

Court observed, "Had Congress intended possession alone to trigger liability * * * it easily could have so provided." That, Mr. President, is precisely the intent of this legislation—to make clear that possession alone does indeed trigger liability.

So this legislation retains the 5 year mandatory—repeat, mandatory—sentences for violent armed felons, and it expands the penalty to apply in the case of possession. In addition, it directs the United States Sentencing Commission to consider strengthening the penalty when a criminal discharges a firearm in furtherance of a heinous crime.

As originally introduced, S. 1612 would have boosted the mandatory sentence to 10 years; 20 years if the weapon was discharged; and the death penalty or a mandatory life sentence if someone was killed during the crime. However, some Senators—perhaps responding to blandishments from the lobbyists at A.C.L.U.—objected to heightened mandatory sentences. So I scaled them back—reluctantly—and with the leadership and expertise of the distinguished Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], this essential legislation was passed. Representative SUE MYRICK'S guidance in the House of Representatives also has been indispensable.

Mr. President, this bill is a necessary and appropriate response to the Supreme Court's judicial limitation of the mandatory penalty for gun-toting criminals. According to Sentencing Commission statistics, more than 9,000 armed violent felons were convicted from April, 1991, through October, 1995. In North Carolina alone, this statute was used to help imprison over 800 violent criminals. We must strengthen law enforcement's ability to use this strong anti-crime provision.

Fighting crime is, and must be, a top concern in America. It has been estimated that one violent crime is committed every 16 seconds in the United States. We must fight back with the most severe punishment possible for those who terrorize law-abiding citizens. Enactment of this legislation removes one of the roadblocks between a savage criminal act and swift, certain punishment. It is a necessary step toward recommitting our Government and our citizens to a real honest-to-God war on crime.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5429) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4137), as amended, was deemed read for a third time and passed.

FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 547, S. 1887, to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1887) to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 1881

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 Courts Improvement Act of 1996".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 101. New authority for probation and pretrial services officers.

Sec. 102. Tort Claims Act amendments relating to liability of Federal public defenders.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Duties of magistrate judge on emergency assignment.

Sec. 202. Consent to trial in certain criminal actions.

Sec. 203. Venue in civil actions.

Sec. 204. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts.

Sec. 205. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk.

Sec. 206. Diversity jurisdiction.

Sec. 207. Bankruptcy Administrator Program.

Sec. 208. Removal of cases against the United States and Federal officers or agencies.

Sec. 209. Appeal route in civil cases decided by magistrate judges with consent.

Sec. 210. Reports by judicial councils relating to misconduct and disability orders.

Sec. 211. Protective orders; sealing of cases; disclosure of information.

TITLE III—JUDICIARY PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS, AND PROTECTIONS

Sec. 301. Senior judge certification.

Sec. 302. Refund of contribution for deceased deferred annuitant under the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System.

Sec. 303. Judicial administrative officials retirement matters.

Sec. 304. Bankruptcy judges reappointment procedure.

Sec. 305. Carrying of firearms.

Sec. 306. Technical correction related to commencement date of temporary judgeships.

Sec. 307. Full-time status of court reporters.

Sec. 308. Court interpreters.

Sec. 309. Technical amendment related to commencement date of temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

Sec. 310. Contribution rate for senior judges under the judicial survivors' annuities system.

Sec. 311. Prohibition against awards of costs, including attorneys fees, and injunctive relief against a judicial officer.

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 401. Increase in civil action filing fee.

Sec. 402. Interpreter performance examination fees.

Sec. 403. Judicial panel on multidistrict litigation.

Sec. 404. Disposition of fees.

TITLE V—FEDERAL COURTS STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Sec. 501. Parties' consent to bankruptcy judge's findings and conclusions of law.

Sec. 502. Qualification of Chief Judge of Court of International Trade.

Sec. 503. Judicial cost-of-living adjustments.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Participation in judicial governance activities by district, senior, and magistrate judges.

Sec. 602. The Director and Deputy Director of the administrative office as officers of the United States.

Sec. 603. Removal of action from State court.

Sec. 604. Federal judicial center employee retirement provisions.

Sec. 605. Abolition of the special court, Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.

Sec. 606. Place of holding court in the District Court of Utah.

Sec. 607. Exception of residency requirement for district judges appointed to the Southern District and Eastern District of New York.

Sec. 608. Extension of civil justice expense and delay reduction reports on pilot and demonstration programs.

Sec. 609. Extension of arbitration.

Sec. 610. State Justice Institute.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

SEC. 101. NEW AUTHORITY FOR PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.

(a) PROBATION OFFICERS.—Section 3603 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (8)(B);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

"(9) if approved by the district court, be authorized to carry firearms under such rules and regulations as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe; and".

(b) PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.—Section 3154 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

"(13) If approved by the district court, be authorized to carry firearms under such rules and regulations as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe.".

SEC. 102. TORT CLAIMS ACT AMENDMENTS RELATING TO LIABILITY OF FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS.

Section 2680 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(o) Any claim for money damages for injury, loss of liberty, loss of property, or personal injury or death arising from malpractice or negligence of an officer or employee of a Federal Public Defender Organization in furnishing representational services under section 3006A of title 18.”.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 201. DUTIES OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE ON EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT.

The first sentence of section 636(f) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “(a) or (b)” and inserting in lieu thereof “(a), (b), or (c)”.

SEC. 202. CONSENT TO TRIAL IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—(1) Section 3401(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “, other than a petty offense,” in the first sentence after “misdemeanor”; and

(B) by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The magistrate judge may not proceed to try the case unless the defendant, after such explanation, expressly consents to be tried before the magistrate judge and expressly and specifically waives trial, judgment, and sentencing by a district judge. Any such consent and waiver shall be made in writing or orally on the record.”.

(2) Section 3401(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The magistrate judge may, in a petty offense case involving a juvenile, exercise all powers granted to the district court under chapter 403 of this title.”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28.—Section 636(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “, and” at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5) and by striking out “or infraction” in such paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof “, other than a petty offense.”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) the power to enter a sentence for a petty offense; and”.

SEC. 203. VENUE IN CIVIL ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1392 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“§1392. Property in different districts in same State”;

(2) by striking out subsection (a); and

(3) in subsection (b) by striking out “(b)”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 87 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to section 1392 to read as follows:

“1392. Property in different districts in same State.”.

SEC. 204. REGISTRATION OF JUDGMENTS FOR ENFORCEMENT IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1963 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“§1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts”;

(2) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking out “district court” and inserting in lieu thereof “court of appeals, district court, bankruptcy court.”; and

(B) by striking out “such judgment” and inserting in lieu thereof “the judgment”; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new undesignated paragraph:

“The procedure prescribed under this section is in addition to other procedures provided by law for the enforcement of judgments.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 125 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 1963 is amended to read as follows:

“1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts.”.

SEC. 205. VACANCY IN CLERK POSITION; ABSENCE OF CLERK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 954 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk

“When the office of clerk is vacant, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the last person who held that office. When the clerk is incapacitated, absent, or otherwise unavailable to perform official duties, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the clerk. The court may designate a deputy clerk to act temporarily as clerk of the court in his or her own name.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 954 is amended to read as follows:

“954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk.”.

SEC. 206. DIVERSITY JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1332 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out “\$50,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$75,000”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking out “\$50,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$75,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 207. BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATOR PROGRAM.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES.—Until the amendments made by subtitle A of title II of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986 (28 U.S.C. 581 note; Public Law 99-554; 100 Stat. 3097) become effective in a judicial district and apply to a case, a bankruptcy administrator appointed to serve in the district pursuant to section 302(d)(3)(I) of such Act, as amended by section 317(a) of the Federal Courts Study Committee Implementation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 104 Stat. 5115), shall appoint the trustees, examiners, and standing trustees notwithstanding the references in those sections of title 11, United States Code, to appointments by the court.

(b) STANDING TRUSTEES.—A bankruptcy administrator who has appointed a standing trustee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall fix the standing trustee’s maximum annual compensation and percentage fee, subject to the limitations set out in sections 1202 and 1302 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 110 of the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-509; 104 Stat. 1427, 1452). The bankruptcy administrator shall fix the maximum annual compensation and percentage fee notwithstanding the references in those sections of title 11, United States Code, to the court’s fixing them.

(c) SERVICE AS TRUSTEE.—A bankruptcy administrator may serve as and perform the duties of a trustee in a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, if none of the members of the panel of private trustees is disinterested and willing to serve as trustee in the case. A bankruptcy administrator may serve as and perform the duties of a trustee or standing trustee in cases under chapter 12 or chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, if necessary.

