(b) Section 5001 of Public Law 104–106 (110 Stat. 679; 40 U.S.C. 1401 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

"This division and division D may be cited as the 'Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996'.".

(c) Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996 or to the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 shall be considered to be a reference to the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996.

This Act may be cited as the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997".

TITLE II—ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGULATORY PAPERWORK REDUCTION

Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996.
12 USC 226 note.

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; DEFINITIONS

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the "Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996".

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

Subtitle D—Consumer Credit

CHAPTER 1—CREDIT REPORTING REFORM

CHAPTER 2—CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS

Subtitle E—Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous

12 USC 252 note.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise specified in this title, the following definitions shall apply for purposes of this title:

(1) APPRAISAL SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term "Appraisal Subcommittee" means the Appraisal Subcommittee established under section 1011 of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY.—The term "appropriate Federal banking agency" has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(3) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(4) CORPORATION.—The term "Corporation" means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(5) COUNCIL.—The term "Council" means the Financial Institutions Examination Council established under section 1004 of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978.

(6) INSURED CREDIT UNION.—The term "insured credit union" has the same meaning as in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(7) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term "insured depository institution" has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

Subtitle A—Streamlining the Home Mortgage Lending Process

SEC. 2101. SIMPLIFICATION AND UNIFICATION OF DISCLOSURES REQUIRED UNDER RESPA AND TILA FOR MORTGAGE TRANSACTIONS.

12 USC 2601 note.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to credit transactions which are subject to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Board") and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall take such action as may be necessary before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) to simplify and improve the disclosures applicable to such transactions under such Acts, including the timing of the disclosures; and

(2) to provide a single format for such disclosures which will satisfy the requirements of each such Act with respect to such transactions.

(b) REGULATIONS.—To the extent that it is necessary to prescribe any regulation in order to effect any changes required to be made under subsection (a), the proposed regulation shall be published in the Federal Register before the end of the 6-month period referred to in subsection (a).

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION.—If the Board and the Secretary find that legislative action may be necessary or appropriate in order to simplify and unify the disclosure requirements under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, the Board and the Secretary shall submit a report containing recommendations to the Congress concerning such action.

SEC. 2102. GENERAL EXEMPTION AUTHORITY FOR LOANS.

(a) REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY.—Section 104 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1603) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) Transactions for which the Board, by rule, determines that coverage under this title is not necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.".

(b) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—Section 105 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may exempt, by regulation, from all or part of this title any class of transactions, other than transactions involving any mortgage described in section 103(aa), for which, in the determination of the Board, coverage under all or part of this title does not provide a meaningful benefit to consumers in the form of useful information or protection.

"(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In determining which classes of transactions to exempt in whole or in part under paragraph (1), the Board shall consider the following factors and publish its rationale at the time a proposed exemption is published for comment:

"(A) The amount of the loan and whether the disclosures, right of rescission, and other provisions provide a benefit to the consumers who are parties to such transactions, as determined by the Board.

"(B) The extent to which the requirements of this title complicate, hinder, or make more expensive the credit process for the class of transactions.

"(C) The status of the borrower, including—

"(i) any related financial arrangements of the borrower, as determined by the Board;

"(ii) the financial sophistication of the borrower relative to the type of transaction; and

"(iii) the importance to the borrower of the credit, related supporting property, and coverage under this title, as determined by the Board;

"(D) whether the loan is secured by the principal residence of the consumer; and

"(E) whether the goal of consumer protection would be undermined by such an exemption.".

SEC. 2103. REDUCTIONS IN REAL ESTATE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES ACT OF 1974 REGULATORY BURDENS.

(a) UNNECESSARY DISCLOSURE.—Section 6(a) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2605(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) DISCLOSURE TO APPLICANT RELATING TO ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF LOAN SERVICING.—Each person who makes a federally related mortgage loan shall disclose to each person who applies for the loan, at the time of application for the loan, whether the servicing of the loan may be assigned, sold, or transferred to any other person at any time while the loan is outstanding.".

(b) CONSISTENCY OF REAL ESTATE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES ACT AND TRUTH IN LENDING ACT EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS LOANS.—Section 7 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2606) is amended—

(1) by striking "This Act" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) INTERPRETATION.—In prescribing regulations under section 19(a), the Secretary shall ensure that, with respect to subsection (a) of this section, the exemption for credit transactions involving extensions of credit primarily for business, commercial, or agricultural purposes, as provided in section 7(1) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 shall be the same as the exemption for such credit transactions under section 104(1) of the Truth in Lending Act.".

(c) REDESIGNATION OF CONTROLLED BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS AS AFFILIATED BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS.—The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) is amended—

12 USC 2602.

(1) in section 3(7), by striking "controlled business arrangement" and inserting "affiliated business arrangement"; and

12 USC 2607.

(2) in subsections (c)(4) and (d)(6) of section 8, by striking "controlled business arrangements" and inserting "affiliated business arrangements".

(d) DISCLOSURES BY TELEPHONE OR ELECTRONIC MEDIA.—Section 8(c)(4) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2607(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following "(A) a disclosure is made of the existence of such an arrangement to the person being referred and, in connection with such referral, such person is provided a written estimate of the charge or range of charges generally made by the provider to which the person is referred (i) in the case of a face-to-face referral or a referral made in writing or by electronic media, at or before the time of the referral (and compliance with this requirement in such case may be evidenced by a notation in a written, electronic, or similar system of records maintained in the regular course of business); (ii) in the case of a referral made by telephone, within 3 business days after the referral by telephone, (and in such case an abbreviated verbal disclosure of the existence of the arrangement and the fact that a written disclosure will be provided within 3 business days shall be made to the person being referred during the telephone referral); or (iii) in the case of a referral by a lender (including a referral by a lender to an affiliated lender), at the time the estimates required under section 5(c) are provided (notwithstanding clause (i) or (ii)); and any required written receipt of such disclosure (without regard to the manner of the disclosure under clause (i), (ii), or (iii)) may be obtained at the closing or settlement (except that a person making a face-to-face referral who provides the written disclosure at or before the time of the referral shall attempt to obtain any required written receipt of such disclosure at such time and if the person being referred chooses not to acknowledge the receipt of the disclosure at that time, that fact shall be noted in the written, electronic, or similar system of records maintained in the regular course of business by the person making the referral),".

(e) LIMITATION ON CLAIMS ARISING FROM VIOLATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICING MORTGAGES AND ADMINISTERING ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—Section 16 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2614) is amended—

(1) by striking "section 8 or 9" and inserting "section 6, 8, or 9"; and

(2) by striking "within one year" and inserting "within 3 years in the case of a violation of section 6 and 1 year in the case of a violation of section 8 or 9".

(f) DELAY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF RECENT FINAL REGULATION RELATING TO PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYEES.—Section 19 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2617) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) DELAY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF RECENT FINAL REGULATION RELATING TO PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYEES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment to part 3500 of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations contained in the final regulation prescribed by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register on June 7, 1996, which will, as of the effective date of such amendment—

"(A) eliminate the exemption for payments by an employer to employees of such employer for referral activities which is currently codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of such title 24; and

"(B) replace such exemption with a more limited exemption in new clauses (vii), (viii), and (ix) of section 3500.14 of such title 24,

shall not take effect before July 31, 1997.

"(2) CONTINUATION OF PRIOR RULE.—The regulation codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, relating to employer-employee payments, as in effect on May 1, 1996, shall remain in effect until the date the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) takes effect in accordance with such paragraph.

"(3) PUBLIC NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary shall provide public notice of the date on which the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) will take effect in accordance with such paragraph not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days before such effective date.".

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4(a) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2603(a)) is amended by striking "Federal Home Loan Bank Board" and inserting "Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision".

(2) Section 10(c)(1)(C) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2609(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking "Not later than the expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, the" and inserting "The".

(h) REPEAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS.—The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 13, 14 and 15.

12 USC 2611–2613.

SEC. 2104. WAIVER FOR CERTAIN BORROWERS.

Section 105 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN BORROWERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board, by regulation, may exempt from the requirements of this title certain credit transactions if—

"(A) the transaction involves a consumer—

"(i) with an annual earned income of more than $200,000; or

"(ii) having net assets in excess of $1,000,000 at the time of the transaction; and

"(B) a waiver that is handwritten, signed, and dated by the consumer is first obtained from the consumer.

"(2) ADJUSTMENTS BY THE BOARD.—The Board, at its discretion, may adjust the annual earned income and net asset requirements of paragraph (1) for inflation.".

SEC. 2105. ALTERNATIVE DISCLOSURES FOR ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES.

Section 128(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(14) In the case of any variable interest rate residential mortgage transaction, in disclosures provided at application as prescribed by the Board for a variable rate transaction secured by the consumer's principal dwelling, at the option of the creditor, a statement that the periodic payments may increase or decrease substantially, and the maximum interest rate and payment for a $10,000 loan originated at a recent interest rate, as determined by the Board, assuming the maximum periodic increases in rates and payments under the program, or a historical example illustrating the effects of interest rate changes implemented according to the loan program.".

SEC. 2106. RESTITUTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.

