

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-358 effective Oct. 14, 1994, and applicable with respect to any decree, order, or other legal process, or notice of agreement received by Office of Personnel Management or Executive Director of Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board on or after Oct. 14, 1994, see section 3 of Pub. L. 103-358, set out as a note under section 8345 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-226 effective Mar. 10, 1995, see section 9(j) of Pub. L. 103-226, set out as a note under section 8351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-238, title I, § 117(b), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1751, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the first day of the first month beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 8, 1988].”

DISPOSITION OF AMOUNTS

Pub. L. 112-267, § 2, Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2440, provided that: “Any potential revenue gain attributable to the enactment of this Act [amending this section], as determined by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office—

“(1) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury of the United States; and

“(2) shall be used solely for purposes of deficit reduction.”

§ 8438. Investment of Thrift Savings Fund

(a) For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term “Common Stock Index Investment Fund” means the Common Stock Index Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(C);

(2) the term “equity capital” means common and preferred stock, surplus, undivided profits, contingency reserves, and other capital reserves;

(3) the term “Fixed Income Investment Fund” means the Fixed Income Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(B);

(4) the term “Government Securities Investment Fund” means the Government Securities Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(A);

(5) the term “International Stock Index Investment Fund” means the International Stock Index Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(E);

(6) the term “net worth” means capital, paid-in and contributed surplus, unassigned surplus, contingency reserves, group contingency reserves, and special reserves;

(7) the term “plan” means an employee benefit plan, as defined in section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(3));

(8) the term “qualified professional asset manager” means—

(A) a bank, as defined in section 202(a)(2) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-2(a)(2)) which—

(i) has the power to manage, acquire, or dispose of assets of a plan; and

(ii) has, as of the last day of its latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this clause, equity capital in excess of \$1,000,000;

(B) a savings and loan association, the accounts of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which—

(i) has applied for and been granted trust powers to manage, acquire, or dispose of assets of a plan by a State or Government authority having supervision over savings and loan associations; and

(ii) has, as of the last day of its latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this clause, equity capital or net worth in excess of \$1,000,000;

(C) an insurance company which—

(i) is qualified under the laws of more than one State to manage, acquire, or dispose of any assets of a plan;

(ii) has, as of the last day of its latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this clause, net worth in excess of \$1,000,000; and

(iii) is subject to supervision and examination by a State authority having supervision over insurance companies; or

(D) an investment adviser registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3) if the investment adviser has, on the last day of its latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this subparagraph, total client assets under its management and control in excess of \$50,000,000, and—

(i) the investment adviser has, on such day, shareholder's or partner's equity in excess of \$750,000; or

(ii) payment of all of the investment adviser's liabilities, including any liabilities which may arise by reason of a breach or violation of a duty described in section 8477 of this title, is unconditionally guaranteed by—

(I) a person (as defined in section 8471(4) of this title) who directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the investment adviser and who has, on the last day of the person's latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this clause, shareholder's or partner's equity in an amount which, when added to the amount of the shareholder's or partner's equity of the investment adviser on such day, exceeds \$750,000;

(II) a qualified professional asset manager described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(III) a broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o) that has, on the last day of the broker's or dealer's latest fiscal year ending before the date of a determination for the purpose of this clause, net worth in excess of \$750,000;

(9) the term “shareholder's or partner's equity”, as used in paragraph (8)(D) with respect to an investment adviser or a person (as defined in section 8471(4) of this title) who is affiliated with the investment adviser in a manner described in clause (ii)(I) of such paragraph (8)(D), means the equity shown in the

most recent balance sheet prepared for such investment adviser or affiliated person, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, within 2 years before the date on which the investment adviser's status as a qualified professional asset manager is determined for the purposes of this section; and

(10) the term "Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund" means the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(D).

(b)(1) The Board shall establish—

(A) a Government Securities Investment Fund under which sums in the Thrift Savings Fund are invested in securities of the United States Government issued as provided in subsection (e);

(B) a Fixed Income Investment Fund under which sums in the Thrift Savings Fund are invested in—

(i) insurance contracts;

(ii) certificates of deposits; or

(iii) other instruments or obligations selected by qualified professional asset managers,

which return the amount invested and pay interest, at a specified rate or rates, on that amount during a specified period of time;

(C) a Common Stock Index Investment Fund as provided in paragraph (2);

(D) a Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund as provided in paragraph (3);

(E) an International Stock Index Investment Fund as provided in paragraph (4); and

(F) a service that enables participants to invest in mutual funds, if the Board authorizes the mutual fund window under paragraph (5).