(d) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.—Until the amendments made by subtitle A of title II of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986 become effective in a judicial district and apply to a case, the bankruptcy administrator appointed to serve in the district shall appoint the committees of creditors and equity security holders provided in section 1102 of title 11, United States Code. The bankruptcy administrator shall appoint the committees notwithstanding the references in those sections of title 11, United States Code, to appointments by the court.

SEC. 208. REMOVAL OF CASES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND FEDERAL OFFICERS OR AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1442 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “or agencies” after “officers”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking out “persons”; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking out “Any officer of the United States or any agency thereof, or person acting under him, for any act under color of such office” and inserting in lieu thereof “The United States or any agency thereof or any officer (or any person acting under that officer) of the United States or of any agency thereof, sued in an official or individual capacity for any act under color of such office”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 89 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to section 1442 to read as follows:

“1442. Federal officers and agencies sued or prosecuted.”.

SEC. 209. APPEAL ROUTE IN CIVIL CASES DECIDED BY MAGISTRATE JUDGES WITH CONSENT.

Section 636 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3) by striking out “In this circumstance, the” and inserting in lieu thereof “The”;

(B) by striking out paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking out “, and for the taking and hearing of appeals to the district courts.”.

SEC. 210. REPORTS BY JUDICIAL COUNCILS RELATING TO MISCONDUCT AND DISABILITY ORDERS.

Section 332 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(g) No later than January 31 of each year, each judicial council shall submit a report to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on the number and nature of orders entered under this section during the preceding calendar year that relate to judicial misconduct or disability.”.

SEC. 211. PROTECTIVE ORDERS; SEALING OF CASES; DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Sunshine in Litigation Act of 1996”.

(b) PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND SEALING OF CASES AND SETTLEMENTS RELATING TO PUBLIC

HEALTH OR SAFETY.—Chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“§1659. Protective orders and sealing of cases and settlements relating to public health or safety

“(a)(1) A court shall enter an order under rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure restricting the disclosure of information obtained through discovery or an order restricting access to court records in a civil case only after making particularized findings of fact that—

“(A) such order would not restrict the disclosure of information which is relevant to the protection of public health or safety; or

“(B)(i) the public interest in disclosure of potential health or safety hazards is clearly outweighed by a specific and substantial interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the information or records in question; and

“(ii) the requested protective order is no broader than necessary to protect the privacy interest asserted.

“(2) No order entered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) shall continue in effect after the entry of final judgment, unless at or after such entry the court makes a separate particularized finding of fact that the requirements of paragraph (1) (A) or (B) have been met.

“(b) The party who is the proponent for the entry of an order, as provided under this section, shall have the burden of proof in obtaining such an order.

“(c)(1) No agreement between or among parties in a civil action filed in a court of the United States may contain a provision that prohibits or otherwise restricts a party from disclosing any information relevant to such civil action to any Federal or State agency with authority to enforce laws regulating an activity relating to such information.

“(2) Any disclosure of information to a Federal or State agency as described under paragraph (1) shall be confidential to the extent provided by law.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1658 the following:

“1659. Protective orders and sealing of cases and settlements relating to public health or safety.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply only to orders entered in civil actions or agreements entered into on or after such date.

TITLE III—JUDICIARY PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS, AND PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. SENIOR JUDGE CERTIFICATION.

(a) RETROACTIVE CREDIT FOR RESUMPTION OF SIGNIFICANT WORKLOAD.—Section 371(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “is thereafter ineligible to receive such a certification.” and inserting in lieu thereof “may thereafter receive a certification for that year by satisfying the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) of this subsection in a subsequent year and attributing a sufficient part of the work performed in such subsequent year to the earlier year so that the work so attributed, when added to the work performed during such earlier year, satisfies the requirements for certification for that year. However, a justice or judge may not receive credit for the same work for purposes of certification for more than 1 year.”.

(b) AGGREGATION OF CERTAIN WORK FOR PARTIAL YEARS.—Section 371(f)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subparagraph (D) the following: “In any year in which a justice or judge per-

forms work described under this subparagraph for less than the full year, one-half of such work may be aggregated with work described under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph for the purpose of the justice or judge satisfying the requirements of such subparagraph.”.

SEC. 302. REFUND OF CONTRIBUTION FOR DECEASED DEFERRED ANNUITY UNDER THE JUDICIAL SURVIVORS' ANNUITIES SYSTEM.

Section 376(o)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “or while receiving ‘retirement salary’,” and inserting in lieu thereof “while receiving retirement salary, or after filing an election and otherwise complying with the conditions under subsection (b)(2) of this section.”.

SEC. 303. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS RETIREMENT MATTERS.

(a) DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—(1) Section 611(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first undesignated paragraph by striking out “who has served at least fifteen years and” and inserting in lieu thereof “who has at least 15 years of service and has”; and

(B) in the second undesignated paragraph by striking out “who has served at least ten years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “who has at least 10 years of service.”.

(2) Section 611(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking out “served at least fifteen years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “at least 15 years of service.”; and

(B) by striking out “served less than fifteen years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “less than 15 years of service.”.

(3) Section 611(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “a congressional employee in the capacity of primary administrative assistant to a Member of Congress or in the capacity of staff director or chief counsel for the majority or the minority of a committee or subcommittee of the Senate or House of Representatives,” after “Congress.”.

(b) EMPLOYEES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—(1) Section 627(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first undesignated paragraph by striking out “who has served at least fifteen years and” and inserting in lieu thereof “who has at least 15 years of service and has”; and

(B) in the second undesignated paragraph by striking out “who has served at least ten years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “who has at least 10 years of service.”.

(2) Section 627(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking out “served at least fifteen years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “at least 15 years of service.”; and

(B) by striking out “served less than fifteen years,” and inserting in lieu thereof “less than 15 years of service.”.

(3) Section 627(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “a congressional employee in the capacity of primary administrative assistant to a Member of Congress or in the capacity of staff director or chief counsel for the majority or the minority of a committee or subcommittee of the Senate or House of Representatives,” after “Congress.”.

SEC. 304. BANKRUPTCY JUDGES REAPPOINTMENT PROCEDURE.

Section 120 of the Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-353; 98 Stat. 344), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(3) When filling vacancies, the court of appeals may consider reappointing incumbent bankruptcy judges under procedures prescribed by regulations issued by the Judicial Conference of the United States.”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by adding at the end thereof the following: “All incumbent nominees seeking reappointment thereafter may be considered for such a reappointment, pursuant to a majority vote of the judges of the appointing court of appeals, under procedures authorized under subsection (a)(3).”.

SEC. 305. CARRYING OF FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“§464. Carrying of firearms by judicial officers

“(a) A judicial officer of the United States is authorized to carry firearms, whether concealed or not, under regulations promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

“(b) A judicial officer of the United States is immune from civil liability when possessing or using a firearm, for the purpose of self defense, under the authority of this section and in accordance with Judicial Conference regulation.

“(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘judicial officer of the United States’ means—

“(1) a justice or judge of the United States as defined in section 451 of this title;

“(2) a United States bankruptcy judge;

“(3) a full-time or part-time United States magistrate judge;

“(4) a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims;

“(5) a judge of the United States District Court of Guam;

“(6) a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands;

“(7) a judge of the United States District Court of the Virgin Islands; or

“(8) an individual who is receiving a retirement annuity based on service in any of the judicial positions described under paragraphs (1) through (7).”.

“(b)(1) The regulations promulgated by the Judicial Conference under subsection (a) shall—

“(A) require a demonstration of a judicial officer's proficiency in the use and safety of firearms as a prerequisite to the carrying of firearms under the authority of this section; and

“(B) make appropriate provisions for the carrying of firearms by judicial officers who are under the protection of United States Marshals while away from United States courthouses.

“(2) On the request of the Judicial Conference, the Department of Justice (including each agency of the Department) shall cooperate with the Judicial Conference in providing firearms training and other services to assist judicial officers in securing such proficiency.

“(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘judicial officer of the United States’ means—

“(1) a justice or judge of the United States as defined in section 451 of this title in regular active or retired from regular active service;

“(2) a justice or judge of the United States who has retired from the judicial office under section 371(a) of this title for—

“(A) a 1-year period following such justice's or judge's retirement; or

“(B) a longer period of time if approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States when exceptional circumstances warrant;

“(3) a United States bankruptcy judge;

“(4) a full-time or part-time United States magistrate judge;

“(5) a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims;

“(6) a judge of the United States District Court of Guam;

“(7) a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands;

“(8) a judge of the United States District Court of the Virgin Islands; or

“(9) an individual who is retired from one of the judicial positions described under paragraphs (3) through (8) to the extent provided for in regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

“(d) Notwithstanding section 46303(c)(1) of title 49, nothing in this section authorizes a judicial officer of the United States to carry a dangerous weapon on an aircraft or other common carrier.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 21 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“464. Carrying of firearms by judicial officers.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATED TO COMMENCEMENT DATE OF TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.