15 USC 1607.

Section 108(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 2602(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking "ordered (A) if" and inserting the following: "ordered—

"(A) if";

(2) by striking "may require a partial" and inserting "may—

"(i) require a partial";

(3) by striking ", except that with respect" and all that follows through "Act, the agency shall require" and inserting "; or

"(ii) require";

(4) by striking "reasonable, (B) the" and inserting the following: "reasonable, if (in the case of an agency referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a)), the agency determines that a partial adjustment or making partial payments over an extended period is necessary to avoid causing the creditor to become undercapitalized pursuant to section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;

"(B) the"; and

(5) by striking "(C) except" and inserting the following: "(C) except".

SEC. 2107. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY UNDER THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 139(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1649(a)) is amended by striking "For any consumer credit transaction subject to this title" and inserting "For any closed end consumer credit transaction that is secured by real property or a dwelling, that is subject to this title, and".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective as of September 30, 1995.

15 USC 1649 note.

Subtitle B—Streamlining Government Regulation

CHAPTER 1—ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

SEC. 2201. ELIMINATION OF REDUNDANT APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR OAKAR TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1815(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "with the prior written approval of" and inserting "if the transaction is approved by";

(2) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) by striking clauses (i) and (iv);

(B) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.—A transaction described in this paragraph shall not be approved under section 18(c)(2) unless the acquiring, assuming, or resulting depository institution will meet all applicable capital requirements upon consummation of the transaction.";

(3) by striking subparagraph (G); and

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (H) through (J) as subparagraphs (G) through (I), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REVISED STATUTES.—Section 5156A(b)(1) of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 215c(b)(1)) is amended by striking "by section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act or any other" and inserting "under any".

(2) HOME OWNERS' LOAN ACT.—Section 10(s)(2)(A) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(s)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "under section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act or any other" and inserting "under any".

SEC. 2203. ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UPON BANK HOLDING COMPANIES.

(a) EXEMPTION FOR BANK HOLDING COMPANIES.—Section 10 of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(t) EXEMPTION FOR BANK HOLDING COMPANIES.—This section shall not apply to a bank holding company that is subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, or any company controlled by such bank holding company.".

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 10(a)(1)(D) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)(1)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

"(D) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term 'savings and loan holding company' means any company that directly or indirectly controls a savings association or that controls any other company that is a savings and loan holding company.

"(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term 'savings and loan holding company' does not include a bank holding company that is registered under, and subject to, the Bank

Holding Company Act of 1956, or to any company directly or indirectly controlled by such company (other than a savings association).".

(c) ACQUISITIONS.—Section 10(e)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(iii)(VII), by inserting "or" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by inserting "and" at the end; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking "or (ii)" and inserting "(ii)"; and

(B) by inserting before the first period ", or (iii) acquired by a bank holding company that is registered under, and subject to, the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, or any company controlled by such bank holding company".

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE BANK HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1956.—Section 4(i) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1843(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) SOLICITATION OF VIEWS.—

"(A) NOTICE TO DIRECTOR.—Upon receiving any application or notice by a bank holding company to acquire, directly or indirectly, a savings association under subsection (c)(8), the Board shall solicit comments and recommendations from the Director with respect to such acquisition.

"(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The comments and recommendations of the Director under subparagraph (A) with respect to any acquisition subject to such subparagraph shall be transmitted to the Board not later than 30 days after the receipt by the Director of the notice relating to such acquisition (or such shorter period as the Board may specify if the Board advises the Director that an emergency exists that requires expeditious action).

"(5) EXAMINATION.—

"(A) SCOPE.—The Board shall consult with the Director, as appropriate, in establishing the scope of an examination by the Board of a bank holding company that directly or indirectly controls a savings association.

"(B) ACCESS TO INSPECTION REPORTS.—Upon the request of the Director, the Board shall furnish the Director with a copy of any inspection report, additional examination materials, or supervisory information relating to any bank holding company that directly or indirectly controls a savings association.

"(6) COORDINATION OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.—The Board and the Director shall cooperate in any enforcement action against any bank holding company that controls a savings association, if the relevant conduct involves such association.

"(7) DIRECTOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision.".

SEC. 2204. ELIMINATION OF THE PER BRANCH CAPITAL REQUIREMENT FOR NATIONAL BANKS AND STATE MEMBER BANKS.

Section 5155(h) of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 36(h)) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) [Repealed]".

SEC. 2205. ELIMINATION OF BRANCH APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES.

(a) "BRANCH" UNDER NATIONAL BANK ACT.—Section 5155(j) of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 36(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The term 'branch', as used in this section, does not include an automated teller machine or a remote service unit.".

(b) "DOMESTIC BRANCH" UNDER THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT.—Section 3(o) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(o)) is amended by striking "lent; and the" and inserting "lent. The term 'domestic branch' does not include an automated teller machine or a remote service unit. The".

SEC. 2206. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS IN BANK PREMISES FOR WELL CAPITALIZED AND WELL MANAGED BANKS.

Section 24A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 371d) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 24A. INVESTMENT IN BANK PREMISES OR STOCK OF CORPORATION HOLDING PREMISES.

"(a) CONDITIONS OF INVESTMENT.—No national bank or State member bank shall invest in bank premises, or in the stock, bonds, debentures, or other such obligations of any corporation holding the premises of such bank, or make loans to or upon the security of any such corporation—

"(1) unless the bank receives the prior approval of the Comptroller of the Currency (with respect to a national bank) or the Board (with respect to a State member bank);

"(2) unless the aggregate of all such investments and loans, together with the amount of any indebtedness incurred by any such corporation that is an affiliate of the bank, is less than or equal to the amount of the capital stock of such bank; or

"(3) unless—

"(A) the aggregate of all such investments and loans, together with the amount of any indebtedness incurred by any such corporation that is an affiliate of the bank, is less than or equal to 150 percent of the capital and surplus of the bank; and

"(B) the bank—

"(i) has a CAMEL composite rating of 1 or 2 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating under a comparable rating system) as of the most recent examination of such bank;

"(ii) is well capitalized and will continue to be well capitalized after the investment or loan; and

"(iii) provides notification to the Comptroller of the Currency (with respect to a national bank) or to the Board (with respect to a State member bank) not later than 30 days after making the investment or loan.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) the term 'affiliate' has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Banking Act of 1933; and

"(2) the term 'well capitalized' has the same meaning as in section 38(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.".

SEC. 2207. ELIMINATION OF APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR DIVESTITURES.

Section 2(g) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 2208. STREAMLINED NONBANKING ACQUISITIONS BY WELL CAPITALIZED AND WELL MANAGED BANKING ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 4(j) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1843(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "No" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (3), no"; and

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

"(3) NO NOTICE REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—No notice under paragraph (1) of this subsection or under subsection (c)(8) or (a)(2)(B) is required for a proposal by a bank holding company to engage in any activity or acquire the shares or assets of any company, other than an insured depository institution, if the proposal qualifies under paragraph (4).

"(4) CRITERIA FOR STATUTORY APPROVAL.—A proposal qualifies under this paragraph if all of the following criteria are met:

"(A) FINANCIAL CRITERIA.—Both before and immediately after the proposed transaction—

"(i) the acquiring bank holding company is well capitalized;

"(ii) the lead insured depository institution of such holding company is well capitalized;

"(iii) well capitalized insured depository institutions control at least 80 percent of the aggregate total risk-weighted assets of insured depository institutions controlled by such holding company; and

"(iv) no insured depository institution controlled by such holding company is undercapitalized.

"(B) MANAGERIAL CRITERIA.—

"(i) WELL MANAGED.—At the time of the transaction, the acquiring bank holding company, its lead insured depository institution, and insured depository institutions that control at least 90 percent of the aggregate total risk-weighted assets of insured depository institutions controlled by such holding company are well managed.

"(ii) LIMITATION ON POORLY MANAGED INSTITUTIONS.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), no insured depository institution controlled by the acquiring bank holding company has received 1 of the 2

lowest composite ratings at the later of the institution's most recent examination or subsequent review.

"(C) ACTIVITIES PERMISSIBLE.—Following consummation of the proposal, the bank holding company engages directly or through a subsidiary solely in—

"(i) activities that are permissible under subsection (c)(8), as determined by the Board by regulation or order thereunder, subject to all of the restrictions, terms, and conditions of such subsection and such regulation or order; and

"(ii) such other activities as are otherwise permissible under this section, subject to the restrictions, terms and conditions, including any prior notice or approval requirements, provided in this section.

"(D) SIZE OF ACQUISITION.—

"(i) ASSET SIZE.—The book value of the total assets to be acquired does not exceed 10 percent of the consolidated total risk-weighted assets of the acquiring bank holding company.

"(ii) CONSIDERATION.—The gross consideration to be paid for the securities or assets does not exceed 15 percent of the consolidated Tier 1 capital of the acquiring bank holding company.

"(E) NOTICE NOT OTHERWISE WARRANTED.—For proposals described in paragraph (5)(B), the Board has not, before the conclusion of the period provided in paragraph (5)(B), advised the bank holding company that a notice under paragraph (1) is required.

"(F) COMPLIANCE CRITERION.—During the 12-month period ending on the date on which the bank holding company proposes to commence an activity or acquisition, no administrative enforcement action has been commenced, and no cease and desist order has been issued pursuant to section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, against the bank holding company or any depository institution subsidiary of the holding company, and no such enforcement action, order, or other administrative enforcement proceeding is pending as of such date.

