

Public Law 87-370

AN ACT

October 4, 1961
[H. R. 4317]

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and incorporate therein provisions for the payment of annuities to widows and certain dependents of the judges of the Tax Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

Judges, Tax
Court of U. S.
Annuities to
widows and chil-
dren.
68A Stat. 879.
26 USC 7441-
7447.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subchapter C of chapter 76 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to the Tax Court of the United States) is hereby amended by adding immediately following section 7447 the following new section:

"SEC. 7448. ANNUITIES TO WIDOWS AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF JUDGES.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) The term 'Tax Court' means the Tax Court of the United States.

"(2) The term 'judge' means the chief judge or a judge of the Tax Court, including any individual receiving retired pay (or compensation in lieu of retired pay) under section 7447 or under section 1106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939 whether or not performing judicial duties pursuant to section 7447(c) or pursuant to section 1106(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939.

"(3) The term 'chief judge' means the chief judge of the Tax Court.

"(4) The term 'judge's salary' means the salary of a judge received under section 7443(c), retired pay received under section 7447(d), and compensation (in lieu of retired pay) received under section 7447(c).

"(5) The term 'survivors annuity fund' means the Tax Court judges survivors annuity fund established by this section.

"(6) The term 'widow' means a surviving wife of an individual, who either (A) shall have been married to such individual for at least 2 years immediately preceding his death or (B) is the mother of issue by such marriage, and who has not remarried.

"(7) The term 'dependent child' means an unmarried child, including a dependent stepchild or an adopted child, who is under the age of 18 years or who because of physical or mental disability is incapable of self-support.

"(b) ELECTION.—Any judge may by written election filed with the chief judge within 6 months after the date on which he takes office after appointment or any reappointment, or within 6 months after the date upon which he first becomes eligible for retirement under section 7447(b), or within 6 months after the enactment of this section, bring himself within the purview of this section, except that, in the case of such an election by the chief judge, the election shall be filed as prescribed by the Tax Court subject to the preceding requirements as to the time of filing.

"(c) SALARY DEDUCTIONS.—There shall be deducted and withheld from the salary of each judge electing under subsection (b) a sum equal to 3 percent of such judge's salary. The amounts so deducted and withheld from such judge's salary shall, in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of a fund to be known as the 'Tax Court judges survivors annuity fund' and said fund is appropriated for the payment of annuities, refunds, and allowances as provided by this section. Each judge electing under subsection (b) shall be deemed thereby to consent

67 Stat. 482.

69 Stat. 10.

and agree to the deductions from his salary as provided in this subsection, and payment less such deductions shall be a full and complete discharge and acquittance of all claims and demands whatsoever for all judicial services rendered by such judge during the period covered by such payment, except the right to the benefits to which he or his survivors shall be entitled under the provisions of this section.

“(d) DEPOSITS IN SURVIVORS ANNUITY FUND.—Each judge electing under subsection (b) shall deposit, with interest at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter, compounded on December 31 of each year, to the credit of the survivors annuity fund, a sum equal to 3 percent of his judge's salary and of his basic salary, pay, or compensation for service as a Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner in Congress, and for any other civilian service within the purview of section 3 of the Civil Service Retirement Act (5 U.S.C. 2253). Each such judge may elect to make such deposits in installments during the continuance of his service as a judge in such amount and under such conditions as may be determined in each instance by the chief judge. Notwithstanding the failure of a judge to make such deposit, credit shall be allowed for the service rendered, but the annuity of the widow of such judge shall be reduced by an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount of such deposit, computed as of the date of the death of such judge, unless such widow shall elect to eliminate such service entirely from credit under subsection (n), except that no deposit shall be required from a judge for any year with respect to which deductions from his salary were actually made under the Civil Service Retirement Act and no deposit shall be required for any honorable service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States.

70 Stat. 745.

Post, p. 800.

70 Stat. 743.
5 USC 2251 note.

“(e) INVESTMENT OF SURVIVORS ANNUITY FUND.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest from time to time, in interest-bearing securities of the United States or Federal farm loan bonds, such portions of the survivors annuity fund as in his judgment may not be immediately required for the payment of the annuities, refunds, and allowances as provided in this section. The income derived from such investments shall constitute a part of said fund for the purpose of paying annuities and of carrying out the provisions of subsections (g), (h), and (j).

“(f) CREDITING OF DEPOSITS.—The amount deposited by or deducted and withheld from the salary of each judge electing to bring himself within the purview of this section for credit to the survivors annuity fund shall be credited to an individual account of such judge.

“(g) TERMINATION OF SERVICE.—If the service of any judge electing under subsection (b) terminates other than pursuant to the provisions of section 7447 or other than pursuant to section 1106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, the amount credited to his individual account, together with interest at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter, compounded on December 31 of each year, to the date of his relinquishment of office, shall be returned to him. For the purpose of this section, the service of any judge electing under subsection (b) who is not reappointed following expiration of his term but who, at the time of such expiration, is eligible for and elects to receive retired pay under section 7447 shall be deemed to have terminated pursuant to said section.