Section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 104 Stat. 5101; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “For districts named in this subsection for which multiple judgeships are created by this Act, the last of those judgeships filled shall be the judgeship created under this subsection.”.

SEC. 307. FULL-TIME STATUS OF COURT REPORTERS.

Section 753(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “For the purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5 and chapter 84 of such title, a reporter shall be considered a full-time employee during any pay period for which a reporter receives a salary at the annual salary rate fixed for a full-time reporter under the preceding sentence.”.

SEC. 308. COURT INTERPRETERS.

Section 1827 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 1828, the presiding judicial officer may appoint a certified or otherwise qualified sign language interpreter to provide services to a party, witness, or other participant in a judicial proceeding, whether or not the proceeding is instituted by the United States, if the presiding judicial officer determines, on such officer’s own motion or on the motion of a party or other participant in the proceeding, that such individual suffers from a hearing impairment. The presiding judicial officer shall, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, approve the compensation and expenses payable to sign language interpreters appointed under this section in accordance with the schedule of fees prescribed by the Director under subsection (b)(3) of this section.”.

SEC. 309. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATED TO COMMENCEMENT DATE OF TEMPORARY BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIPS.

Section 3(b) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-361; 106 Stat. 965; 28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out “date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting in lieu thereof “appointment date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship position”.

SEC. 310. CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR SENIOR JUDGES UNDER THE JUDICIAL SURVIVORS’ ANNUITIES SYSTEM.

Section 376(b)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1) Every judicial official who files a written notification of his or her intention to come within the purview of this section, in accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this section, shall be deemed

thereby to consent and agree to having deducted and withheld from his or her salary a sum equal to 2.2 percent of that salary, and a sum equal to 3.5 percent of his or her retirement salary. The deduction from any retirement salary—

“(A) of a justice or judge of the United States retired from regular active service under section 371(b) or section 372(a) of this title,

“(B) of a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims retired under section 178 of this title, or

“(C) of a judicial official on recall under section 155(b), 373(c)(4), 375, or 636(h) of this title,

shall be an amount equal to 2.2 percent of retirement salary.”.

SEC. 311. PROHIBITION AGAINST AWARDS OF COSTS, INCLUDING ATTORNEY’S FEES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AGAINST A JUDICIAL OFFICER.

(a) NONLIABILITY FOR COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no judicial officer shall be held liable for any costs, including attorney’s fees, in any action brought against such officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity, unless such action was clearly in excess of such officer’s jurisdiction.

(b) PROCEEDINGS IN VINDICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS.—Section 722(b) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1988(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof “, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity such officer shall not be held liable for any costs, including attorney’s fees, unless such action was clearly in excess of such officer’s jurisdiction”.

(c) CIVIL ACTION FOR DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS.—Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1983) is amended by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence: “, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable”.

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 401. INCREASE IN CIVIL ACTION FILING FEE.

(a) FILING FEE INCREASE.—Section 1914(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “\$120” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$150”.

(b) DISPOSITION OF INCREASE.—Section 1931 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out “\$60” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$90”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking out “\$120” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$150”; and

(B) by striking out “\$60” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$90”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1827(g) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6) and inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) If the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts finds it necessary to develop and administer criterion-referenced performance examinations for purposes of certification, or other examinations for the selection of otherwise qualified interpreters, the Director may prescribe for each examination a uniform fee for applicants to take such examination. In determining the rate of the fee for each examination, the Director shall consider the fees charged by other organizations for examina-

tions that are similar in scope or nature. Notwithstanding section 3302(b) of title 31, the Director is authorized to provide in any contract or agreement for the development or administration of examinations and the collection of fees that the contractor may retain all or a portion of the fees in payment for the services. Notwithstanding paragraph (6) of this subsection, all fees collected after the effective date of this paragraph and not retained by a contractor shall be deposited in the fund established under section 1931 of this title and shall remain available until expended.”.

(b) PAYMENT FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.—Notwithstanding sections 3302(b), 1341, and 1517 of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may include in any contract for the development or administration of examinations for interpreters (including such a contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act) a provision which permits the contractor to collect and retain fees in payment for contractual services in accordance with section 1827(g)(5) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 403. JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 123 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1931 the following new section:

“§ 1932. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation

“The Judicial Conference of the United States shall prescribe from time to time the fees and costs to be charged and collected by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.”.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 123 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1931 the following:

“1932. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.”.

(b) RELATED FEES FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Section 303(a) of the Judiciary Appropriations Act, 1992 (Public Law 102-140; 105 Stat. 810; 28 U.S.C. 1913 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out “1926, and 1930” and inserting in lieu thereof “1926, 1930, and 1932”.

SEC. 404. DISPOSITION OF FEES.

(a) DISPOSITION OF ATTORNEY ADMISSION FEES.—For each fee collected for admission of an attorney to practice, as prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1914 of title 28, United States Code, \$30 of that portion of the fee exceeding \$20 shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code. Any portion exceeding \$5 of the fee for a duplicate certificate of admission or certificate of good standing, as prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1914 of title 28, United States Code, shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(b) DISPOSITION OF BANKRUPTCY COMPLAINT FILING FEES.—For each fee collected for filing an adversary complaint in a bankruptcy proceeding, as established in Item 6 of the Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1930(b) of title 28, United States Code, the portion of the fee exceeding \$120 shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**TITLE V—FEDERAL COURTS STUDY
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SEC. 501. PARTIES' CONSENT TO BANKRUPTCY
JUDGE'S FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.**

Section 157(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c)(1) A bankruptcy judge may hear a proceeding that is not a core proceeding but that is otherwise related to a case under title 11. In such proceeding, the bankruptcy judge shall submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the district court, and any final order or judgment shall be entered by the district judge after considering the bankruptcy judge’s proposed findings and conclusions and after reviewing de novo those matters to which any party has timely and specifically objected. A party shall be deemed to consent to the findings of fact and conclusions of law submitted by a bankruptcy judge unless the party files a timely objection. If a timely objection is not filed, the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law submitted by the bankruptcy judge shall become final and the bankruptcy judge shall enter an appropriate order thereon.”

SEC. 502. QUALIFICATION OF CHIEF JUDGE OF COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“§258. Chief judges; precedence of judges

“(a)(1) The chief judge of the Court of International Trade shall be the judge of the court in regular active service who is senior in commission of those judges who—

“(A) are 64 years of age or under;

“(B) have served for 1 year or more as a judge of the court; and

“(C) have not served previously as chief judge.

“(2)(A) In any case in which no judge of the court meets the qualifications under paragraph (1), the youngest judge in regular active service who is 65 years of age or over and who has served as a judge of the court for 1 year or more shall act as the chief judge.

“(B) In any case under subparagraph (A) in which there is no judge of the court in regular active service who has served as a judge of the court for 1 year or more, the judge of the court in regular active service who is senior in commission and who has not served previously as chief judge shall act as the chief judge.

“(3)(A) Except as provided under subparagraph (C), the chief judge serving under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of 7 years and shall serve after expiration of such term until another judge is eligible under paragraph (1) to serve as chief judge.

“(B) Except as provided under subparagraph (C), a judge of the court acting as chief judge under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall serve until a judge meets the qualifications under paragraph (1).

“(C) No judge of the court may serve or act as chief judge of the court after attaining the age of 70 years unless no other judge is qualified to serve as chief judge under paragraph (1) or is qualified to act as chief judge under paragraph (2).

“(b) The chief judge shall have precedence and preside at any session of the court which such judge attends. Other judges of the court shall have precedence and preside according to the seniority of their commissions. Judges whose commissions bear the same date shall have precedence according to seniority in age.

“(c) If the chief judge desires to be relieved of the duties as chief judge while retaining active status as a judge of the court, the chief judge may so certify to the Chief Justice of the United States, and thereafter the

chief judge of the court shall be such other judge of the court who is qualified to serve or act as chief judge under subsection (a).

“(d) If a chief judge is temporarily unable to perform the duties as such, such duties shall be performed by the judge of the court in active service, able and qualified to act, who is next in precedence.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 251 by striking out subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(2) in section 253—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“§253. Duties of chief judge.”;

and

(B) by striking out subsections (d) and (e); and

(3) in the table of sections for chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code—

(A) by amending the item relating to section 253 to read as follows:

“253. Duties of chief judge.”;

and

(B) by adding at the end thereof the following:

“258. Chief judges; precedence of judges.”.