"(5) NOTIFICATION.—

"(A) COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY RULE.—A bank holding company that qualifies under paragraph (4) and that proposes to engage de novo, directly or through a subsidiary, in any activity that is permissible under subsection (c)(8), as determined by the Board by regulation, may commence that activity without prior notice to the Board and must provide written notification to the Board not later than 10 business days after commencing the activity.

"(B) ACTIVITIES PERMITTED BY ORDER AND ACQUISITIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—At least 12 business days before commencing any activity pursuant to paragraph (3) (other than an activity described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph) or acquiring shares or assets of

any company pursuant to paragraph (3), the bank holding company shall provide written notice of the proposal to the Board, unless the Board determines that no notice or a shorter notice period is appropriate.

"(ii) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND TERMS.—A notification under this subparagraph shall include a description of the proposed activities and the terms of any proposed acquisition.

"(6) RECENTLY ACQUIRED INSTITUTIONS.—Any insured depository institution which has been acquired by a bank holding company during the 12-month period preceding the date on which the company proposes to commence an activity or acquisition pursuant to paragraph (3) may be excluded for purposes of paragraph (4)(B)(ii) if—

"(A) the bank holding company has developed a plan for the institution to restore the capital and management of the institution which is acceptable to the appropriate Federal banking agency; and

"(B) all such insured depository institutions represent, in the aggregate, less than 10 percent of the aggregate total risk-weighted assets of all insured depository institutions controlled by the bank holding company.

"(7) ADJUSTMENT OF PERCENTAGES.—The Board may, by regulation, adjust the percentages and the manner in which the percentages of insured depository institutions are calculated under paragraph (4)(B)(i), (4)(D), or (6)(B) if the Board determines that any such adjustment is consistent with safety and soundness and the purposes of this Act.".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2(o) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841(o)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(1) CAPITAL TERMS.—

"(A) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—With respect to insured depository institutions, the terms 'well capitalized', 'adequately capitalized', and 'undercapitalized' have the same meanings as in section 38(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

"(B) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—

"(i) ADEQUATELY CAPITALIZED.—With respect to a bank holding company, the term 'adequately capitalized' means a level of capitalization which meets or exceeds all applicable Federal regulatory capital standards.

"(ii) WELL CAPITALIZED.—A bank holding company is 'well capitalized' if it meets the required capital levels for well capitalized bank holding companies established by the Board.

"(C) OTHER CAPITAL TERMS.—The terms 'Tier 1' and 'risk-weighted assets' have the meanings given those terms in the capital guidelines or regulations established by the Board for bank holding companies."; and

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

"(8) LEAD INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'lead insured depository institution' means the largest insured depository institution controlled by the subject bank holding company at any

time, based on a comparison of the average total risk-weighted assets controlled by each insured depository institution during the previous 12-month period.

"(B) BRANCH OR AGENCY.—For purposes of this paragraph and section 4(j)(4), the term 'insured depository institution' includes any branch or agency operated in the United States by a foreign bank.

"(9) WELL MANAGED.—The term 'well managed' means—

"(A) in the case of any company or depository institution which receives examinations, the achievement of—

"(i) a CAMEL composite rating of 1 or 2 (or an equivalent rating under an equivalent rating system) in connection with the most recent examination or subsequent review of such company or institution; and

"(ii) at least a satisfactory rating for management, if such rating is given; or

"(B) in the case of a company or depository institution that has not received an examination rating, the existence and use of managerial resources which the Board determines are satisfactory.".

SEC. 2209. ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY FILING FOR OFFICER AND DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS.

Section 32 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting "(or such other period, as determined by the appropriate Federal banking agency)" after "30 days";

(B) by striking "if the insured depository institution or depository institution holding company" and inserting "if";

(C) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

(D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (1);

(E) in paragraph (1), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting "the insured depository institution or depository institution holding company" before "is not in compliance"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(F) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) the agency determines, in connection with the review by the agency of the plan required under section 38 or otherwise, that such prior notice is appropriate."; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "30-day period" and inserting "notice period, not to exceed 90 days,".

SEC. 2210. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION MANAGEMENT INTERLOCKS ACT.

(a) DUAL SERVICE AMONG LARGER ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 204 of the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3203) is amended—

(1) by striking "$1,000,000,000" and inserting "$2,500,000,000";

(2) by striking "$500,000,000" and inserting "$1,500,000,000"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "In order to allow for inflation or market changes, the appropriate Federal depository institutions regulatory agencies may, by regulation, adjust, as necessary, the amount of total assets required for depository institutions or depository holding companies under this section.".

(b) EXTENSION OF GRANDFATHER EXEMPTION.—Section 206 of the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3205) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "for a period of, subject to the requirements of subsection (c), 20 years after the date of enactment of this title";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking the second sentence; and

(3) by striking subsection (c).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Section 209 of the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3207) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a) IN GENERAL.—Rules and regulations" and inserting "Regulations";

(B) by inserting ", including regulations that permit service by a management official that would otherwise be prohibited by section 203 or section 204, if such service would not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition," after "title";

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking "Federal Home Loan Bank Board" and inserting "Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision"; and

(ii) by striking "Savings and Loan" and inserting "Deposit"; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c).

SEC. 2211. ELIMINATION OF RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS.

(a) EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS.—Section 22(h)(2) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 375b(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking "(2) PREFERENTIAL TERMS PROHIBITED.—" and inserting the following:

"(2) PREFERENTIAL TERMS PROHIBITED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit any extension of credit made pursuant to a benefit or compensation program—

"(i) that is widely available to employees of the member bank; and

"(ii) that does not give preference to any officer, director, or principal shareholder of the member bank, or to any related interest of such person, over other employees of the member bank.".

(b) EXCEPTION FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF AFFILIATES.—Section 22(h)(8)(B) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 375b(8)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) EXCEPTION.—The Board may, by regulation, make exceptions to subparagraph (A) for any executive officer or director of a subsidiary of a company that controls the member bank if—

"(i) the executive officer or director does not have authority to participate, and does not participate, in major policymaking functions of the member bank; and

"(ii) the assets of such subsidiary do not exceed 10 percent of the consolidated assets of a company that controls the member bank and such subsidiary (and is not controlled by any other company).".

SEC. 2212. REPAYMENT OF TREASURY LOAN.

Section 1108 of the Federal Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3337) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection.—

"(c) REPAYMENT OF TREASURY LOAN.—Not later than September 30, 1998, the Appraisal Subcommittee shall repay to the Secretary of the Treasury the unpaid portion of the $5,000,000 paid to the Appraisal Subcommittee pursuant to this section.".

SEC. 2213. BRANCH CLOSURES.

Section 42 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831r–1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to—

"(1) an automated teller machine;

"(2) the relocation of a branch or consolidation of one or more branches into another branch, if the relocation or consolidation—

"(A) occurs within the immediate neighborhood; and

"(B) does not substantially affect the nature of the business or customers served; or

"(3) a branch that is closed in connection with—

"(A) an emergency acquisition under—

"(i) section 11(n); or

"(ii) subsection (f) or (k) of section 13; or

"(B) any assistance provided by the Corporation under section 13(c).".

SEC. 2214. FOREIGN BANKS.

(a) EXAMINATION OF BRANCHES AND AGENCIES BY BOARD.—Section 7(c) of the International Banking Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3105(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(c)" and inserting the following:

"(c) FOREIGN BANK EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTING.—";

(2) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—In exercising its authority under this paragraph, the Board shall take all reasonable measures to reduce burden and avoid unnecessary duplication of examinations.";

(3) by striking subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(C) ON-SITE EXAMINATION.—Each Federal branch or agency, and each State branch or agency, of a foreign

bank shall be subject to on-site examination by an appropriate Federal banking agency or State bank supervisor as frequently as would a national bank or a State bank, respectively, by the appropriate Federal banking agency."; and

(4) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", only to the same extent that fees are collected by the Board for examination of any State member bank".

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN BANK OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 7(d) of the International Banking Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3105(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "The Board" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Board";

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking "Consistent with the standards for approval in paragraph (2), the"; and inserting "The"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(6) EXCEPTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Board is unable to find, under paragraph (2), that a foreign bank is subject to comprehensive supervision or regulation on a consolidated basis by the appropriate authorities in its home country, the Board may nevertheless approve an application by such foreign bank under paragraph (1) if—

"(i) the appropriate authorities in the home country of the foreign bank are actively working to establish arrangements for the consolidated supervision of such bank; and

"(ii) all other factors are consistent with approval.

"(B) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether to use its discretion under subparagraph (A), the Board shall also consider whether the foreign bank has adopted and implements procedures to combat money laundering. The Board may also take into account whether the home country of the foreign bank is developing a legal regime to address money laundering or is participating in multilateral efforts to combat money laundering.

"(C) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—In approving an application under this paragraph, the Board, after requesting and taking into consideration the views of the appropriate State bank supervisor or the Comptroller of the Currency, as the case may be, may impose such conditions or restrictions relating to the activities or business operations of the proposed branch, agency, or commercial lending company subsidiary, including restrictions on sources of funding, as are considered appropriate. The Board shall coordinate with the appropriate State bank supervisor or the Comptroller of the Currency, as appropriate, in the implementation of such conditions or restrictions.

