

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7706

To change the spousal notification and consent requirements for the payment of lump-sum retirement benefits in cases of domestic violence, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To change the spousal notification and consent requirements for the payment of lump-sum retirement benefits in cases of domestic violence, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Retirement  
5 Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LUMP-SUM RETIREMENT BENEFIT NOTICE AND**  
2 **CONSENT REQUIREMENTS IN CASE OF DO-**  
3 **MESTIC VIOLENCE.**

4 (a) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—  
5 Section 8424(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the  
8 following new subparagraph:

9 “(C) Under the regulations, the Office  
10 shall provide that paragraph (1)(A) may be  
11 waived with respect to a spouse or former  
12 spouse to the extent necessary to protect the  
13 safety of the employee or Member, or any other  
14 person, if the employee or Member establishes  
15 to the satisfaction of the Office that—

16 “(i) such spouse or former spouse en-  
17 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic  
18 violence crime (as defined in section  
19 3561(b) of title 18) against the employee  
20 or Member; and

21 “(ii) providing notice in accordance  
22 with such paragraph poses a risk to the  
23 safety of the employee or Member or any  
24 other person.”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
26 paragraphs:

1           “(4)(A) The Office shall prescribe regulations  
2 that provide—

3           “(i) that, notwithstanding paragraph  
4 (1)(B), the lump-sum credit may be paid with-  
5 out the consent of a spouse or former spouse to  
6 the extent permitted by the applicable court  
7 order and necessary to protect the safety of the  
8 employee or Member, or any other person, if  
9 the employee or Member establishes to the sat-  
10 isfaction of the Office the criteria described in  
11 subparagraph (B); and

12           “(ii) procedures to obtain the consent of a  
13 spouse or former spouse for the payment of the  
14 lump-sum credit in a manner that protects the  
15 safety of the employee or Member if the lump-  
16 sum credit may not be paid in accordance with  
17 the applicable court order without obtaining  
18 such consent and the employee or Member es-  
19 tablishes to the satisfaction of the Office the  
20 criteria described in subparagraph (B).

21           “(B) The criteria described in this subpara-  
22 graph are—

23           “(i) that the spouse or former spouse en-  
24 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic vio-

1           lence crime (as defined in section 3561(b) of  
2           title 18) against the employee or Member; and

3           “(ii) obtaining consent in accordance with  
4           the regulations under paragraph (1)(B) poses a  
5           risk to the safety of the employee or Member or  
6           any other person.

7           “(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (2)(C) and  
8           (4)(A), an employee or Member establishes to the  
9           satisfaction of the Office the criteria described in  
10          paragraph (4)(B) with respect to a spouse or former  
11          spouse for payment of the lump-sum credit if such  
12          employee or Member self-certifies to the Office in  
13          writing that such spouse or former spouse engaged  
14          in conduct constituting a domestic violence crime (as  
15          defined in section 3561(b) of title 18) against the  
16          employee or Member during the one-year period end-  
17          ing on the date on which such employee or Member  
18          submits to the Office the application for such pay-  
19          ment.”.

20          (b) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section  
21          8342(j) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

22                 (1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the  
23                 following new subparagraph:

24                         “(C) Under the regulations, the Office  
25                         shall provide that paragraph (1)(A) may be

1           waived with respect to a spouse or former  
2           spouse to the extent necessary to protect the  
3           safety of the employee or Member, or any other  
4           person, if the employee or Member establishes  
5           to the satisfaction of the Office that—

6                   “(i) such spouse or former spouse en-  
7                   gaged in conduct constituting a domestic  
8                   violence crime (as defined in section  
9                   3561(b) of title 18) against the employee  
10                  or Member; and

11                   “(ii) providing notice in accordance  
12                   with such paragraph poses a risk to the  
13                   safety of the employee or Member or any  
14                   other person.”; and

15           (2) by adding at the end the following new  
16           paragraphs:

17                   “(4)(A) The Office shall prescribe regulations  
18                   that provide—

19                   “(i) that, notwithstanding paragraph  
20                   (1)(B), the lump-sum credit may be paid with-  
21                   out the consent of a spouse or former spouse to  
22                   the extent permitted by the applicable court  
23                   order and necessary to protect the safety of the  
24                   employee or Member, or any other person, if  
25                   the employee or Member establishes to the sat-

1 isfaction of the Office the criteria described in  
2 subparagraph (B); and

3 “(ii) procedures to obtain the consent of a  
4 spouse or former spouse for the payment of the  
5 lump-sum credit in a manner that protects the  
6 safety of the employee or Member if the lump-  
7 sum credit may not be paid in accordance with  
8 the applicable court order without obtaining  
9 such consent and the employee or Member es-  
10 tablishes to the satisfaction of the Office the  
11 criteria described in subparagraph (B).

12 “(B) The criteria described in this subpara-  
13 graph are—

14 “(i) that the spouse or former spouse en-  
15 gaged in conduct constituting a domestic vio-  
16 lence crime (as defined in section 3561(b) of  
17 title 18) against the employee or Member; and

18 “(ii) obtaining consent in accordance with  
19 the regulations under paragraph (1)(B) poses a  
20 risk to the safety of the employee or Member or  
21 any other person.

22 “(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (2)(C) and  
23 (4)(A), an employee or Member establishes to the  
24 satisfaction of the Office the criteria described in  
25 paragraph (4)(B) with respect to a spouse or former

1 spouse for payment of the lump-sum credit if such  
2 employee or Member self-certifies to the Office in  
3 writing that such spouse or former spouse engaged  
4 in conduct constituting a domestic violence crime (as  
5 defined in section 3561(b) of title 18) against the  
6 employee or Member during the one-year period end-  
7 ing on the date on which such employee or Member  
8 submits to the Office the application for such pay-  
9 ment.”.

10 (c) APPLICABILITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
12 this Act shall not affect the requirements to provide  
13 notice to or obtain consent from an individual under  
14 section 8342(j) or 8424(b) of title 5, United States  
15 Code, with respect to a lump-sum credit (as such  
16 term is defined under section 8331 or 8401 of such  
17 title) to the extent that such notice or consent would  
18 have been required if the payment of such lump-sum  
19 credit occurred prior to the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act, except that, to the extent that such amend-  
21 ments would, but for this subsection, affect such a  
22 requirement with respect to an individual, the Direc-  
23 tor of the Office of Personnel Management shall es-  
24 tablish procedures to provide such notice to or ob-  
25 tain consent from such individual in a manner that

1 ensures the safety of the relevant employee or Mem-  
2 ber.

3 (2) EMPLOYEE; LUMP-SUM; MEMBER DE-  
4 FINED.—In this subsection, the terms “employee”,  
5 “lump-sum”, and “Member”—

6 (A) with respect to section 8342(j) of title  
7 5, United States Code, have the meanings given  
8 such terms, respectively, in section 8331 of  
9 such title; and

10 (B) with respect to section 8424(b) of such  
11 title, have the meanings given such terms, re-  
12 spectively, in section 8401 of such title.

13 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the  
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-  
15 fice of Personnel Management shall issue regulations im-  
16 plementing the amendments made by this Act.

17 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amend-  
18 ments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that  
19 is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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