(c) APPLICATION.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 258(a) of title 28, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), the chief judge of the United States Court of International Trade who is in office on the day before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to be such chief judge on or after such date until any one of the following events occurs:

(A) The chief judge is relieved of his duties under section 258(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) The regular active status of the chief judge is terminated.

(C) The chief judge attains the age of 70 years.

(D) The chief judge has served for a term of 7 years as chief judge.

(2) When the chief judge vacates the position of chief judge under paragraph (1), the position of chief judge of the Court of International Trade shall be filled in accordance with section 258(a) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 503. JUDICIAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS.

Section 140 of the resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1982, and for other purposes.”, approved December 15, 1981 (Public Law 97-92; 95 Stat. 1200; 28 U.S.C. 461 note) is repealed.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES BY DISTRICT, SENIOR, AND MAGISTRATE JUDGES.

(a) JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.—Section 331 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out the second undesignated paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“The district judge to be summoned from each judicial circuit shall be chosen by the circuit and district judges of the circuit and shall serve as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States for a term of not less than 3 successive years nor more than 5 successive years, as established by majority vote of all circuit and district judges of the circuit. A district judge serving as a member of the Judicial Conference may be either a judge in regular active service or a judge retired from regular active service under section 371(b) of this title.”

(b) BOARD OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER.—Section 621 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(2) two circuit judges, three district judges, one bankruptcy judge, and one magistrate judge, elected by vote of the members of the Judicial Conference of the United States, except that any circuit or district judge so elected may be either a judge in regular active service or a judge retired from regular active service under section 371(b) of this title but shall not be a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking out “retirement,” and inserting in lieu thereof “retirement pursuant to section 371(a) or section 372(a) of this title.”.

SEC. 602. THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AS OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 601 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “The Director and Deputy Director shall be deemed to be officers for purposes of title 5, United States Code.”.

SEC. 603. REMOVAL OF ACTION FROM STATE COURT.

Section 1446(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “petitioner” and inserting in lieu thereof “defendant or defendants”.

SEC. 604. FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PROVISIONS.

Section 627(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence by inserting “Deputy Director,” before “the professional staff”; and

(2) in the first sentence by inserting “chapter 84 (relating to the Federal Employees’ Retirement System),” after “(relating to civil service retirement),”.

SEC. 605. ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL COURT, REGIONAL RAIL REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1973.

(a) ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL COURT.—Section 209 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is amended in subsection (b)—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “Within 30 days after”; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(2) The special court referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection is abolished effective 90 days after the date of enactment of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996. On such effective date, all jurisdiction and other functions of the special court shall be assumed by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. With respect to any proceedings that arise or continue after the date on which the special court is abolished, the references in the following provisions to the special court established under this subsection shall be deemed to refer to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia:

“(A) Subsections (c), (e)(1), (e)(2), (f) and (g) of this section.

“(B) Sections 202 (d)(3), (g), 207 (a)(1), (b)(1), (b)(2), 208 (d)(2), 301 (e)(2), (g), (k)(3), (k)(15), 303 (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1), (b)(6)(A), (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4), (c)(5), 304 (a)(1)(B), (i)(3), 305 (c), (d)(1), (d)(2), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (d)(8), (e), (f)(1), (f)(2)(B), (f)(2)(D), (f)(2)(E), (f)(3), 306 (a), (b), (c)(4), and 601 (b)(3), (c) of this Act (45 U.S.C. 712 (d)(3), (g), 717 (a)(1), (b)(1), (b)(2), 718 (d)(2), 741 (e)(2), (g), (k)(3), (k)(15), 743 (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1), (b)(6)(A), (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4), (c)(5), 744 (a)(1)(B), (i)(3), 745 (c), (d)(1), (d)(2), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (d)(8), (e), (f)(1), (f)(2)(B), (f)(2)(D), (f)(2)(E), (f)(3), 746 (a), (b), (c)(4), 791 (b)(3), (c)).

“(C) Sections 1152(a) and 1167(b) of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105(a), 1115(a)).

"(D) Sections 4023 (2)(A)(iii), (2)(B), (2)(C), (3)(C), (3)(E), (4)(A) and 4025(b) of the Conrail Privatization Act (45 U.S.C. 1323 (2)(A)(iii), (2)(B), (2)(C), (3)(C), (3)(E), (4)(A), 1324(b)).

"(E) Section 24907(b) of title 49, United States Code.

"(F) Any other Federal law (other than this subsection and section 605 of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996), Executive order, rule, regulation, delegation of authority, or document of or relating to the special court as previously established under paragraph (1) of this subsection."

(b) APPELLATE REVIEW.—(1) Section 209(e) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is amended by striking out the paragraph following paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(3) An order or judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in any action referred to in this section shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code."

(2) Section 303 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 743) is amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(d) APPEAL.—An order or judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia pursuant to subsection (c) of this section or section 306 shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code."

(3) Section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105) is amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(b) APPEAL.—An order or judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in any action referred to in this section shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code."

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 209 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is further amended—

(A) in subsection (g) by inserting "or Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit" after "Supreme Court"; and

(B) by striking out subsection (h).

(2) Section 305(d)(4) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 745(d)) is amended by striking out "a judge of the United States district court with respect to such proceedings and such powers shall include those of"

(3) Section 1135(a)(8) of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1104(8)) is amended to read as follows:

"(8) 'Special court' means the judicial panel established under section 209(b)(1) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719(b)(1)) or, with respect to any proceedings that arise or continue after the panel is abolished pursuant to section 209(b)(2) of such Act, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia."

(4) Section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105) is further amended by striking out subsection (d).

(d) PENDING CASES.—Effective 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, any case pending in the special court established under section 209(b) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719(b)) shall be assigned to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia as though the case had originally been filed in that court. The amendments made by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any final order or judgment entered by the special court for which—

(1) a petition for writ of certiorari has been filed before the date on which the special court is abolished; or

(2) the time for filing a petition for writ of certiorari has not expired before that date.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and, except as provided in subsection (d), shall apply with respect to proceedings that arise or continue after such effective date.

SEC. 606. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF UTAH.

(a) NORTHERN DIVISION.—Section 125(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Salt Lake City and" before "Ogden".

(b) CENTRAL DIVISION.—Section 125(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", Provo, and St. George" after "Salt Lake City".

SEC. 607. EXCEPTION OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR DISTRICT JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

Section 134(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York," after "the District of Columbia,"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: "Each district judge of the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York may reside within 20 miles of the district to which he or she is appointed."

SEC. 608. EXTENSION OF CIVIL JUSTICE EXPENSE AND DELAY REDUCTION REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Section 104(d) of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended by striking out "December 31, 1996," and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1997,".

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 105(c)(1) of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended by striking out "December 31, 1996," and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1997,".

SEC. 609. EXTENSION OF ARBITRATION.

Section 905 of the Judicial Improvements and Access to Justice Act (28 U.S.C. 651 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out "1997" and inserting in lieu thereof "1998".

SEC. 610. STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 215 of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10713) is amended to read as follows:

"AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 215. There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this title \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, to remain available until expended."

(b) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Section 204(j) of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10703(j)) is amended by inserting "(on such occasions as it has been delegated the authority to act for the Board)" after "executive committee".

(c) HOWELL HEFLIN AWARD.—Section 204(k) of the State Justice Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10703(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5) by striking out "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6) by striking out the period and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon and "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(7) present an annual Howell Heflin Award in recognition of an innovative Institute-supported project that has a high likelihood of significantly improving the quality of justice in State courts across the Nation."

(d) PRIORITY IN MAKING AWARDS.—Section 206(b) of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10705(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated under paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following new paragraph:

"(1) The Institute shall give highest priority to awarding grants to and entering into cooperative agreements or contracts with State and local courts."; and

(3) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection)—

(A) by striking out subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

(e) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—Section 206(b) of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10705(b)) (as amended by subsection (d) of this section) is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(7) In making grants under this title, the Institute shall undertake outreach efforts to assure the widest feasible geographical distribution of grant funds and benefits resulting from grants, consistent with its mission to award grants having the greatest likelihood of improving the quality of justice nationwide."

(f) NONSUPPLANTATION.—Section 207(d) of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10706(d)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting "or noncourt related activities of private organizations" after "basic court services";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking out "State or local" and inserting in lieu thereof "State, local, or private organizational"; and

(B) by striking out "or" after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2) by striking out the period and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon and "or"; and

(4) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(3) to support the activities of any national, State, or local bar association, except for—
"(A) the training of State court judges or court personnel, if such training is not provided by any person or entity other than a bar association; or

"(B) projects conducted in State courts or directly in conjunction with State courts to improve the efficiency of such courts."

