TRANSFERS.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, no amount shall be includible in the gross income of any individual in any tax year by reason of any direct transfer under this Act between funds or any Government contribution under this Act to any fund or account in any such tax year.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS RETIREMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD PORTABILITY OF SERVICE CREDIT.

(a) CREDITABLE SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8411(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “of the preceding provisions” and inserting “other paragraph”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) a period of service (other than any service under any other paragraph of this subsection, any military service, and any service performed in the employ of a Federal Reserve Bank) that was creditable under the Bank plan (as defined in subsection (i), if the employee waives credit for such service under the Bank plan and makes a payment to the Fund equal to the amount that would have been deducted from pay under section 8422(a) had the employee been subject to this chapter during such period of service (together with interest on such amount computed under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 8334(e)).

Paragraph (5) shall not apply in the case of any employee as to whom subsection (g) (or, to the extent subchapter III of chapter 83 is involved, section 8332(n)) otherwise applies.”.

(2) BANK PLAN DEFINED.—Section 8411 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) For purposes of subsection (b)(5), the term ‘Bank plan’ means the benefit structure—

“(1) in which employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed on or after January 1, 1984, participate; and

“(2) that is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (and any redesignated or successor version of such benefit structure, if so identified in writing by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for purposes of this chapter).”.

(b) EXCLUSION FROM CHAPTER 84.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 8402(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the matter before subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(2)(A) any employee or Member who has separated from the service after—

“(i) having been subject to—

“(II) subchapter III of chapter 83 of this title;

“(II) subchapter I of chapter 8 of title I of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4041 et seq.); or

“(III) the benefit structure for employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed before January 1, 1984, that is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act; and

“(ii) having completed—

“(I) at least 5 years of civilian service creditable under subchapter III of chapter 83 of this title;

“(II) at least 5 years of civilian service creditable under subchapter I of chapter 8 of title I of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4041 et seq.); or

“(III) at least 5 years of civilian service (other than any service performed in the employ of a Federal Reserve Bank) creditable under the benefit structure for employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed before January 1, 1984, that is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act,

determined without regard to any deposit or redeposit requirement under either such sub-

chapter or under such benefit structure, or any requirement that the individual become subject to either such subchapter or to such benefit structure after performing the service involved; or”.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (d) of section 8402 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(d) Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) shall not apply to an individual who—

“(1) becomes subject to—

“(A) subchapter II of chapter 8 of title I of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.) (relating to the Foreign Service Pension System) pursuant to an election; or

“(B) the benefit structure in which employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed on or after January 1, 1984, participate, which benefit structure is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (and any redesignated or successor version of such benefit structure, if so identified in writing by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for purposes of this chapter); and

“(2) subsequently enters a position in which, but for paragraph (2) of subsection (b), such individual would be subject to this chapter.”.

(c) PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN FORMER EMPLOYEES.—A former employee of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System who—

(1) has at least 5 years of civilian service (other than any service performed in the employ of a Federal Reserve Bank) creditable under the benefit structure for employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed before January 1, 1984, that is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act;

(2) was subsequently employed subject to the benefit structure in which employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed on or after January 1, 1984, participate, which benefit structure is a component of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System, established under section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (and any redesignated or successor version of such benefit structure, if so identified in writing by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for purposes of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code); and

(3) after service described in paragraph (2), becomes subject to and thereafter entitled to benefits under chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code,

shall, for purposes of section 302 of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 (5 U.S.C. 8331 note; Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 601) be considered to have become subject to chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, pursuant to an election under section 301 of such Act.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), this section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROVISIONS RELATING TO CREDITABILITY AND CERTAIN FORMER EMPLOYEES.—The amendments made by subsection (a) and the provisions of subsection (c) shall apply only to individuals who separate from service subject to chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) PROVISIONS RELATING TO EXCLUSION FROM CHAPTER.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall not apply to any former employee of the Board of Governors of the

Federal Reserve System who, subsequent to his or her last period of service as an employee of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and prior to the date of enactment of this Act, became subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, under the law in effect at the time of the individual's appointment.

SEC. 502. CERTAIN TRANSFERS TO BE TREATED AS A SEPARATION FROM SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 84 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 8432 the following:

“§ 8431. Certain transfers to be treated as a separation

“(a) For purposes of this subchapter, separation from Government employment includes a transfer from a position that is subject to one of the retirement systems described in subsection (b) to a position that is not subject to any such system.

“(b) The retirement systems described in this subsection are—

“(1) the retirement system under this chapter;

“(2) the retirement system under subchapter III of chapter 83; and

“(3) any other retirement system under which individuals may contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund through withholdings from pay.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 8432 the following:

“8431. Certain transfers to be treated as a separation.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of section 8351 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (8), and by adding at the end the following:

“(9) For the purpose of this section, separation from Government employment includes a transfer described in section 8431.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to transfers occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act, except that, for purposes of applying such amendments with respect to any transfer occurring before such date of enactment, the date of such transfer shall be considered to be the date of enactment of this Act. The Executive Director (within the meaning of section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) may prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this subsection.

TITLE VI—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 601. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

ESTABLISHING A CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 185 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 185) to establish a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of United States Trade Representative.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 185) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 185

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A POSITION.—There is established the position of Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. The Chief Agricultural Negotiator shall be appointed by the President, with the rank of Ambassador, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The primary function of the Chief Agricultural Negotiator shall be to conduct trade negotiations and to enforce trade agreements relating to U.S. agricultural products and services. The Chief Agricultural Negotiator shall be a vigorous advocate on behalf of U.S. agricultural interests. The Chief Agricultural Negotiator shall perform such other functions as the United States Trade Representative may direct.

(c) COMPENSATION.—The Chief Agricultural Negotiator shall be paid at the highest rate of basic pay payable to a member of the Senior Executive Service.

EXPORT APPLE ACT

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 609 be discharged from the Banking Committee and, further, that the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 609) to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the Act to apples.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 609) was read the third time and passed.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 77, S. 688.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 688) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 688) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 688

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF OPIC AUTHORITIES.

Section 235(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(A)(2)) is amended by striking “1999” and inserting “2003”.

HONORING WALTER JERRY PAYTON

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 219, submitted earlier by Senators FITZGERALD, DURBIN, LOTT, COCHRAN, and HELMS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 219) recognizing and honoring Walter Jerry Payton and expressing the condolences of the Senate to his family on his death.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 219) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 219

Whereas Walter Payton was a hero, a leader, and a role model both on and off the field;

Whereas for 13 years, Walter Payton thrilled Chicago Bears' fans as the National Football League's (NFL's) all-time leading rusher—and as one of the greatest running backs ever to play the game—culminating with his induction into the Professional Football Hall of Fame;

Whereas after retiring from professional football in 1987, Payton continued to touch the lives of both his fellow Chicagoans and citizens of his native state of Mississippi, as a businessman and a community leader;

Whereas Walter Payton was born in 1954 to Mrs. Alyne Payton and the late Mr. Edward Payton, and his historic career began as a star running back at Columbia High School in his native hometown of Columbia, Mississippi, which he called “a child's paradise.” He went on to choose Jackson State University over 100 college offers, and to set nine