"(D) MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS.—Any condition or restriction imposed by the Board in connection with the approval of an application under authority of this paragraph may be modified or withdrawn.

"(7) TIME PERIOD FOR BOARD ACTION.—

"(A) FINAL ACTION.—The Board shall take final action on any application under paragraph (1) not later than

180 days after receipt of the application, except that the Board may extend for an additional 180 days the period within which to take final action on such application after providing notice of, and the reasons for, the extension to the applicant foreign bank and any appropriate State bank supervisor or the Comptroller of the Currency, as appropriate.

"(B) FAILURE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION.—The Board may deny any application if it does not receive information requested from the applicant foreign bank or appropriate authorities in the home country of the foreign bank in sufficient time to permit the Board to evaluate such information adequately within the time periods for final action set forth in subparagraph (A).

"(C) WAIVER.—A foreign bank may waive the applicability of this paragraph with respect to any application under paragraph (1).".

(c) TERMINATION OF FOREIGN BANK OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 7(e)(1)(A) of the International Banking Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3105(e)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(i)" after "(A)";

(2) by striking "or" at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(ii) the appropriate authorities in the home country of the foreign bank are not making demonstrable progress in establishing arrangements for the comprehensive supervision or regulation of such foreign bank on a consolidated basis; or".

SEC. 2215. DISPOSITION OF FORECLOSED ASSETS.

Section 4(c)(2) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1843(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "for not more than one year at a time"; and

(2) by striking "but no such extensions shall extend beyond a date five years" and inserting "and, in the case of a bank holding company which has not disposed of such shares within 5 years after the date on which such shares were acquired, the Board may, upon the application of such company, grant additional exemptions if, in the judgment of the Board, such extension would not be detrimental to the public interest and, either the bank holding company has made a good faith attempt to dispose of such shares during such 5-year period, or the disposal of such shares during such 5-year period would have been detrimental to the company, except that the aggregate duration of such extensions shall not extend beyond 10 years".

SEC. 2216. EXEMPTION AUTHORITY FOR ANTITYING PROVISION.

(a) FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD AUTHORITY.—Section 106(b)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act Amendments of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1972(1)) is amended in the last sentence, by inserting "and the prohibitions of section 4(f)(9) and 4(h)(2) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956" after "prohibition".

(b) OTS AUTHORITY.—Section 5(q) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) EXCEPTIONS.—The Director may, by regulation or order, permit such exceptions to the prohibitions of this subsection as the Director considers will not be contrary to the purposes of this subsection and which conform to exceptions granted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System pursuant to section 106(b) of the Bank Holding Company Act Amendments of 1970.".

SEC. 2217. FDIC APPROVAL OF NEW STATE BANK POWERS.

Section 24 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking "IN GENERAL.—" and inserting the following: "PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) PROCESSING PERIOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A) not later than 60 days after receipt of a completed application that may be required under this subsection.

"(B) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.—The Corporation may extend the 60-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) for not more than 30 additional days, and shall notify the applicant of any such extension."; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) PROCESSING PERIOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A) not later than 60 days after receipt of a completed application that may be required under this subsection.

"(B) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.—The Corporation may extend the 60-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) for not more than 30 additional days, and shall notify the applicant of any such extension.".

CHAPTER 2—ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY REGULATORY BURDENS

SEC. 2221. SMALL BANK EXAMINATION CYCLE.

Section 10(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1820(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second paragraph designated as paragraph (8) as paragraph (10), and by inserting that paragraph, as redesignated, immediately after paragraph (9); and

(2) in paragraph (10), as redesignated, by striking "$175,000,000" and inserting "$250,000,000".

SEC. 2222. REQUIRED REVIEW OF REGULATIONS. 12 USC 3311.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Council and each appropriate Federal banking agency represented on the Council shall conduct a review of all regulations prescribed by the Council or by any such appropriate Federal banking agency, respectively, in order to identify outdated or otherwise

unnecessary regulatory requirements imposed on insured depository institutions.

(b) PROCESS.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Council or the appropriate Federal banking agency shall—

(1) categorize the regulations described in subsection (a) by type (such as consumer regulations, safety and soundness regulations, or such other designations as determined by the Council, or the appropriate Federal banking agency); and

(2) at regular intervals, provide notice and solicit public comment on a particular category or categories of regulations, requesting commentators to identify areas of the regulations that are outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome.

(c) COMPLETE REVIEW.—The Council or the appropriate Federal banking agency shall ensure that the notice and comment period described in subsection (b)(2) is conducted with respect to all regulations described in subsection (a) not less frequently than once every 10 years.

(d) REGULATORY RESPONSE.—The Council or the appropriate Federal banking agency shall—

(1) publish in the Federal Register a summary of the comments received under this section, identifying significant issues raised and providing comment on such issues; and

(2) eliminate unnecessary regulations to the extent that such action is appropriate.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after carrying out subsection (d)(1), the Council shall submit to the Congress a report, which shall include—

(1) a summary of any significant issues raised by public comments received by the Council and the appropriate Federal banking agencies under this section and the relative merits of such issues; and

(2) an analysis of whether the appropriate Federal banking agency involved is able to address the regulatory burdens associated with such issues by regulation, or whether such burdens must be addressed by legislative action.

SEC. 2223. REPEAL OF IDENTIFICATION OF NONBANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMERS.

Subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking section 5327;

(2) in the chapter analysis, by striking the item relating to section 5327; and

(3) in section 5321(a), by striking paragraph (7).

SEC. 2224. REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FDIA.—Section 477 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 251) is repealed.

(b) FIRREA.—Section 918 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1833 note) is repealed.

12 USC 1833.

(c) ILS.—Section 913 of the International Lending Supervision Act of 1983 (12 U.S.C. 3912) is repealed.

SEC. 2225. INCREASE IN HOME MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION THRESHOLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 309 of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 2808) is amended—

(1) by striking "This title" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—This title";

(2) in the 3d sentence, by inserting "(as determined without regard to the adjustment made by subsection (b))" before the period; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) CPI ADJUSTMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the dollar amount applicable with respect to institutions described in section 303(2)(A) under the 2d sentence of subsection (a) shall be adjusted annually after December 31, 1996, by the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"(2) 1-TIME ADJUSTMENT FOR PRIOR INFLATION.—The first adjustment made under paragraph (1) after the date of the enactment of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 shall be the percentage by which—

"(A) the Consumer Price Index described in such paragraph for the calendar year 1996, exceeds

"(B) such Consumer Price Index for the calendar year 1975.

"(3) ROUNDING.—The dollar amount applicable under paragraph (1) for any calendar year shall be the amount determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000,000.".

(b) OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE COMPLIANCE BURDEN.—Section 304 of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 2803) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE COMPLIANCE BURDEN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) SATISFACTION OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A depository institution shall be deemed to have satisfied the public availability requirements of subsection (a) if the institution compiles the information required under that subsection at the home office of the institution and provides notice at the branch locations specified in subsection (a) that such information is available from the home office of the institution upon written request.

"(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION UPON REQUEST.—Not later than 15 days after the receipt of a written request for any information required to be compiled under subsection (a), the home office of the depository institution receiving the request shall provide the information pertinent to the location of the branch in question to the person requesting the information.

"(2) FORM OF INFORMATION.—In complying with paragraph (1), a depository institution shall, in the sole discretion of the institution, provide the person requesting the information with—

"(A) a paper copy of the information requested; or

"(B) if acceptable to the person, the information through a form of electronic medium, such as a computer disk.".

SEC. 2226. ELIMINATION OF STOCK LOAN REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 7(j) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(A)—

(A) by striking "financial institution and any affiliate of any financial institution" and inserting "foreign bank, or any affiliate thereof,"; and

(B) by striking "by the financial institution and such institution's affiliates" and inserting "by the foreign bank or any affiliate thereof";

(2) in paragraph (9)(B)—

(A) by striking "paragraph—" and inserting "paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:";

(B) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) FOREIGN BANK.—The terms 'foreign bank' and 'affiliate' have the same meanings as in section 1 of the International Banking Act of 1978."; and

(C) in clause (iii), by striking "financial institution" and inserting "foreign bank or any affiliate thereof";

(3) in paragraph (9)(C)—

(A) by striking "financial institution or any of its affiliates" and inserting "foreign bank or any affiliate thereof"; and

(B) by striking "financial institution or its affiliates" and inserting "foreign bank or any affiliate thereof";

(4) in paragraph (9)(D)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking "the financial institution and all affiliates of the institution" and inserting "the foreign bank and all affiliates thereof"; and

(ii) by striking "financial institution or any such affiliate" and inserting "foreign bank or affiliate thereof";

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "financial institution and any affiliate of such institution" and inserting "foreign bank and any affiliate thereof"; and

(C) in clause (iii), by striking "financial institution" and inserting "foreign bank or any affiliate thereof"; and

(5) in paragraph (9)(E)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking "a financial institution and the affiliates of such institution" and inserting "a foreign bank or any affiliate thereof"; and

(ii) by striking "institution or affiliate" each place such term appears and inserting "foreign bank or any affiliate thereof"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "financial institution and any affiliate of such institution" and inserting "foreign bank and any affiliate thereof".

12 USC 252.

SEC. 2227. CREDIT AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and once every 60 months thereafter, the Board, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Directors of the Corporation, the Administrator of the

National Credit Union Administration, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct a study and submit a report to the Congress detailing the extent of small business lending by all creditors.