(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 213 of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10712) is amended to read as follows:

"REPORTS TO CONGRESS

"SEC. 213. Effective January 1, 1997, the Institute shall provide semiannual reports to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives identifying all grants made by the Institute during the preceding six months. The report shall include the name and address of the grantee, the purpose of the project, the amount of funding provided, and the duration of the project."

AMENDMENT NO. 5430

(Purpose: To make improvements in the judicial system, and for other purposes)

Mr. LOTT. There is an amendment at the desk offered by Senator HATCH. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for Mr. HATCH, proposes an amendment numbered 5430.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 4, line 15, strike through line 25.

On page 5, line 8, strike through line 14 on page 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 202. CONSORT TO TRIAL IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—(1) Section 3401(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting “, other than a petty offense that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction,” after “misdemeanor”;

(B) in the second sentence by inserting “judge” after “magistrate” each place it appears;

(C) by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The magistrate judge may not proceed to try the case unless the defendant, after such explanation, expressly consents to be tried before the magistrate judge and expressly and specifically waives trial, judgment, and sentencing by a district judge. Any such consent and waiver shall be made in writing or orally on the record.”; and

(D) by striking out “judge of the district court” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “district judge”.

(2) Section 3401(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The magistrate judge may, in a petty offense case involving a juvenile, that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction, exercise all powers granted to the district court under chapter 403 of this title. The magistrate judge may, in any other class B or C misdemeanor case involving a juvenile in which consent to trial before a magistrate judge has been filed under subsection (b), exercise all powers granted to the district court under chapter 403 of this title.”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28.—Section 636(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “, and” at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and

(2) by striking out paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) the power to enter a sentence for a petty offense that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction; and

“(5) the power to enter a sentence for a class A misdemeanor, or a class B or C misdemeanor not covered by paragraph (4), in a case in which the parties have consented.”.

On page 6, line 15, strike through the matter following line 2 on page 7.

On page 9, line 6, strike through line 2 on page 11.

On page 13, line 4, strike through line 7 on page 15.

On page 17, line 1, strike through line 3 on page 19.

On page 19, line 22, strike through line 9 on page 23.

On page 31, line 8, strike through line 2 on page 32.

On page 35, line 21, strike through line 2 on page 36.

On page 44, line 20, strike through line 21 on page 48.

On page 48, add after line 21 the following:

SEC. 611. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

The last sentence of section 112(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“Court for the Southern District shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in the Middletown-Walkkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate.”.

SEC. 612. VENUE FOR TERRITORIAL COURTS.

(a) CHANGE OF VENUE.—Section 1404(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(d) As used in this section, the term ‘district court’ includes the District Court of Guam, the District Court for the Northern

Mariana Islands, and the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the term ‘district’ includes the territorial jurisdiction of each such court.”.

(b) CURE OR WAIVER OF DEFECTS.—Section 1406(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) As used in this section, the term ‘district court’ includes the District Court of Guam, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the term ‘district’ includes the territorial jurisdiction of each such court.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section apply to cases pending on the date of the enactment of this Act and to cases commenced on or after such date.

Amend the Table of Contents accordingly.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the bill before us, S. 1887, entitled “The Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996” is sponsored by myself, along with Senator HATCH and Senator HEFLIN. A first version of the bill, S.1101, was introduced in August 1995 at the request of the Judicial Conference.

In October of last year, we held a comprehensive hearing on that bill in the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, which I chair, at which both judges and lawyers testified at length on the substance of many of S.1101’s provisions. The present bill was crafted after many months of detailed discussions and intense collaboration between myself, Senators HATCH and HEFLIN, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. More importantly, we have worked closely with the other members of the Judiciary Committee to address their concerns and include their suggestions, making this truly a bi-partisan bill.

At the onset, I would like to elaborate on the spirit in which this bill was crafted. I am sure my colleagues are well aware, many of my efforts have focused on saving the federal government’s sparse resources and making the most of taxpayer dollars. As Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the courts, I am also concerned that the federal judicial system be administered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, while maintaining a high level of quality in the administration of justice. In fact, I sent out a judicial questionnaire earlier this year requesting assistance from individual judges on their ideas and views of the needs of the federal judiciary. I hope some of you have had the opportunity to review my Subcommittee’s two reports on this survey, which were released this year. I found it enlightening to communicate with the individual judges, and hope that these lines of candid and constructive communication with the individual judges and the Administrative Office remain open and continue to produce beneficial results in terms of efficiency, cost savings and other improvements within the federal judiciary.

In drafting the Federal Courts Improvement bill, we worked closely with the Administrative Office to assess and

address the needs of the federal judiciary. As a result, the bill contains both technical and substantive changes in the law, many of which were carried over from previous Congresses and/or originally proposed in S.1101. During our working sessions on the bill, some of the provisions in S.1101, such as the sections dealing with federal defender services matters, were determined to warrant further inquiry or additional hearings. Other provisions were dropped to help process the bill more smoothly through the House since the session is coming to a close in a day or two.

On the whole, the bill is broad-reaching, and contains provisions concerning judicial process improvements; judiciary personnel administration, benefits and protections; judicial financial administration; Federal Courts Study Committee recommendations; and other miscellaneous issues. Almost all of the provisions have been formally endorsed by the Judicial Conference, the governing body of the Federal courts.

Many provisions contained in this bill streamline the operation of the Federal court system. A good example of our attempt to render the judiciary more efficient is a provision which abolishes a special tribunal with narrow jurisdiction, the Special Court, which the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, established in the early 1970’s to oversee the reorganization of insolvent railroads. The work of this court is basically concluded, with the court’s docket containing 10 largely inactive cases. This section transfers the Special Court’s jurisdiction over those cases and any future rail reorganization proceedings to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, where the court’s records and a majority of its judges are currently located, and makes other technical and conforming changes incidental to the court’s abolition. The elimination of this court will produce budgetary and administrative economies and, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, result in an annual cost savings of approximately \$175,000.

The bill simplifies the appeal route in civil cases decided by magistrate judges with consent by confining appeals of judgments in such cases to the court of appeals and eliminating an alternative route of appeal to the district judge. A single forum of appeal in civil consent cases simplifies court procedures and recognizes the existing practice in most districts. The Judicial Conference recommended such action in the Long Range Plan for the Federal Courts. Also, this section would not alter the role of magistrate judges as adjuncts to article III courts since district judges would still control the referral of consent cases to magistrate judges.

We also change the reappointment procedure for incumbent bankruptcy

judges. Rather than requiring the judicial council for a circuit or a merit selection panel to undergo a lengthy and time-consuming screening process, this section streamlines the reappointment process for judges whose performance has previously been reviewed. In this manner, the section eliminates unnecessary expenditures of time and money.

Additional sections facilitate judicial operations. One of these provisions authorize magistrate judges temporarily assigned to another judicial district because of an emergency to dispose of civil cases with the consent of the parties. Another section that deputy clerks may act whenever the clerk is unable to perform official duties for any reason, and permits the court to designate an acting clerk of court, when it is expected that the clerk will be unavailable or the office of clerk will be vacant for a prolonged period.

We also require an annual report by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on the number and nature of orders relating to judicial misconduct or disability under section 332 of title 28 of the United States Code. This reporting requirement was recommended by the Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal of August 1993, which found that reliable information concerning council orders was difficult to obtain.

In conclusion, this bill is the result of careful consideration by members of the Judiciary Committee, in close collaboration with the Administrative Office, who have all worked long and hard in attempting to produce a strong, bipartisan piece of legislation. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill. When the Judiciary Committee voted the Federal Courts Improvement Act out of committee it was with an amendment offered by Senator KOHL dealing with the use of secrecy orders in Federal courts. The version of the act that we are passing today does not include that particular provision because Senator KOHL has generously agreed to an amendment that will remove it. Senator KOHL and I stand on opposite sides of the merits of his amendment, but I appreciate his commitment to the provision and his willingness to allow us to pass S. 1887 without it.

Mr. KOHL. I thank the Senator. We do think differently about this matter, but understand how important it was to you and to Senator HEFLIN that the Federal Courts Improvement Act pass this year. And I understand that if this provision regarding court secrecy, modeled on my legislation S. 374, The Sunshine in Litigation Act, were still part of S. 1887 it would keep that legislation from moving ahead. Although I believe that the problem of the excessive use of protective orders needs urgently to be addressed, I also will not let it hold up a measure so important to Senators GRASSLEY and HEFLIN.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the Judicial Committee

has favorably recommended my court secrecy legislation and that this real problem will not vanish. I hope that the Judicial Conference might finally see fit to address this problem, but if it does not, I will continue to press this issue.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The amendment (No. 5430) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1887), as amended, was deemed read for a third time and passed, as follows:

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 Courts Improvement Act of 1996".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 101. New authority for probation and pretrial services officers.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Duties of magistrate judge on emergency assignment.

