

ADDENDUM I: THE DEFUNDING SHIELD

Purpose: To prevent "de facto" repeal of the Act through the appropriations process and to ensure that collected fines are immediately available for FIC operations without congressional delay.

I. SECTION 20: CONTRADICTORY APPROPRIATIONS AND DIRECT ESCROW

- **Contradictory Appropriations Void:** Notwithstanding any subsequent Act of Congress or omnibus spending bill, any provision that attempts to limit, redirect, or zero-out the funding established in Section 12(b) is hereby declared void unless this Act is formally repealed.
- **Direct Escrow Mandate:** All fines collected under the penalties established in Section 8 and Section 9(d) shall be escrowed directly into the **Fiscal Self-Sufficiency Fund** managed by the Commission.
- **Immediate Availability:** These funds shall be available for obligation and expenditure by the FIC immediately upon deposit, without the requirement for further annual appropriations or "apportionment" by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

II. REINFORCING FISCAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- **Priority of Payment:** In the event of a government shutdown or a "funding gap," the FIC's operations shall be deemed "excepted" and "essential" as they are funded by non-appropriated, self-generated revenue.
- **Prohibition on Sweeping:** The Treasury Department is prohibited from "sweeping" or transferring the FIC's 5% set-aside into the General Fund to cover other federal deficits.