67 Stat. 482.

“(h) ENTITLEMENT TO ANNUITY.—In case any judge electing under subsection (b) shall die while a judge after having rendered at least 5 years of civilian service computed as prescribed in subsection (n), for the last 5 years of which the salary deductions provided for by subsection (c) or the deposits required by subsection (d) have actually

70 Stat. 743.
5 USC 2251 note.

been made or the salary deductions required by the Civil Service Retirement Act have actually been made—

“(1) if such judge is survived by a widow but not by a dependent child, there shall be paid to such widow an annuity beginning with the day of the death of the judge or following the widow's attainment of the age of 50 years, whichever is the later, in an amount computed as provided in subsection (m); or

“(2) if such judge is survived by a widow and a dependent child or children, there shall be paid to such widow an immediate annuity in an amount computed as provided in subsection (m), and there shall also be paid to or on behalf of each such child an immediate annuity equal to one-half the amount of the annuity of such widow, but not to exceed \$900 per year divided by the number of such children or \$360 per year, whichever is lesser; or

“(3) if such judge leaves no surviving widow or widower but leaves a surviving dependent child or children, there shall be paid to or on behalf of each such child an immediate annuity equal to the amount of the annuity to which such widow would have been entitled under paragraph (2) of this subsection had she survived, but not to exceed \$480 per year.

“The annuity payable to a widow under this subsection shall be terminable upon such widow's death or remarriage. The annuity payable to a child under this subsection shall be terminable upon (A) his attaining the age of 18 years, (B) his marriage, or (C) his death, whichever first occurs, except that if such child is incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical disability his annuity shall be terminable only upon death, marriage, or recovery from such disability. In case of the death of a widow of a judge leaving a dependent child or children of the judge surviving her, the annuity of such child or children shall be recomputed and paid as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection. In any case in which the annuity of a dependent child is terminated under this subsection, the annuities of any remaining dependent child or children, based upon the service of the same judge, shall be recomputed and paid as though the child whose annuity was so terminated had not survived such judge.

“(i) DETERMINATION OF DEPENDENCY AND DISABILITY.—Questions of dependency and disability arising under this section shall be determined by the chief judge subject to review only by the Tax Court, the decision of which shall be final and conclusive. The chief judge may order or direct at any time such medical or other examinations as he shall deem necessary to determine the facts relative to the nature and degree of disability of any dependent child who is an annuitant or applicant for annuity under this section, and may suspend or deny any such annuity for failure to submit to any examination so ordered or directed.

“(j) PAYMENTS IN CERTAIN CASES.—

“(1) In any case in which—

“(A) a judge electing under subsection (b) shall die while in office (whether in regular active service or retired from such service under section 7447), before having rendered 5 years of civilian service computed as prescribed in subsection (n), or after having rendered 5 years of such civilian service but without a survivor or survivors entitled to annuity benefits provided by subsection (h), or

“(B) the right of all persons entitled to annuity under subsection (h) based on the service of such judge shall terminate before a valid claim therefor shall have been established,

26 USC 7447.

the total amount credited to the individual account of such judge, with interest at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter, compounded on December 31 of each year, to the date of the death of such judge, shall be paid, upon the establishment of a valid claim therefor, to the person or persons surviving at the date title to the payment arises, in the following order of precedence, and such payment shall be a bar to recovery by any other person:

“(i) to the beneficiary or beneficiaries whom the judge may have designated by a writing filed prior to his death with the chief judge, except that in the case of the chief judge such designation shall be by a writing filed by him, prior to his death, as prescribed by the Tax Court;

“(ii) if there be no such beneficiary, to the widow of such judge;

“(iii) if none of the above, to the child or children of such judge and the descendants of any deceased children by representation;

“(iv) if none of the above, to the parents of such judge or the survivor of them;

“(v) if none of the above, to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of such judge; and

“(vi) if none of the above, to such other next of kin of such judge as may be determined by the chief judge to be entitled under the laws of the domicile of such judge at the time of his death.

Determination as to the widow, child, or parent of a judge for the purposes of this paragraph shall be made by the chief judge without regard to the definitions in subsections (a) (6) and (7).

“(2) In any case in which the annuities of all persons entitled to annuity based upon the service of a judge shall terminate before the aggregate amount of annuity paid equals the total amount credited to the individual account of such judge, with interest at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter, compounded on December 31 of each year, to the date of the death of such judge, the difference shall be paid, upon establishment of a valid claim therefor, in the order of precedence prescribed in paragraph (1).

“(3) Any accrued annuity remaining unpaid upon the termination (other than by death) of the annuity of any person based upon the service of a judge shall be paid to such person. Any accrued annuity remaining unpaid upon the death of any person receiving annuity based upon the service of a judge shall be paid, upon the establishment of a valid claim therefor, in the following order of precedence:

“(A) to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of such person;

“(B) if there is no such executor or administrator payment may be made, after the expiration of thirty days from the date of the death of such person, to such individual or individuals as may appear in the judgment of the chief judge to be legally entitled thereto, and such payment shall be a bar to recovery by any other individual.