(2) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall identify, to the extent practicable, those factors which provide policymakers with insights into the small business credit market, including—

(A) the demand for small business credit, including consideration of the impact of economic cycles on the levels of such demand;

(B) the availability of credit to small businesses;

(C) the range of credit options available to small businesses, such as those available from insured depository institutions and other providers of credit;

(D) the types of credit products used to finance small business operations, including the use of traditional loans, leases, lines of credit, home equity loans, credit cards, and other sources of financing;

(E) the credit needs of small businesses, including, if appropriate, the extent to which such needs differ, based upon product type, size of business, cash flow requirements, characteristics of ownership or investors, or other aspects of such business;

(F) the types of risks to creditors in providing credit to small businesses; and

(G) such other factors as the Board deems appropriate.

(b) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—The studies required by this section shall not increase the regulatory or paperwork burden on regulated financial institutions, other sources of small business credit, or small businesses.

CHAPTER 3—REGULATORY MICROMANAGEMENT RELIEF

SEC. 2241. NATIONAL BANK DIRECTORS.

Section 5146 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 72) is amended in the first sentence, by striking "except" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting the following: "except that the Comptroller may, in the discretion of the Comptroller, waive the requirement of residency.".

SEC. 2242. PAPERWORK REDUCTION REVIEW.

Section 303(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4803(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) review the extent to which existing regulations require insured depository institutions and insured credit unions to produce unnecessary internal written policies and eliminate such requirements, where appropriate;".

SEC. 2243. STATE BANK REPRESENTATION ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FDIC.

Section 2(a)(1)(C) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1812(a)(1)(C)) is amended by inserting before the period ", 1 of whom shall have State bank supervisory experience".

SEC. 2244. CONSULTATION AMONG EXAMINERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1820) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) CONSULTATION AMONG EXAMINERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each appropriate Federal banking agency shall take such action as may be necessary to ensure that examiners employed by the agency—

"(A) consult on examination activities with respect to any depository institution; and

"(B) achieve an agreement and resolve any inconsistencies in the recommendations to be given to such institution as a consequence of any examinations.

"(2) EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE.—Each appropriate Federal banking agency shall consider appointing an examiner-in-charge with respect to a depository institution to ensure consultation on examination activities among all of the examiners of that agency involved in examinations of the institution.".

(b) COORDINATED AND UNIFIED EXAMINATION FLEXIBILITY.—Section 10(d)(6)(B) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1820(d)(6)(B)) is amended by inserting "or State bank supervisors" after "one of the Federal agencies".

Subtitle C—Regulatory Impact on Cost of Credit and Credit Availability

SEC. 2301. AUDIT COSTS.

(a) AUDITOR ATTESTATIONS.—Section 36 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831m) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) [Repealed]".

(b) INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEES.—Section 36(g)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831m(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ", except as provided in subparagraph (D)" after "management of the institution"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An appropriate Federal banking agency may, by order or regulation, permit the independent audit committee of an insured depository institution to be made up of less than all, but no fewer than a majority of, outside directors, if the agency determines that the institution has encountered hardships in retaining and recruiting a sufficient number of competent outside directors to serve on the internal audit committee of the institution.

"(ii) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In determining whether an insured depository institution has encountered hardships referred to in clause (i), the appropriate Federal banking agency shall consider factors such as the size of the institution, and whether the institution has made a good faith effort to elect or name additional competent outside directors to the board of directors of the institution who may serve on the internal audit committee.".

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Section 36(a)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831m(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Corporation and the appropriate Federal banking agencies may designate certain information as privileged and confidential and not available to the public.".

SEC. 2302. INCENTIVES FOR SELF-TESTING.

(a) EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 704 the following new section:

"SEC. 704A. INCENTIVES FOR SELF-TESTING AND SELF-CORRECTION. 15 USC 1691c–l.

"(a) PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.—

"(1) CONDITIONS FOR PRIVILEGE.—A report or result of a self-test (as that term is defined by regulations of the Board) shall be considered to be privileged under paragraph (2) if a creditor—

"(A) conducts, or authorizes an independent third party to conduct, a self-test of any aspect of a credit transaction by a creditor, in order to determine the level or effectiveness of compliance with this title by the creditor; and

"(B) has identified any possible violation of this title by the creditor and has taken, or is taking, appropriate corrective action to address any such possible violation.

"(2) PRIVILEGED SELF-TEST.—If a creditor meets the conditions specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) with respect to a self-test described in that paragraph, any report or results of that self-test—

"(A) shall be privileged; and

"(B) may not be obtained or used by any applicant, department, or agency in any—

"(i) proceeding or civil action in which one or more violations of this title are alleged; or

"(ii) examination or investigation relating to compliance with this title.

"(b) RESULTS OF SELF-TESTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No provision of this section may be construed to prevent an applicant, department, or agency from obtaining or using a report or results of any self-test in any proceeding or civil action in which a violation of this title is alleged, or in any examination or investigation of compliance with this title if—

"(A) the creditor or any person with lawful access to the report or results—

"(i) voluntarily releases or discloses all, or any part of, the report or results to the applicant, department, or agency, or to the general public; or

"(ii) refers to or describes the report or results as a defense to charges of violations of this title against the creditor to whom the self-test relates; or

"(B) the report or results are sought in conjunction with an adjudication or admission of a violation of this title for the sole purpose of determining an appropriate penalty or remedy.

"(2) DISCLOSURE FOR DETERMINATION OF PENALTY OR REMEDY.—Any report or results of a self-test that are disclosed for the purpose specified in paragraph (1)(B)—

"(A) shall be used only for the particular proceeding in which the adjudication or admission referred to in paragraph (1)(B) is made; and

"(B) may not be used in any other action or proceeding.

"(c) ADJUDICATION.—An applicant, department, or agency that challenges a privilege asserted under this section may seek a determination of the existence and application of that privilege in—

"(1) a court of competent jurisdiction; or

"(2) an administrative law proceeding with appropriate jurisdiction.".

15 USC 1691c–l note.

(2) REGULATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the agencies referred to in section 704 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Board shall prescribe final regulations to implement section 704A of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, as added by this section.

(B) SELF-TEST.—

(i) DEFINITION.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall include a definition of the term "self-test" for purposes of section 704A of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, as added by this section.

(ii) REQUIREMENT FOR SELF-TEST.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall specify that a self-test shall be sufficiently extensive to constitute a determination of the level and effectiveness of compliance by a creditor with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

(iii) SUBSTANTIAL SIMILARITY TO CERTAIN FAIR HOUSING ACT REGULATIONS.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall be substantially similar to the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out section 814A(d) of the Fair Housing Act, as added by this section.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for title VII of the Consumer Credit Protection Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 704 the following new item:

"704A. Incentives for self-testing and self-correction.".

(b) FAIR HOUSING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 814 the following new section:

"SEC. 814A. INCENTIVES FOR SELF-TESTING AND SELF-CORRECTION. 42 USC 3614–1.

"(a) PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.—

"(1) CONDITIONS FOR PRIVILEGE.—A report or result of a self-test (as that term is defined by regulation of the Secretary) shall be considered to be privileged under paragraph (2) if any person—

"(A) conducts, or authorizes an independent third party to conduct, a self-test of any aspect of a residential real estate related lending transaction of that person, or any part of that transaction, in order to determine the level or effectiveness of compliance with this title by that person; and

"(B) has identified any possible violation of this title by that person and has taken, or is taking, appropriate corrective action to address any such possible violation.

"(2) PRIVILEGED SELF-TEST.—If a person meets the conditions specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) with respect to a self-test described in that paragraph, any report or results of that self-test—

"(A) shall be privileged; and

"(B) may not be obtained or used by any applicant, department, or agency in any—

"(i) proceeding or civil action in which one or more violations of this title are alleged; or

"(ii) examination or investigation relating to compliance with this title.

"(b) RESULTS OF SELF-TESTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No provision of this section may be construed to prevent an aggrieved person, complainant, department, or agency from obtaining or using a report or results of any self-test in any proceeding or civil action in which a violation of this title is alleged, or in any examination or investigation of compliance with this title if—

"(A) the person to whom the self-test relates or any person with lawful access to the report or the results—

"(i) voluntarily releases or discloses all, or any part of, the report or results to the aggrieved person, complainant, department, or agency, or to the general public; or

"(ii) refers to or describes the report or results as a defense to charges of violations of this title against the person to whom the self-test relates; or

"(B) the report or results are sought in conjunction with an adjudication or admission of a violation of this title for the sole purpose of determining an appropriate penalty or remedy.

"(2) DISCLOSURE FOR DETERMINATION OF PENALTY OR REMEDY.—Any report or results of a self-test that are disclosed for the purpose specified in paragraph (1)(B)—

"(A) shall be used only for the particular proceeding in which the adjudication or admission referred to in paragraph (1)(B) is made; and

"(B) may not be used in any other action or proceeding.

"(c) ADJUDICATION.—An aggrieved person, complainant, department, or agency that challenges a privilege asserted under this section may seek a determination of the existence and application of that privilege in—

"(1) a court of competent jurisdiction; or

"(2) an administrative law proceeding with appropriate jurisdiction.".