(2)(A) The Board shall select an index which is a commonly recognized index comprised of common stock the aggregate market value of which is a reasonably complete representation of the United States equity markets.

(B) The Common Stock Index Investment Fund shall be invested in a portfolio designed to replicate the performance of the index selected under subparagraph (A). The portfolio shall be designed such that, to the extent practicable, the percentage of the Common Stock Index Investment Fund that is invested in each stock is the same as the percentage determined by dividing the aggregate market value of all shares of that stock by the aggregate market value of all shares of all stocks included in such index.

(3)(A) The Board shall select an index which is a commonly recognized index comprised of common stock the aggregate market value of which represents the United States equity markets excluding the common stocks included in the Common Stock Index Investment Fund.

(B) The Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund shall be invested in a portfolio designed to replicate the performance of the index in subparagraph (A). The portfolio shall be designed such that, to the extent practicable, the percentage of the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund that is invested in each stock is the same as the percentage determined by dividing the aggregate market value of all shares of that stock by the aggregate market value of all shares of all stocks included in such index.

(4)(A) The Board shall select an index which is a commonly recognized index comprised of stock the aggregate market value of which is a reasonably complete representation of the international equity markets excluding the United States equity markets.

(B) The International Stock Index Investment Fund shall be invested in a portfolio designed to replicate the performance of the index in subparagraph (A). The portfolio shall be designed such that, to the extent practicable, the percentage of the International Stock Index Investment Fund that is invested in each stock is the same as the percentage determined by dividing the aggregate market value of all shares of that stock by the aggregate market value of all shares of all stocks included in such index.

(5)(A) The Board may authorize the addition of a mutual fund window under the Thrift Savings Plan if the Board determines that such addition would be in the best interests of participants.

(B) The Board shall ensure that any expenses charged for use of the mutual fund window are borne solely by the participants who use such window.

(C) The Board may establish such other terms and conditions for the mutual fund window as the Board considers appropriate to protect the interests of participants, including requirements relating to risk disclosure.

(D) The Board shall consult with the Employee Thrift Advisory Council (established under section 8473) before authorizing the addition of a mutual fund window or establishing a service that enables participants to invest in mutual funds.

(c)(1) The Executive Director shall invest the sums available in the Thrift Savings Fund for investment as provided in elections made under subsection (d).

(2) If an election has not been made with respect to any sums available for investment in the Thrift Savings Fund, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in an age-appropriate target date asset allocation investment fund, as determined by the Executive Director. Such investment fund shall consist of any of the funds described in subsection (b).

(d)(1) At least twice each year, an employee or Member (or former employee or Member) may elect the investment funds and options referred to in subsection (b) into which the sums in the Thrift Savings Fund credited to such individual's account are to be invested or reinvested.

(2) An election may be made under paragraph (1) only in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Executive Director and within such period as the Executive Director shall provide in such regulations.

(e)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue special interest-bearing obligations of the United States for purchase by the Thrift Savings Fund for the Government Securities Investment Fund.

(2)(A) Obligations issued for the purpose of this subsection shall have maturities fixed with due regard to the needs of such Fund as determined by the Executive Director, and shall bear interest at a rate equal to the average market yield (computed by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of market quotations as of the

end of the calendar month next preceding the date of issue of such obligations) on all marketable interest-bearing obligations of the United States then forming a part of the public debt which are not due or callable earlier than 4 years after the end of such calendar month.

(B) Any average market yield computed under subparagraph (A) which is not a multiple of one-eighth of 1 percent, shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of one-eighth of 1 percent.

(f) The Board, other Government agencies, the Executive Director, an employee, a Member, a former employee, and a former Member may not exercise voting rights associated with the ownership of securities by the Thrift Savings Fund.

(g)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (e) of this section, the Secretary of the Treasury may suspend the issuance of additional amounts of obligations of the United States, if such issuances could not be made without causing the public debt of the United States to exceed the public debt limit, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) Any issuances of obligations to the Government Securities Investment Fund which, solely by reason of the public debt limit are not issued, shall be issued under subsection (e) by the Secretary of the Treasury as soon as such issuances can be issued without exceeding the public debt limit.