Sec. 202. Consent to trial in certain criminal actions.

Sec. 203. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts.

Sec. 204. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk.

Sec. 205. Diversity jurisdiction.

Sec. 206. Removal of cases against the United States and Federal officers or agencies.

Sec. 207. Appeal route in civil cases decided by magistrate judges with consent.

Sec. 208. Reports by judicial councils relating to misconduct and disability orders.

TITLE III—JUDICIARY PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS, AND PROTECTIONS

Sec. 301. Senior judge certification.

Sec. 302. Refund of contribution for deceased deferred annuitant under the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System.

Sec. 303. Bankruptcy judges reappointment procedure.

Sec. 304. Technical correction related to commencement date of temporary judgeships.

Sec. 305. Full-time status of court reporters.

Sec. 306. Court interpreters.

Sec. 307. Technical amendment related to commencement date of temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

Sec. 308. Contribution rate for senior judges under the judicial survivors' annuities system.

Sec. 309. Prohibition against awards of costs, including attorneys fees, and injunctive relief against a judicial officer.

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 401. Increase in civil action filing fee.

Sec. 402. Interpreter performance examination fees.

Sec. 403. Judicial panel on multidistrict litigation.

Sec. 404. Disposition of fees.

TITLE V—FEDERAL COURTS STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Sec. 501. Qualification of Chief Judge of Court of International Trade.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Participation in judicial governance activities by district, senior, and magistrate judges.

Sec. 602. The Director and Deputy Director of the administrative office as officers of the United States.

Sec. 603. Removal of action from State court.

Sec. 604. Federal judicial center employee retirement provisions.

Sec. 605. Abolition of the special court, Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.

Sec. 606. Place of holding court in the District Court of Utah.

Sec. 607. Exception of residency requirement for district judges appointed to the Southern District and Eastern District of New York.

Sec. 608. Extension of civil justice expense and delay reduction reports on pilot and demonstration programs.

Sec. 609. Place of holding court in the Southern District of New York.

Sec. 610. Venue for territorial courts.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

SEC. 101. NEW AUTHORITY FOR PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.

(a) PROBATION OFFICERS.—Section 3603 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (8)(B);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

"(9) if approved by the district court, be authorized to carry firearms under such rules and regulations as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe; and"

(b) PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.—Section 3154 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

"(13) If approved by the district court, be authorized to carry firearms under such rules and regulations as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe."

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 201. DUTIES OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE ON EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT.

The first sentence of section 636(f) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out "(a) or (b)" and inserting in lieu thereof "(a), (b), or (c)".

SEC. 202. CONSENT TO TRIAL IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—(1) Section 3401(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting "other than a petty offense that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction," after "misdemeanor";

(B) in the second sentence by inserting "judge" after "magistrate" each place it appears;

(C) by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "The

magistrate judge may not proceed to try the case unless the defendant, after such explanation, expressly consents to be tried before the magistrate judge and expressly and specifically waives trial, judgment, and sentencing by a district judge. Any such consent and waiver shall be made in writing or orally on the record.”; and

(D) by striking out “judge of the district court” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “district judge”.

(2) Section 3401(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The magistrate judge may, in a petty offense case involving a juvenile, that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction, exercise all powers granted to the district court under chapter 403 of this title. The magistrate judge may, in any other class B or C misdemeanor case involving a juvenile in which consent to trial before a magistrate judge has been filed under subsection (b), exercise all powers granted to the district court under chapter 403 of this title.”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28.—Section 636(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “, and” at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and

(2) by striking out paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) the power to enter a sentence for a petty offense that is a class B misdemeanor charging a motor vehicle offense, a class C misdemeanor, or an infraction; and

“(5) the power to enter a sentence for a class A misdemeanor, or a class B or C misdemeanor not covered by paragraph (4), in a case in which the parties have consented.”.

SEC. 203. REGISTRATION OF JUDGMENTS FOR ENFORCEMENT IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1963 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“**§1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts**”;

(2) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking out “district court” and inserting in lieu thereof “court of appeals, district court, bankruptcy court,”; and

(B) by striking out “such judgment” and inserting in lieu thereof “the judgment”; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new undesignated paragraph:

“The procedure prescribed under this section is in addition to other procedures provided by law for the enforcement of judgments.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 125 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 1963 is amended to read as follows:

“1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts.”.

SEC. 204. VACANCY IN CLERK POSITION; ABSENCE OF CLERK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 954 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“**§954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk**

“When the office of clerk is vacant, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the last person who held that office. When the clerk is incapacitated, absent, or otherwise unavailable to perform official duties, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the clerk. The court may designate a deputy clerk to act temporarily as clerk of the court in his or her own name.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 954 is amended to read as follows:

“954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk.”.

SEC. 205. DIVERSITY JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1332 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out “\$50,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$75,000”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking out “\$50,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$75,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 206. REMOVAL OF CASES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND FEDERAL OFFICERS OR AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1442 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “or agencies” after “officers”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking out “persons”; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking out “Any officer of the United States or any agency thereof, or person acting under him, for any act under color of such office” and inserting in lieu thereof “The United States or any agency thereof or any officer (or any person acting under that officer) of the United States or of any agency thereof, sued in an official or individual capacity for any act under color of such office”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 89 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to section 1442 to read as follows:

“1442. Federal officers and agencies sued or prosecuted.”.

SEC. 207. APPEAL ROUTE IN CIVIL CASES DECIDED BY MAGISTRATE JUDGES WITH CONSENT.

Section 636 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3) by striking out “In this circumstance, the” and inserting in lieu thereof “The”;

(B) by striking out paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking out “, and for the taking and hearing of appeals to the district courts.”.

SEC. 208. REPORTS BY JUDICIAL COUNCILS RELATING TO MISCONDUCT AND DISABILITY ORDERS.

Section 332 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(g) No later than January 31 of each year, each judicial council shall submit a report to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on the number and nature of orders entered under this section during the preceding calendar year that relate to judicial misconduct or disability.”.

TITLE III—JUDICIARY PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS, AND PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. SENIOR JUDGE CERTIFICATION.

(a) RETROACTIVE CREDIT FOR RESUMPTION OF SIGNIFICANT WORKLOAD.—Section 371(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “is thereafter ineligible to receive such a certification.” and inserting in lieu thereof “may thereafter receive a certification for that year by satisfying the re-

quirements of subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) of this subsection in a subsequent year and attributing a sufficient part of the work performed in such subsequent year to the earlier year so that the work so attributed, when added to the work performed during such earlier year, satisfies the requirements for certification for that year. However, a justice or judge may not receive credit for the same work for purposes of certification for more than 1 year.”.

(b) AGGREGATION OF CERTAIN WORK FOR PARTIAL YEARS.—Section 371(f)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subparagraph (D) the following: “In any year in which a justice or judge performs work described under this subparagraph for less than the full year, one-half of such work may be aggregated with work described under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph for the purpose of the justice or judge satisfying the requirements of such subparagraph.”.

SEC. 302. REFUND OF CONTRIBUTION FOR DECEASED DEFERRED ANNUITANT UNDER THE JUDICIAL SURVIVORS' ANNUITIES SYSTEM.

Section 376(o)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “or while receiving ‘retirement salary,’” and inserting in lieu thereof “while receiving retirement salary, or after filing an election and otherwise complying with the conditions under subsection (b)(2) of this section.”.

SEC. 303. BANKRUPTCY JUDGES REAPPOINTMENT PROCEDURE.

Section 120 of the Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-353; 98 Stat. 344), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(3) When filling vacancies, the court of appeals may consider reappointing incumbent bankruptcy judges under procedures prescribed by regulations issued by the Judicial Conference of the United States.”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by adding at the end thereof the following: “All incumbent nominees seeking reappointment thereafter may be considered for such a reappointment, pursuant to a majority vote of the judges of the appointing court of appeals, under procedures authorized under subsection (a)(3).”.

SEC. 304. TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATED TO COMMENCEMENT DATE OF TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.

Section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 104 Stat. 5101; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “For districts named in this subsection for which multiple judgeships are created by this Act, the last of those judgeships filled shall be the judgeship created under this subsection.”.

SEC. 305. FULL-TIME STATUS OF COURT REPORTERS.

Section 753(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “For the purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5 and chapter 84 of such title, a reporter shall be considered a full-time employee during any pay period for which a reporter receives a salary at the annual salary rate fixed for a full-time reporter under the preceding sentence.”.