42 USC 3614–1 note.

(2) REGULATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with the Board and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall prescribe final regulations to implement section 814A of the Fair Housing Act, as added by this section.

(B) SELF-TEST.—

(i) DEFINITION.—The regulations prescribed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall include a definition of the term "self-test" for purposes of section 814A of the Fair Housing Act, as added by this section.

(ii) REQUIREMENT FOR SELF-TEST.—The regulations prescribed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall specify that a self-test shall be sufficiently extensive to constitute a determination of the level and effectiveness of the compliance by a person engaged in residential real estate related lending activities with the Fair Housing Act.

(iii) SUBSTANTIAL SIMILARITY TO CERTAIN EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT REGULATIONS.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall be substantially similar to the regulations prescribed by the Board to carry out section 704A of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, as added by this section.

15 USC 1691c–1 note.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the privilege provided for in section 704A of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act or section 814A of the Fair Housing Act (as those sections are added by this section) shall apply to a self-test (as that term is defined pursuant to the regulations prescribed under subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) of this section, as appropriate) conducted before, on, or after the effective date of the regulations prescribed under subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2), as appropriate.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The privilege referred to in paragraph (1) does not apply to such a self-test conducted before the effective date of the regulations prescribed under subsection (a) or (b), as appropriate, if—

(A) before that effective date, a complaint against the creditor or person engaged in residential real estate related lending activities (as the case may be) was—

(i) formally filed in any court of competent jurisdiction; or

(ii) the subject of an ongoing administrative law proceeding;

(B) in the case of section 704A of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the creditor has waived the privilege pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A)(i) of that section; or

(C) in the case of section 814A of the Fair Housing Act, the person engaged in residential real estate related lending activities has waived the privilege pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A)(i) of that section.

SEC. 2303. QUALIFIED THRIFT INVESTMENT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CREDIT CARDS.—Section 5(b) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) LOANS OR INVESTMENTS WITHOUT PERCENTAGE OF ASSETS LIMITATION.—Section 5(c)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(c)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(T) CREDIT CARD LOANS.—Loans made through credit cards or credit card accounts.

"(U) EDUCATIONAL LOANS.—Loans made for the payment of educational expenses.".

(c) COMMERCIAL AND OTHER LOANS.—Section 5(c)(2)(A) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(c)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) COMMERCIAL AND OTHER LOANS.—Secured or unsecured loans for commercial, corporate, business, or agricultural purposes. The aggregate amount of loans made under this subparagraph may not exceed 20 percent of the total assets of the Federal savings association, and amounts in excess of 10 percent of such total assets may be used under this subparagraph only for small business loans, as that term is defined by the Director.".

(d) LOANS OR INVESTMENTS LIMITED TO 5 PERCENT OF ASSETS.—Section 5(c)(3) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A); and

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

(e) QUALIFIED THRIFT LENDER TEST.—Section 10(m)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(m)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as clause (ii);

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "(A) the savings" and inserting "(B)(i) the savings"; and

(3) by inserting after "if—" the following new subparagraph:

"(A) the savings association qualifies as a domestic building and loan association, as such term is defined in section 7701(a)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or".

(f) BRANCHING.—Section 5(r) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(r)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting before the period ", or qualifies as a qualified thrift lender, as determined under section 10(m) of this Act"; and

(ii) by striking "(c)" and inserting "(C)"; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting before the period "or as a qualified thrift lender, as determined under section 10(m) of this Act, as applicable"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) the law of the State where the branch is located, or is to be located, would permit establishment of the branch if the association was a savings association or savings bank

chartered by the State in which its home office is located; or".

(g) DEFINITION.—Section 10(m)(4) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(m)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking "subsection—" and inserting "subsection, the following definitions shall apply:";

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (ii), by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(VII) Loans for educational purposes, loans to small businesses, and loans made through credit cards or credit card accounts."; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking subclause (VI) and inserting the following:

"(VI) Loans for personal, family, or household purposes (other than loans for personal, family, or household purposes described in clause (ii)(VII))."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(D) CREDIT CARD.—The Director shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to define the term 'credit card'.

"(E) SMALL BUSINESS.—The Director shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to define the term 'small business'.".

SEC. 2304. LIMITED PURPOSE BANKS.

(a) GROWTH CAP RELIEF.—Section 4(f)(3)(B) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1843(f)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by adding "or" at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking "; or" at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking clause (iv).

(b) LIMITED PURPOSE BANK EXCEPTION.—Section 2(c)(2)(F) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841(c)(2)(F)) is amended by inserting ", including an institution that accepts collateral for extensions of credit by holding deposits under $100,000, and by other means" after "An institution".

SEC. 2305. AMENDMENT TO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 807(11) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692e(11)) is amended to read as follows:

"(11) The failure to disclose in the initial written communication with the consumer and, in addition, if the initial communication with the consumer is oral, in that initial oral communication, that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose, and the failure to disclose in subsequent communications that the communication is from a debt collector, except that this paragraph shall not apply to a formal pleading made in connection with a legal action.".

15 USC 1692e note.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to all communications made after that date of enactment.

SEC. 2306. INCREASE IN CERTAIN CREDIT UNION LOAN CEILINGS.

Section 107(5)(A) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(5)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking "$10,000" and inserting "$20,000"; and

(2) in clause (v), by striking "$10,000" and inserting "$20,000".

SEC. 2307. BANK INVESTMENTS IN EDGE ACT AND AGREEMENT CORPORATIONS.

The 10th undesignated paragraph of section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 618) is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: "Any national bank may invest in the stock of any corporation organized under this section. The aggregate amount of stock held by any national bank in all corporations engaged in business of the kind described in this section or section 25 shall not exceed an amount equal to 10 percent of the capital and surplus of such bank unless the Board determines that the investment of an additional amount by the bank would not be unsafe or unsound and, in any case, shall not exceed an amount equal to 20 percent of the capital and surplus of such bank.".

Subtitle D—Consumer Credit

CHAPTER 1—CREDIT REPORTING REFORM

Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996.
15 USC 1601 note.

SEC. 2401. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the "Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996".

SEC. 2402. DEFINITIONS.

(a) ADVERSE ACTION.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) ADVERSE ACTION.—

"(1) ACTIONS INCLUDED.—The term 'adverse action'—

"(A) has the same meaning as in section 701(d)(6) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; and

"(B) means—

"(i) a denial or cancellation of, an increase in any charge for, or a reduction or other adverse or unfavorable change in the terms of coverage or amount of, any insurance, existing or applied for, in connection with the underwriting of insurance;

"(ii) a denial of employment or any other decision for employment purposes that adversely affects any current or prospective employee;

"(iii) a denial or cancellation of, an increase in any charge for, or any other adverse or unfavorable change in the terms of, any license or benefit described in section 604(a)(3)(D); and

"(iv) an action taken or determination that is—

"(I) made in connection with an application that was made by, or a transaction that was initiated by, any consumer, or in connection with a

review of an account under section 604(a)(3)(F)(ii); and

"(II) adverse to the interests of the consumer.

"(2) APPLICABLE FINDINGS, DECISIONS, COMMENTARY, AND ORDERS.—For purposes of any determination of whether an action is an adverse action under paragraph (1)(A), all appropriate final findings, decisions, commentary, and orders issued under section 701(d)(6) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any court shall apply.".

(b) FIRM OFFER OF CREDIT OR INSURANCE.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(*l*) FIRM OFFER OF CREDIT OR INSURANCE.—The term 'firm offer of credit or insurance' means any offer of credit or insurance to a consumer that will be honored if the consumer is determined, based on information in a consumer report on the consumer, to meet the specific criteria used to select the consumer for the offer, except that the offer may be further conditioned on one or more of the following:

"(1) The consumer being determined, based on information in the consumer's application for the credit or insurance, to meet specific criteria bearing on credit worthiness or insurability, as applicable, that are established—

"(A) before selection of the consumer for the offer; and

"(B) for the purpose of determining whether to extend credit or insurance pursuant to the offer.

"(2) Verification—

"(A) that the consumer continues to meet the specific criteria used to select the consumer for the offer, by using information in a consumer report on the consumer, information in the consumer's application for the credit or insurance, or other information bearing on the credit worthiness or insurability of the consumer; or

"(B) of the information in the consumer's application for the credit or insurance, to determine that the consumer meets the specific criteria bearing on credit worthiness or insurability.

"(3) The consumer furnishing any collateral that is a requirement for the extension of the credit or insurance that was—

"(A) established before selection of the consumer for the offer of credit or insurance; and

"(B) disclosed to the consumer in the offer of credit or insurance.".

(c) CREDIT OR INSURANCE TRANSACTION THAT IS NOT INITIATED BY THE CONSUMER.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) (as amended by subsection (b) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) CREDIT OR INSURANCE TRANSACTION THAT IS NOT INITIATED BY THE CONSUMER.—The term 'credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer' does not include the use of a consumer report by a person with which the consumer has an account or insurance policy, for purposes of—

"(1) reviewing the account or insurance policy; or

"(2) collecting the account.".

(d) STATE.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) (as amended by subsection (c) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(n) STATE.—The term 'State' means any State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States.".