(3) Upon expiration of the debt issuance suspension period, the Secretary of the Treasury shall immediately issue to the Government Securities Investment Fund obligations under chapter 31 of title 31 that (notwithstanding subsection (e)(2) of this section) bear such interest rates and maturity dates as are necessary to ensure that, after such obligations are issued, the holdings of obligations of the United States by the Government Securities Investment Fund will replicate the obligations that would then be held by the Government Securities Investment Fund under the procedure set forth in paragraph (5), if the suspension of issuances under paragraph (1) of this subsection had not occurred.

(4) On the first business day after the expiration of any debt issuance suspension period, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Government Securities Investment Fund, from amounts in the general fund of the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, an amount equal to the excess of the net amount of interest that would have been earned by the Government Securities Investment Fund from obligations of the United States during such debt issuance suspension period if—

(A) amounts in the Government Securities Investment Fund that were available for investment in obligations of the United States and were not invested during such debt issuance suspension period solely by reason of the public debt limit had been invested under the procedure set forth in paragraph (5), over

(B) the net amount of interest actually earned by the Government Securities Investment Fund from obligations of the United States during such debt issuance suspension period.

(5) On each business day during the debt limit suspension period, the Executive Director shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury of the

amounts, by maturity, that would have been invested or redeemed each day had the debt issuance suspension period not occurred.

(6) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (h) of this section—

(A) the term “public debt limit” means the limitation imposed by section 3101(b) of title 31; and

(B) the term “debt issuance suspension period” means any period for which the Secretary of the Treasury determines for purposes of this subsection that the issuance of obligations of the United States may not be made without exceeding the public debt limit.

(h)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury shall report to Congress on the operation and status of the Thrift Savings Fund during each debt issuance suspension period for which the Secretary is required to take action under paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (g) of this section. The report shall be submitted as soon as possible after the expiration of such period, but not later than 30 days after the first business day after the expiration of such period. The Secretary shall concurrently transmit a copy of such report to the Executive Director.

(2) Whenever the Secretary of the Treasury determines that, by reason of the public debt limit, the Secretary will be unable to fully comply with the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, the Secretary shall immediately notify Congress and the Executive Director of the determination. The notification shall be made in writing.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 551; amended Pub. L. 100-43, §2, May 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 315; Pub. L. 100-366, §2(a), July 13, 1988, 102 Stat. 826; Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a), July 17, 1990, 104 Stat. 320; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(68), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1355; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §659 [title I, §102]], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-372; Pub. L. 104-316, title I, §103(i), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3829; Pub. L. 111-31, div. B, title I, §104, June 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 1854; Pub. L. 113-255, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2920; Pub. L. 114-92, div. A, title VI, §632(d), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 847.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 114-92 substituted “If an” for “(A) Consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B), if an” and struck out subpar. (B) which read as follows: “If an election has not been made by an eligible member under section 8440e with respect to any sums available for investment in such member’s Thrift Savings Fund account, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in the Government Securities Investment Fund.”

2014—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 113-255 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “If an election has not been made with respect to any sums in the Thrift Savings Fund available for investment, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in the Government Securities Investment Fund.”

2009—Subsec. (b)(1)(F). Pub. L. 111-31, §104(a), added subpar. (F).

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 111-31, §104(b), added par. (5).

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 111-31, §104(c), inserted “and options” after “investment funds”.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §659 [title I, §102(1)]], added par. (5), redesignated former

pars. (5) to (8) as (6) to (9), respectively, in par. (9) substituted “paragraph (8)(D)” for “paragraph (7)(D)” in two places, and added par. (10).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §659 [title I, §102(2)]], in par. (1) added subpars. (D) and (E) and added pars. (3) and (4).

Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 104-316 struck out “and the Comptroller General of the United States” before period at end.

1992—Subsec. (a)(7)(B). Pub. L. 102-378 substituted “Deposit” for “Savings and Loan”.