SEC. 306. COURT INTERPRETERS.

Section 1827 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 1828, the presiding judicial officer may appoint a certified or otherwise qualified sign language interpreter to provide services to a party, witness, or other participant in a judicial proceeding,

whether or not the proceeding is instituted by the United States, if the presiding judicial officer determines, on such officer's own motion or on the motion of a party or other participant in the proceeding, that such individual suffers from a hearing impairment. The presiding judicial officer shall, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, approve the compensation and expenses payable to sign language interpreters appointed under this section in accordance with the schedule of fees prescribed by the Director under subsection (b)(3) of this section."

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATED TO COMMENCEMENT DATE OF TEMPORARY BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP.

Section 3(b) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-361; 106 Stat. 965; 28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out "date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting in lieu thereof "appointment date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship position".

SEC. 308. CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR SENIOR JUDGES UNDER THE JUDICIAL SURVIVORS' ANNUITIES SYSTEM.

Section 376(b)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) Every judicial official who files a written notification of his or her intention to come within the purview of this section, in accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this section, shall be deemed thereby to consent and agree to having deducted and withheld from his or her salary a sum equal to 2.2 percent of that salary, and a sum equal to 3.5 percent of his or her retirement salary. The deduction from any retirement salary—

"(A) of a justice or judge of the United States retired from regular active service under section 371(b) or section 372(a) of this title,

"(B) of a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims retired under section 178 of this title, or

"(C) of a judicial official on recall under section 155(b), 373(c)(4), 375, or 636(h) of this title,

shall be an amount equal to 2.2 percent of retirement salary."

SEC. 309. PROHIBITION AGAINST AWARDS OF COSTS, INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AGAINST A JUDICIAL OFFICER.

(a) **NONLIABILITY FOR COSTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no judicial officer shall be held liable for any costs, including attorney's fees, in any action brought against such officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, unless such action was clearly in excess of such officer's jurisdiction.

(b) **PROCEEDINGS IN VINDICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS.**—Section 722(b) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1988(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof ", except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity such officer shall not be held liable for any costs, including attorney's fees, unless such action was clearly in excess of such officer's jurisdiction".

(c) **CIVIL ACTION FOR DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS.**—Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1983) is amended by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence: ", except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable".

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 401. INCREASE IN CIVIL ACTION FILING FEE.

(a) **FILING FEE INCREASE.**—Section 1914(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by

striking out "\$120" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$150".

(b) **DISPOSITION OF INCREASE.**—Section 1931 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out "\$60" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$90"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking out "\$120" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$150"; and

(B) by striking out "\$60" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$90".

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION FEES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1827(g) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6) and inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) If the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts finds it necessary to develop and administer criterion-referenced performance examinations for purposes of certification, or other examinations for the selection of otherwise qualified interpreters, the Director may prescribe for each examination a uniform fee for applicants to take such examination. In determining the rate of the fee for each examination, the Director shall consider the fees charged by other organizations for examinations that are similar in scope or nature. Notwithstanding section 3302(b) of title 31, the Director is authorized to provide in any contract or agreement for the development or administration of examinations and the collection of fees that the contractor may retain all or a portion of the fees in payment for the services. Notwithstanding paragraph (6) of this subsection, all fees collected after the effective date of this paragraph and not retained by a contractor shall be deposited in the fund established under section 1931 of this title and shall remain available until expended."

(b) **PAYMENT FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding sections 3302(b), 1341, and 1517 of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may include in any contract for the development or administration of examinations for interpreters (including such a contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act) a provision which permits the contractor to collect and retain fees in payment for contractual services in accordance with section 1827(g)(5) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 403. JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) Chapter 123 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1931 the following new section:

"§ 1932. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation

"The Judicial Conference of the United States shall prescribe from time to time the fees and costs to be charged and collected by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation."

(2) The table of sections for chapter 123 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1931 the following:

"1932. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation."

(b) **RELATED FEES FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**—Section 303(a) of the Judiciary Appropriations Act, 1992 (Public Law 102-140; 105 Stat. 810; 28 U.S.C. 1913 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out "1926, and 1930" and inserting in lieu thereof "1926, 1930, and 1932".

SEC. 404. DISPOSITION OF FEES.

(a) **DISPOSITION OF ATTORNEY ADMISSION FEES.**—For each fee collected for admission

of an attorney to practice, as prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1914 of title 28, United States Code, \$30 of that portion of the fee exceeding \$20 shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code. Any portion exceeding \$5 of the fee for a duplicate certificate of admission or certificate of good standing, as prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1914 of title 28, United States Code, shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(b) **DISPOSITION OF BANKRUPTCY COMPLAINT FILING FEES.**—For each fee collected for filing an adversary complaint in a bankruptcy proceeding, as established in Item 6 of the Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 1930(b) of title 28, United States Code, the portion of the fee exceeding \$120 shall be deposited into the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—FEDERAL COURTS STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

SEC. 501. QUALIFICATION OF CHIEF JUDGE OF COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"§ 258. Chief judges; precedence of judges

"(a)(1) The chief judge of the Court of International Trade shall be the judge of the court in regular active service who is senior in commission of those judges who—

"(A) are 64 years of age or under;

"(B) have served for 1 year or more as a judge of the court; and

"(C) have not served previously as chief judge.

"(2)(A) In any case in which no judge of the court meets the qualifications under paragraph (1), the youngest judge in regular active service who is 65 years of age or over and who has served as a judge of the court for 1 year or more shall act as the chief judge.

"(B) In any case under subparagraph (A) in which there is no judge of the court in regular active service who has served as a judge of the court for 1 year or more, the judge of the court in regular active service who is senior in commission and who has not served previously as chief judge shall act as the chief judge.

"(3)(A) Except as provided under subparagraph (C), the chief judge serving under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of 7 years and shall serve after expiration of such term until another judge is eligible under paragraph (1) to serve as chief judge.

"(B) Except as provided under subparagraph (C), a judge of the court acting as chief judge under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall serve until a judge meets the qualifications under paragraph (1).

"(C) No judge of the court may serve or act as chief judge of the court after attaining the age of 70 years unless no other judge is qualified to serve as chief judge under paragraph (1) or is qualified to act as chief judge under paragraph (2).

"(b) The chief judge shall have precedence and preside at any session of the court which such judge attends. Other judges of the court shall have precedence and preside according to the seniority of their commissions. Judges whose commissions bear the same date shall have precedence according to seniority in age.

“(c) If the chief judge desires to be relieved of the duties as chief judge while retaining active status as a judge of the court, the chief judge may so certify to the Chief Justice of the United States, and thereafter the chief judge of the court shall be such other judge of the court who is qualified to serve or act as chief judge under subsection (a).”

“(d) If a chief judge is temporarily unable to perform the duties as such, such duties shall be performed by the judge of the court in active service, able and qualified to act, who is next in precedence.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 251 by striking out subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(2) in section 253—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“§253. Duties of chief judge.”;

and

(B) by striking out subsections (d) and (e); and

(3) in the table of sections for chapter 11 of title 28, United States Code—

(A) by amending the item relating to section 253 to read as follows:

“253. Duties of chief judge.”;

and

(B) by adding at the end thereof the following:

“258. Chief judges; precedence of judges.”.

(c) APPLICATION.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 258(a) of title 28, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), the chief judge of the United States Court of International Trade who is in office on the day before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to be such chief judge on or after such date until any one of the following events occurs:

(A) The chief judge is relieved of his duties under section 258(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) The regular active status of the chief judge is terminated.

(C) The chief judge attains the age of 70 years.

(D) The chief judge has served for a term of 7 years as chief judge.

(2) When the chief judge vacates the position of chief judge under paragraph (1), the position of chief judge of the Court of International Trade shall be filled in accordance with section 258(a) of title 28, United States Code.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES BY DISTRICT, SENIOR, AND MAGISTRATE JUDGES.

(a) JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.—Section 331 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out the second undesignated paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“The district judge to be summoned from each judicial circuit shall be chosen by the circuit and district judges of the circuit and shall serve as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States for a term of not less than 3 successive years nor more than 5 successive years, as established by majority vote of all circuit and district judges of the circuit. A district judge serving as a member of the Judicial Conference may be either a judge in regular active service or a judge retired from regular active service under section 371(b) of this title.”

(b) BOARD OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER.—Section 621 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking out paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(2) two circuit judges, three district judges, one bankruptcy judge, and one magistrate judge, elected by vote of the members of the Judicial Conference of the United States, except that any circuit or district judge so elected may be either a judge in regular active service or a judge retired from regular active service under section 371(b) of this title but shall not be a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking out “retirement,” and inserting in lieu thereof “retirement pursuant to section 371(a) or section 372(a) of this title.”.