(e) DEFINITION OF CONSUMER REPORT.—Section 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(d) The term" and inserting the following: "(d) CONSUMER REPORT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term";

(2) by striking "for (1) credit" and inserting the following: "for—

"(A) credit";

(3) by striking "purposes, or (2)" and all that follows through "section 604." and inserting the following: "purposes;

"(B) employment purposes; or

"(C) any other purpose authorized under section 604."; and

(4) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

"(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'consumer report' does not include—

"(A) any—

"(i) report containing information solely as to transactions or experiences between the consumer and the person making the report;

"(ii) communication of that information among persons related by common ownership or affiliated by corporate control; or

"(iii) any communication of other information among persons related by common ownership or affiliated by corporate control, if it is clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the consumer that the information may be communicated among such persons and the consumer is given the opportunity, before the time that the information is initially communicated, to direct that such information not be communicated among such persons;

"(B) any authorization or approval of a specific extension of credit directly or indirectly by the issuer of a credit card or similar device;

"(C) any report in which a person who has been requested by a third party to make a specific extension of credit directly or indirectly to a consumer conveys his or her decision with respect to such request, if the third party advises the consumer of the name and address of the person to whom the request was made, and such person makes the disclosures to the consumer required under section 615; or

"(D) a communication described in subsection (o).".

(f) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES FROM DEFINITION OF CONSUMER REPORT.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(o) EXCLUDED COMMUNICATIONS.—A communication is described in this subsection if it is a communication—

"(1) that, but for subsection (d)(2)(E), would be an investigative consumer report;

"(2) that is made to a prospective employer for the purpose of—

"(A) procuring an employee for the employer; or

"(B) procuring an opportunity for a natural person to work for the employer;

"(3) that is made by a person who regularly performs such procurement;

"(4) that is not used by any person for any purpose other than a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2); or

"(5) with respect to which—

"(A) the consumer who is the subject of the communication—

"(i) consents orally or in writing to the nature and scope of the communication, before the collection of any information for the purpose of making the communication;

"(ii) consents orally or in writing to the making of the communication to a prospective employer, before the making of the communication; and

"(iii) in the case of consent under clause (i) or (ii) given orally, is provided written confirmation of that consent by the person making the communication, not later than 3 business days after the receipt of the consent by that person;

"(B) the person who makes the communication does not, for the purpose of making the communication, make any inquiry that if made by a prospective employer of the consumer who is the subject of the communication would violate any applicable Federal or State equal employment opportunity law or regulation; and

"(C) the person who makes the communication—

"(i) discloses in writing to the consumer who is the subject of the communication, not later than 5 business days after receiving any request from the consumer for such disclosure, the nature and substance of all information in the consumer's file at the time of the request, except that the sources of any information that is acquired solely for use in making the communication and is actually used for no other purpose, need not be disclosed other than under appropriate discovery procedures in any court of competent jurisdiction in which an action is brought; and

"(ii) notifies the consumer who is the subject of the communication, in writing, of the consumer's right to request the information described in clause (i).".

(g) CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY THAT COMPILES AND MAINTAINS FILES ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS.—Section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a) (as amended by subsection (f) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(p) CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY THAT COMPILES AND MAINTAINS FILES ON CONSUMERS ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS.—The term

'consumer reporting agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis' means a consumer reporting agency that regularly engages in the practice of assembling or evaluating, and maintaining, for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties bearing on a consumer's credit worthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity, each of the following regarding consumers residing nationwide:

"(1) Public record information.

"(2) Credit account information from persons who furnish that information regularly and in the ordinary course of business.".

SEC. 2403. FURNISHING CONSUMER REPORTS; USE FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.

(a) FURNISHING CONSUMER REPORTS FOR BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS.—Section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "A consumer reporting agency"; and

(2) in subsection (a)(3) (as so designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

"(E) intends to use the information, as a potential investor or servicer, or current insurer, in connection with a valuation of, or an assessment of the credit or prepayment risks associated with, an existing credit obligation; or

"(F) otherwise has a legitimate business need for the information—

"(i) in connection with a business transaction that is initiated by the consumer; or

"(ii) to review an account to determine whether the consumer continues to meet the terms of the account.".

(b) FURNISHING AND USING CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.—Section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) CONDITIONS FOR FURNISHING AND USING CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.—

"(1) CERTIFICATION FROM USER.—A consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer report for employment purposes only if—

"(A) the person who obtains such report from the agency certifies to the agency that—

"(i) the person has complied with paragraph (2) with respect to the consumer report, and the person will comply with paragraph (3) with respect to the consumer report if paragraph (3) becomes applicable; and

"(ii) information from the consumer report will not be used in violation of any applicable Federal or State equal employment opportunity law or regulation; and

"(B) the consumer reporting agency provides with the report a summary of the consumer's rights under this title, as prescribed by the Federal Trade Commission under section 609(c)(3).

"(2) DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER.—A person may not procure a consumer report, or cause a consumer report to be procured, for employment purposes with respect to any consumer, unless—

"(A) a clear and conspicuous disclosure has been made in writing to the consumer at any time before the report is procured or caused to be procured, in a document that consists solely of the disclosure, that a consumer report may be obtained for employment purposes; and

"(B) the consumer has authorized in writing the procurement of the report by that person.

"(3) CONDITIONS ON USE FOR ADVERSE ACTIONS.—In using a consumer report for employment purposes, before taking any adverse action based in whole or in part on the report, the person intending to take such adverse action shall provide to the consumer to whom the report relates—

"(A) a copy of the report; and

"(B) a description in writing of the rights of the consumer under this title, as prescribed by the Federal Trade Commission under section 609(c)(3).".

SEC. 2404. USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS FOR PRESCREENING; PROHIBITION ON UNAUTHORIZED OR UNCERTIFIED USE OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b) (as amended by section 2403 of this chapter) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "A consumer reporting agency" and inserting "Subject to subsection (c), any consumer reporting agency"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(c) FURNISHING REPORTS IN CONNECTION WITH CREDIT OR INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE NOT INITIATED BY THE CONSUMER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer report relating to any consumer pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (C) of subsection (a)(3) in connection with any credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer only if—

"(A) the consumer authorizes the agency to provide such report to such person; or

"(B)(i) the transaction consists of a firm offer of credit or insurance;

"(ii) the consumer reporting agency has complied with subsection (e); and

"(iii) there is not in effect an election by the consumer, made in accordance with subsection (e), to have the consumer's name and address excluded from lists of names provided by the agency pursuant to this paragraph.

"(2) LIMITS ON INFORMATION RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(B).—A person may receive pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) only—

"(A) the name and address of a consumer;

"(B) an identifier that is not unique to the consumer and that is used by the person solely for the purpose of verifying the identity of the consumer; and

"(C) other information pertaining to a consumer that does not identify the relationship or experience of the consumer with respect to a particular creditor or other entity.

"(3) INFORMATION REGARDING INQUIRIES.—Except as provided in section 609(a)(5), a consumer reporting agency shall not furnish to any person a record of inquiries in connection with a credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by a consumer.

"(d) RESERVED

"(e) ELECTION OF CONSUMER TO BE EXCLUDED FROM LISTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A consumer may elect to have the consumer's name and address excluded from any list provided by a consumer reporting agency under subsection (c)(1)(B) in connection with a credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer, by notifying the agency in accordance with paragraph (2) that the consumer does not consent to any use of a consumer report relating to the consumer in connection with any credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer.

"(2) MANNER OF NOTIFICATION.—A consumer shall notify a consumer reporting agency under paragraph (1)—

"(A) through the notification system maintained by the agency under paragraph (5); or

"(B) by submitting to the agency a signed notice of election form issued by the agency for purposes of this subparagraph.

"(3) RESPONSE OF AGENCY AFTER NOTIFICATION THROUGH SYSTEM.—Upon receipt of notification of the election of a consumer under paragraph (1) through the notification system maintained by the agency under paragraph (5), a consumer reporting agency shall—

"(A) inform the consumer that the election is effective only for the 2-year period following the election if the consumer does not submit to the agency a signed notice of election form issued by the agency for purposes of paragraph (2)(B); and

"(B) provide to the consumer a notice of election form, if requested by the consumer, not later than 5 business days after receipt of the notification of the election through the system established under paragraph (5), in the case of a request made at the time the consumer provides notification through the system.

"(4) EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTION.—An election of a consumer under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be effective with respect to a consumer reporting agency beginning 5 business days after the date on which the consumer notifies the agency in accordance with paragraph (2);

"(B) shall be effective with respect to a consumer reporting agency—

"(i) subject to subparagraph (C), during the 2-year period beginning 5 business days after the date on which the consumer notifies the agency of the election, in the case of an election for which a consumer notifies the agency only in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); or

"(ii) until the consumer notifies the agency under subparagraph (C), in the case of an election for which a consumer notifies the agency in accordance with paragraph (2)(B);

"(C) shall not be effective after the date on which the consumer notifies the agency, through the notification system established by the agency under paragraph (5), that the election is no longer effective; and

"(D) shall be effective with respect to each affiliate of the agency.

"(5) NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each consumer reporting agency that, under subsection (c)(1)(B), furnishes a consumer report in connection with a credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by a consumer, shall—

"(i) establish and maintain a notification system, including a toll-free telephone number, which permits any consumer whose consumer report is maintained by the agency to notify the agency, with appropriate identification, of the consumer's election to have the consumer's name and address excluded from any such list of names and addresses provided by the agency for such a transaction; and

"(ii) publish by not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996, and not less than annually thereafter, in a publication of general circulation in the area served by the agency—

"(I) a notification that information in consumer files maintained by the agency may be used in connection with such transactions; and

"(II) the address and toll-free telephone number for consumers to use to notify the agency of the consumer's election under clause (i).

