

**The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.**

**THE WASHINGTON REPORT  
LEGISLATIVE REPORT 36-2003**

September 30, 2003

• **Congressional Action Related to the Social Security Program for the Week of September 22 - 26, 2003**

Below is a compilation of recent congressional action related to the Social Security Program. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like us to provide additional information regarding any of the measures.

**Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA)** introduced the “Social Security Disability Determination Simplification Act of 2003” on September 24, 2003. The language of the bill follows:

“To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate reconsideration as an intervening step between initial benefit entitlement decisions and subsequent hearings on the record on such decisions.

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as ‘Social Security Disability Determination Simplification Act of 2003’.

**SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF RECONSIDERATION IN THE REVIEW PROCESS GOVERNING DECISIONS ON BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL- Section 205(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ‘Opportunity for a hearing under this title in accordance with this subsection with respect to any initial decision or determination under this title shall be available without any requirement for intervening reconsideration.’

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS- Section 205(b) of such Act is amended--

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE- The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to initial decisions and determinations (subject to opportunity for a hearing to the extent provided under section 205(b) of the Social Security Act) issued after 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

**H.R.3169**

**Title:** To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate reconsideration as an intervening step between initial benefit entitlement decisions and subsequent hearings on the record on such decisions.

**Sponsor:** Rep Goode, Virgil H., Jr. [VA-5] (introduced 9/24/2003) **Cosponsors:** (none)

**Latest Major Action:** 9/24/2003 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

- **Recent Congressional Action Related To Civil Service Issues**

Below is a compilation of recent congressional action related to civil service issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like us to provide additional information regarding any of the measures.

**Senator George Voinovich (R-OH)** proposed SA 1754, an amendment to H.R. 2691, the FY04 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and related agencies. The amendment asks the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to Congress about the Department of Interior's competitive sourcing efforts. The amendment reads as follows:

“Strike lines 3 through 6, and insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_.** Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report on the competitive sourcing activities on the list required under the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-270; 31 U.S.C. 501 note) that were performed for the Department of the Interior during the previous fiscal year by Federal Government sources. The report shall include--

- (1) the total number of competitions completed;
- (2) the total number of competitions announced, together with a list of the activities covered by such competitions;
- (3) the total number of full-time equivalent Federal employees studied --under completed competitions;
- (4) the total number of full-time equivalent Federal employees being --studied under competitions announced, but not completed;
- (5) the incremental cost directly attributable to conducting the competitions identified under paragraphs (1) and (2), including costs attributable to paying outside consultants and contractors;
- (6) an estimate of the total anticipated savings, or a quantifiable --description of improvements in service or performance, derived from completed competitions;
- (7) actual savings, or a quantifiable description of improvements in --service or performance, derived from the implementation of competitions completed after May 29, 2003;
- (8) the total projected number of full time equivalent Federal employees covered by competitions scheduled to be announced in the fiscal year covered by the next report required under this section; and
- (9) a general description of how the competitive sourcing decision-making processes of the Department of the Interior are aligned with the strategic workforce plan of that department.”

The Washington Report

418 C Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

202-547-8530/FAX 202-547-8532

Contact: Sara Garland or Rachel Emmons

e-mail: [sarag@greystone-group.com](mailto:sarag@greystone-group.com) or [rachele@greystone-group.com](mailto:rachele@greystone-group.com)