1990—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(2), substituted “subsection (e)” for “subsection (f)”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(3), substituted “The” for “Subject to subsection (e), the”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(4), struck out “and not subject to subsection (e)” after “individual’s account”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (f) as (e) and struck out former subsec. (e) which related to minimum percentages to be invested in Government Securities Investment Fund and limitations on reinvestment of sums invested in Government Securities Investment Fund prior to years 1992 and 1997.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (g) as (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(1), (5), (6), redesignated subsec. (h) as (g) and substituted “subsection (e)” for “subsection (f)” in pars. (1) and (2), “subsection (e)(2)” for “subsection (f)(2)” in par. (3), and “subsection (h)” for “subsection (i)” in par. (6). Former subsec. (g) redesignated (f).

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 101-335, §3(a)(1), (7), redesignated subsec. (i) as (h) and substituted “subsection (g)” for “subsection (h)” in par. (1) and “subsection (e)” for “subsection (f)” in par. (2). Former subsec. (h) redesignated (g).

1988—Subsec. (e)(3)(A). Pub. L. 100-366 struck out “and the earnings attributable to the investment of such sums” after “paragraph (1)”.

1987—Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 100-43 added subsecs. (h) and (i).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT; IMPLEMENTATION

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-92 effective Jan. 1, 2018, with certain implementation requirements, see section 635 of Pub. L. 114-92, set out as a note under section 8432 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-255, §2(e), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2920, provided that: “The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section and section 8439 of this title] shall—

“(1) take effect on the date that the Executive Director issues guidance under subsection (d) [guidance published Aug. 28, 2015, effective Sept. 5, 2015, see section 2(d) of Pub. L. 113-255, set out as a Guidance note below]; and

“(2) apply to individuals enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan on or after such date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 101(f) [title VI, §659 [title I, §104]] provided that: “This title [title I (§§101-104) of section 659 of section 101(f) of Pub. L. 104-208, amending this section and section 8439 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 8401 of this title] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996], and the Funds established under this title shall be offered for investment at the earliest practicable election period (described in section 8432(b) of title 5, United States Code) as determined by the Executive Director in regulations.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-335 effective as of second election period described in section 8432(b) of this title

beginning after July 17, 1990, or as of such earlier date as Executive Director may by regulation prescribe, see section 3(c) of Pub. L. 101-335, set out as a note under section 8351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-366, §2(b), July 13, 1988, 102 Stat. 826, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to earnings attributable to contributions made to the Thrift Savings Fund on or after April 1, 1987.”

GUIDANCE

Pub. L. 113-255, §2(d), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2920, provided that: “Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 2014], the Executive Director (as that term is defined under section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) shall develop and issue guidance implementing the requirements of this Act [see section 1 of Pub. L. 113-255, set out as a Short Title of 2014 Amendment note under section 101 of this title].”

[Guidance issued in the form of a final rule published Aug. 28, 2015, effective Sept. 5, 2015, see 80 F.R. 52173.]

REMOVAL OF INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

Pub. L. 101-335, §3(b)(4), July 17, 1990, 104 Stat. 320, provided that: “Any other provision of law, in effect on the date of enactment of this Act [July 17, 1990], which provides that any amounts contributed to the Thrift Savings Fund, or earnings thereon, may be invested or reinvested only in the Government Securities Investment Fund established under section 8438(b)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, shall cease to be effective.”

§ 8439. Accounting and information

(a)(1) The Executive Director shall establish and maintain an account for each individual who makes contributions or for whom contributions are made under section 8432 of this title or who makes contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund.

(2) The balance in an individual’s account at any time is the excess of—

(A) the sum of—

(i) all contributions made to the Thrift Savings Fund by the individual;

(ii) all contributions made to such Fund for the benefit of the individual; and

(iii) the total amount of the allocations made to and reductions made in the account pursuant to paragraph (3), over

(B) the amounts paid out of the Thrift Savings Fund with respect to such individual under this subchapter.

(3) Pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Executive Director, the Executive Director shall allocate to each account an amount equal to a pro rata share of the net earnings and net losses from each investment of sums in the Thrift Savings Fund attributable to sums credited to such account, reduced by an appropriate share of the administrative expenses paid out of the net earnings under section 8437(d) of this title, as determined by the Executive Director.

(b)(1) For the purposes of this subsection, the term “qualified public accountant” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 103(a)(3)(D) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023(a)(3)(D)).

(2) The Executive Director shall annually engage, on behalf of all individuals for whom an account is maintained, an independent qualified