“(k) PAYMENTS TO PERSONS UNDER LEGAL DISABILITY.—Where any payment under this section is to be made to a minor, or to a person mentally incompetent or under other legal disability adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, such payment may be made to the person who is constituted guardian or other fiduciary by the law of the State of residence of such claimant or is otherwise legally

vested with the care of the claimant or his estate. Where no guardian or other fiduciary of the person under legal disability has been appointed under the laws of the State of residence of the claimant, the chief judge shall determine the person who is otherwise legally vested with the care of the claimant or his estate.

“(1) METHOD OF PAYMENT OF ANNUITIES.—Annuities granted under the terms of this section shall accrue monthly and shall be due and payable in monthly installments on the first business day of the month following the month or other period for which the annuity shall have accrued. None of the moneys mentioned in this section shall be assignable, either in law or in equity, or subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process.

“(m) COMPUTATION OF ANNUITIES.—The annuity of the widow of a judge electing under subsection (b) shall be an amount equal to the sum of (1) $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent of the average annual salary received by such judge for judicial service and any other prior allowable service during the last 5 years of such service prior to his death, or prior to his receiving retired pay under section 7447(d), whichever first occurs, multiplied by the sum of his years of judicial service, his years of prior allowable service as a Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner in Congress, his years of prior allowable service performed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and his years, not exceeding 15, of prior allowable service performed as a congressional employee (as defined in section 1(c) of the Civil Service Retirement Act (5 U.S.C. 2251(c)), and (2) three-fourths of 1 percent of such average annual salary multiplied by his years of any other prior allowable service, but such annuity shall not exceed $37\frac{1}{2}$ percent of such average annual salary and shall be further reduced in accordance with subsection (d), if applicable.

“(n) INCLUDIBLE SERVICE.—Subject to the provisions of subsection (d), the years of service of a judge which are allowable as the basis for calculating the amount of the annuity of his widow shall include his years of service as a member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals and as a judge of the Tax Court, his years of service as a Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner in Congress, his years of active service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States not exceeding 5 years in the aggregate and not including any such service for which credit is allowed for the purposes of retirement or retired pay under any other provision of law, and his years of any other civilian service within the purview of section 3 of the Civil Service Retirement Act (5 U.S.C. 2253).

“(o) SIMULTANEOUS ENTITLEMENT.—Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prevent a widow eligible therefor from simultaneously receiving an annuity under this section and any annuity to which she would otherwise be entitled under any other law without regard to this section, but in computing such other annuity service used in the computation of her annuity under this section shall not be credited.

“(p) ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES.—The chief judge shall submit to the Bureau of the Budget annual estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the survivors annuity fund, and such supplemental and deficiency estimates as may be required from time to time for the same purposes, according to law. The chief judge shall cause periodic examinations of the survivors annuity fund to be made by an actuary, who may be an actuary employed by another department of the Government temporarily assigned for the purpose, and whose findings and recommendations shall be transmitted by the chief judge to the Tax Court.

“(q) TRANSITIONAL PROVISION.—In the case of a judge who dies

26 USC 7447.

70 Stat. 743.

70 Stat. 745.

within 6 months after the date of enactment of this section after having rendered at least 5 years of civilian service computed as prescribed in subsection (n), but without having made an election as provided in subsection (b), an annuity shall be paid to his widow and surviving dependents as is provided in this section, as if such judge had elected on the day of his death to bring himself within the purview of this section but had not made the deposit provided for by subsection (d). An annuity shall be payable under this section computed upon the basis of the actual length of service as a judge and other allowable service of the judge and subject to the reduction required by subsection (d) even though no deposit has been made, as required by subsection (h) with respect to any of such service.

“(r) **WAIVER OF CIVIL SERVICE BENEFITS.**—Any judge electing under subsection (b) shall, at the time of such election, waive all benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act. Such a waiver shall be made in the same manner and shall have the same force and effect as a waiver filed under section 7447(g)(3). 70 Stat. 743.
5 USC 2251 note.

26 USC 7447.

“(s) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**—Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this section may be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.”

SEC. 2. The table of sections for part I of subchapter C of chapter 76 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: 26 USC prec. 7441.

“Sec. 7448. Annuities to widows and dependent children of judges.”

SEC. 3. (a) Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to taxability of beneficiaries under annuities purchased by section 501(c)(3) organizations) is amended— 26 USC 403.

68A Stat. 163.

(1) by striking out subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(A) an annuity contract is purchased—

“(i) for an employee by an employer described in section 501(c)(3) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), or

“(ii) for an employee (other than an employee described in clause (i)), who performs services for an educational institution (as defined in section 151(e)(4)), by an employer which is a State, a political subdivision of a State, or an agency or instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing;” 26 USC 151.

(2) by striking out “the employer described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a),” in paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “the employer described in paragraph (1)(A);” and

(3) by inserting before the period in the heading of such subsection the following: “or PUBLIC SCHOOL”.

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1957. Effective date.

Approved October 4, 1961.