SEC. 602. THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AS OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 601 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “The Director and Deputy Director shall be deemed to be officers for purposes of title 5, United States Code.”.

SEC. 603. REMOVAL OF ACTION FROM STATE COURT.

Section 1446(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out “petitioner” and inserting in lieu thereof “defendant or defendants”.

SEC. 604. FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PROVISIONS.

Section 627(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence by inserting “Deputy Director,” before “the professional staff”; and

(2) in the first sentence by inserting “chapter 84 (relating to the Federal Employees’ Retirement System),” after “(relating to civil service retirement).”.

SEC. 605. ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL COURT, REGIONAL RAIL REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1973.

(a) ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL COURT.—Section 209 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is amended in subsection (b)—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “Within 30 days after”; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(2) The special court referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection is abolished effective 90 days after the date of enactment of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996. On such effective date, all jurisdiction and other functions of the special court shall be assumed by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. With respect to any proceedings that arise or continue after the date on which the special court is abolished, the references in the following provisions to the special court established under this subsection shall be deemed to refer to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia:

“(A) Subsections (c), (e)(1), (e)(2), (f) and (g) of this section.

“(B) Sections 202 (d)(3), (g), 207 (a)(1), (b)(1), (b)(2), 208(d)(2), 301 (e)(2), (g), (k)(3), (k)(15), 303 (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1), (b)(6)(A), (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4), (c)(5), 304 (a)(1)(B), (i)(3), 305 (c), (d)(1), (d)(2), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (d)(8), (e), (f)(1), (f)(2)(B), (f)(2)(D), (f)(2)(E), (f)(3), 306 (a), (b), (c)(4), and 601 (b)(3), (c) of this Act (45 U.S.C. 712 (d)(3), (g), 717 (a)(1), (b)(1), (b)(2), 718(d)(2), 741 (e)(2), (g), (k)(3), (k)(15), 743 (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1), (b)(6)(A), (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4), (c)(5), 744 (a)(1)(B), (i)(3), 745 (c), (d)(1), (d)(2), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (d)(8), (e), (f)(1), (f)(2)(B), (f)(2)(D), (f)(2)(E), (f)(3), 746 (a), (b), (c)(4), 791 (b)(3), (c)).

“(C) Sections 1152(a) and 1167(b) of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105(a), 1115(a)).

“(D) Sections 4023 (2)(A)(iii), (2)(B), (2)(C), (3)(C), (3)(E), (4)(A) and 4025(b) of the Conrail

Privatization Act (45 U.S.C. 1323 (2)(A)(iii), (2)(B), (2)(C), (3)(C), (3)(E), (4)(A), 1324(b)).

“(E) Section 24907(b) of title 49, United States Code.

“(F) Any other Federal law (other than this subsection and section 605 of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996), Executive order, rule, regulation, delegation of authority, or document of or relating to the special court as previously established under paragraph (1) of this subsection.”.

(b) APPELLATE REVIEW.—(1) Section 209(e) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is amended by striking out the paragraph following paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(3) An order or judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in any action referred to in this section shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code.”.

(2) Section 303 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 743) is amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(d) APPEAL.—An order or judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia pursuant to subsection (c) of this section or section 306 shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code.”.

(3) Section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105) is amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(b) APPEAL.—An order or judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in any action referred to in this section shall be reviewable in accordance with sections 1291, 1292, and 1294 of title 28, United States Code.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 209 of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719) is further amended—

(A) in subsection (g) by inserting “or Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit” after “Supreme Court”; and

(B) by striking out subsection (h).

(2) Section 305(d)(4) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 745(d)) is amended by striking out “a judge of the United States district court with respect to such proceedings and such powers shall include those of”.

(3) Section 1135(a)(8) of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1104(8)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8) ‘Special court’ means the judicial panel established under section 209(b)(1) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719(b)(1)) or, with respect to any proceedings that arise or continue after the panel is abolished pursuant to section 209(b)(2) of such Act, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.”.

(4) Section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 (45 U.S.C. 1105) is further amended by striking out subsection (d).

(d) PENDING CASES.—Effective 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, any case pending in the special court established under section 209(b) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 719(b)) shall be assigned to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia as though the case had originally been filed in that court. The amendments made by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any final order or judgment entered by the special court for which—

(1) a petition for writ of certiorari has been filed before the date on which the special court is abolished; or

(2) the time for filing a petition for writ of certiorari has not expired before that date.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and, except as provided in subsection (d), shall apply with respect to proceedings that arise or continue after such effective date.

SEC. 606. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF UTAH.

(a) NORTHERN DIVISION.—Section 125(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Salt Lake City and" before "Ogden".

(b) CENTRAL DIVISION.—Section 125(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", Provo, and St. George" after "Salt Lake City".

SEC. 607. EXCEPTION OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR DISTRICT JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

Section 134(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York," after "the District of Columbia,"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: "Each district judge of the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York may reside within 20 miles of the district to which he or she is appointed."

SEC. 608. EXTENSION OF CIVIL JUSTICE EXPENSE AND DELAY REDUCTION REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Section 104(d) of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended by striking out "December 31, 1996," and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1997,".

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 105(c)(1) of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended by striking out "December 31, 1996," and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1997,".

SEC. 609. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

The last sentence of section 112(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Court for the Southern District shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in the Middletown-Walkkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate."

SEC. 610. VENUE FOR TERRITORIAL COURTS.

(a) CHANGE OF VENUE.—Section 1404(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(d) As used in this section, the term 'district court' includes the District Court of Guam, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the term 'district' includes the territorial jurisdiction of each such court."

(b) CURE OR WAIVER OF DEFECTS.—Section 1406(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(c) As used in this section, the term 'district court' includes the District Court of Guam, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the term 'district' includes the territorial jurisdiction of each such court."

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section apply to cases pending on the date of the enactment of this Act and to cases commenced on or after such date.

BROADENING THE SCOPE OF CERTAIN FIREARM OFFENSES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Commit-

tee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1612, a bill to broaden the scope of certain firearm offenses, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1612) to provide for increased mandatory minimum sentences for criminals possessing firearms.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

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

AMENDMENT NO. 5433

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk for Senators DEWINE, HELMS, and ABRAHAM. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] for Mr. DEWINE, for himself, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. ABRAHAM, proposes an amendment numbered 5433.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FIREARMS OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 924(c)(1) and 929(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, are each amended by striking "uses or carries" and inserting "possesses".

(b) AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and the policy statements of the Commission to provide an appropriate sentence enhancement with respect to any defendant who discharges a firearm during or in relation to any crime of violence or any drug trafficking crime.

(2) CONSISTENCY.—In carrying out this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

(A) ensure that there is reasonable consistency with other Federal Sentencing Guidelines;

(B) avoid duplicative punishment for substantially the same offense; and

(C) take into account any mitigating circumstances that might justify an exception to any amendment made under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms "crime of violence" and "drug trafficking crime" have the same meanings as in section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to broaden the scope of certain firearms offenses, and for other purposes."

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, there is concern that some in the House might oppose S. 1612, the Helms/DeWine bill that just passed unanimously, for political reasons. I should emphasize the significance of getting this legislation passed by the House and sent to the President for his signature. This measure, which broadens the scope of firearms offenses committed by violent criminals, is essential if Federal prosecutors are going to have the tools nec-

essary to combat violence and drug trafficking. I urge our colleagues in the House to pass this legislation with dispatch, and to send it to the President, whose Justice Department has been very supportive of this bill. Those who would stop this bill, do so at the expense of law-abiding citizens.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read a third time and passed as amended, the title amendment be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the bill appear at an appropriate point in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5433) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1612), as amended, was deemed read for a third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1612

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

SECTION 1. FIREARMS OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 924(c)(1) and 929(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, are each amended by striking "uses or carries" and inserting "possesses".

(b) AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and the policy statements of the Commission to provide an appropriate sentence enhancement with respect to any defendant who discharges a firearm during or in relation to any crime of violence or any drug trafficking crime.

(2) CONSISTENCY.—In carrying out this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

(A) ensure that there is reasonable consistency with other Federal Sentencing Guidelines;

(B) avoid duplicative punishment for substantially the same offense; and

(C) take into account any mitigating circumstances that might justify an exception to any amendment made under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms "crime of violence" and "drug trafficking crime" have the same meanings as in section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code.

Passed the Senate October 3, 1996.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to broaden the scope of certain firearms offenses, and for other purposes."

COMPENSATING OWNERS OF PATENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 632, regarding patent legal fees, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 632) to enhance fairness in compensating owners of patents used by the United States.