"(B) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE AS COMPLIANCE.—Establishment and maintenance of a notification system (including a toll-free telephone number) and publication by a consumer reporting agency on the agency's own behalf and on behalf of any of its affiliates in accordance with this paragraph is deemed to be compliance with this paragraph by each of those affiliates.

"(6) NOTIFICATION SYSTEM BY AGENCIES THAT OPERATE NATIONWIDE.—Each consumer reporting agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis shall establish and maintain a notification system for purposes of paragraph (5) jointly with other such consumer reporting agencies.".

(b) USE OF INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM REPORTS.—Section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b) (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) CERTAIN USE OR OBTAINING OF INFORMATION PROHIBITED.—A person shall not use or obtain a consumer report for any purpose unless—

"(1) the consumer report is obtained for a purpose for which the consumer report is authorized to be furnished under this section; and

"(2) the purpose is certified in accordance with section 607 by a prospective user of the report through a general or specific certification.".

(c) FTC GUIDELINES REGARDING PRESCREENING FOR INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue such guidelines as it deems necessary with respect to the use of consumer reports in connection with insurance transactions that are not initiated by the consumer pursuant to section 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section. 15 USC 1681b note.

SEC. 2405. CONSUMER CONSENT REQUIRED TO FURNISH CONSUMER REPORT CONTAINING MEDICAL INFORMATION.

Section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) FURNISHING REPORTS CONTAINING MEDICAL INFORMATION.—A consumer reporting agency shall not furnish for employment purposes, or in connection with a credit or insurance transaction or a direct marketing transaction, a consumer report that contains medical information about a consumer, unless the consumer consents to the furnishing of the report.".

SEC. 2406. OBSOLETE INFORMATION AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CONSUMER REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO LARGE-DOLLAR EXCEPTION.—Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) is amended—

(1) by inserting "INFORMATION EXCLUDED FROM CONSUMER REPORTS.—" after "(a)";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "$50,000" and inserting "$150,000";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "$50,000" and inserting "$150,000"; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$75,000".

(b) CLARIFICATION OF REPORTING PERIOD.—Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) RUNNING OF REPORTING PERIOD.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The 7-year period referred to in paragraphs (4) and (6) of subsection (a) shall begin, with respect to any delinquent account that is placed for collection (internally or by referral to a third party, whichever is earlier), charged to profit and loss, or subjected to any similar action, upon the expiration of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the commencement of the delinquency which immediately preceded the collection activity, charge to profit and loss, or similar action.

"(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall apply only to items of information added to the file of a consumer on or after the date that is 455 days after the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996.".

(c) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BANKRUPTCY FILINGS REQUIRED.—Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE DISCLOSED.—Any consumer reporting agency that furnishes a consumer report that contains

information regarding any case involving the consumer that arises under title 11, United States Code, shall include in the report an identification of the chapter of such title 11 under which such case arises if provided by the source of the information. If any case arising or filed under title 11, United States Code, is withdrawn by the consumer before a final judgment, the consumer reporting agency shall include in the report that such case or filing was withdrawn upon receipt of documentation certifying such withdrawal.".

(d) INDICATION OF CLOSURE OF ACCOUNT; INDICATION OF DISPUTE BY CONSUMER.—Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(e) INDICATION OF CLOSURE OF ACCOUNT BY CONSUMER.—If a consumer reporting agency is notified pursuant to section 623(a)(4) that a credit account of a consumer was voluntarily closed by the consumer, the agency shall indicate that fact in any consumer report that includes information related to the account.

"(f) INDICATION OF DISPUTE BY CONSUMER.—If a consumer reporting agency is notified pursuant to section 623(a)(3) that information regarding a consumer who was furnished to the agency is disputed by the consumer, the agency shall indicate that fact in each consumer report that includes the disputed information.".

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) is amended in the section heading, by striking "**OBSOLETE INFORMATION**" and inserting "**REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CONSUMER REPORTS**".

(2) The table of sections for the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a et seq.) is amended by striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following:

"605. Requirements relating to information contained in consumer reports.".

SEC. 2407. COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES.

(a) DISCLOSURE OF CONSUMER REPORTS BY USERS.—Section 607 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) DISCLOSURE OF CONSUMER REPORTS BY USERS ALLOWED.—A consumer reporting agency may not prohibit a user of a consumer report furnished by the agency on a consumer from disclosing the contents of the report to the consumer, if adverse action against the consumer has been taken by the user based in whole or in part on the report.".

(b) NOTICE TO USERS AND PROVIDERS OF INFORMATION TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.—Section 607 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended by adding after subsection (c) (as added by subsection (a) of this section) the following new subsection:

"(d) NOTICE TO USERS AND FURNISHERS OF INFORMATION.—

"(1) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—A consumer reporting agency shall provide to any person—

"(A) who regularly and in the ordinary course of business furnishes information to the agency with respect to any consumer; or

"(B) to whom a consumer report is provided by the agency;

a notice of such person's responsibilities under this title.

"(2) CONTENT OF NOTICE.—The Federal Trade Commission shall prescribe the content of notices under paragraph (1), and a consumer reporting agency shall be in compliance with this subsection if it provides a notice under paragraph (1) that is substantially similar to the Federal Trade Commission prescription under this paragraph.".

(c) RECORD OF IDENTITY OF USERS AND PURPOSES CERTIFIED BY USERS OF REPORTS.—Section 607 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended by adding after subsection (d) (as added by subsection (b) of this section) the following new subsection:

"(e) PROCUREMENT OF CONSUMER REPORT FOR RESALE.—

"(1) DISCLOSURE.—A person may not procure a consumer report for purposes of reselling the report (or any information in the report) unless the person discloses to the consumer reporting agency that originally furnishes the report—

"(A) the identity of the end-user of the report (or information); and

"(B) each permissible purpose under section 604 for which the report is furnished to the end-user of the report (or information).

"(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROCURERS FOR RESALE.—A person who procures a consumer report for purposes of reselling the report (or any information in the report) shall—

"(A) establish and comply with reasonable procedures designed to ensure that the report (or information) is resold by the person only for a purpose for which the report may be furnished under section 604, including by requiring that each person to which the report (or information) is resold and that resells or provides the report (or information) to any other person—

"(i) identifies each end user of the resold report (or information);

"(ii) certifies each purpose for which the report (or information) will be used; and

"(iii) certifies that the report (or information) will be used for no other purpose; and

"(B) before reselling the report, make reasonable efforts to verify the identifications and certifications made under subparagraph (A).".

SEC. 2408. CONSUMER DISCLOSURES.

(a) ALL INFORMATION IN CONSUMER'S FILE REQUIRED TO BE DISCLOSED.—Section 609(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) All information in the consumer's file at the time of the request, except that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a consumer reporting agency to disclose to a consumer any information concerning credit scores or any other risk scores or predictors relating to the consumer.".

(b) MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING RECIPIENTS OF REPORTS REQUIRED.—Section 609(a)(3) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3)(A) Identification of each person (including each end-user identified under section 607(e)(1)) that procured a consumer report—

"(i) for employment purposes, during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the request is made; or

"(ii) for any other purpose, during the 1-year period preceding the date on which the request is made.

"(B) An identification of a person under subparagraph (A) shall include—

"(i) the name of the person or, if applicable, the trade name (written in full) under which such person conducts business; and

"(ii) upon request of the consumer, the address and telephone number of the person.".

(c) INFORMATION REGARDING INQUIRIES.—Section 609(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) A record of all inquiries received by the agency during the 1-year period preceding the request that identified the consumer in connection with a credit or insurance transaction that was not initiated by the consumer.".

(d) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED WITH DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED WITH DISCLOSURE.—

"(1) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS.—A consumer reporting agency shall provide to a consumer, with each written disclosure by the agency to the consumer under this section—

"(A) a written summary of all of the rights that the consumer has under this title; and

"(B) in the case of a consumer reporting agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis, a toll-free telephone number established by the agency, at which personnel are accessible to consumers during normal business hours.

"(2) SPECIFIC ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.—The summary of rights required under paragraph (1) shall include—

"(A) a brief description of this title and all rights of consumers under this title;

"(B) an explanation of how the consumer may exercise the rights of the consumer under this title;

"(C) a list of all Federal agencies responsible for enforcing any provision of this title and the address and any appropriate phone number of each such agency, in a form that will assist the consumer in selecting the appropriate agency;

"(D) a statement that the consumer may have additional rights under State law and that the consumer may wish to contact a State or local consumer protection agency or a State attorney general to learn of those rights; and

"(E) a statement that a consumer reporting agency is not required to remove accurate derogatory information from a consumer's file, unless the information is outdated under section 605 or cannot be verified.

"(3) FORM OF SUMMARY OF RIGHTS.—For purposes of this subsection and any disclosure by a consumer reporting agency required under this title with respect to consumers' rights, the Federal Trade Commission (after consultation with each Federal agency referred to in section 621(b)) shall prescribe the form and content of any such disclosure of the rights of consumers required under this title. A consumer reporting agency shall be in compliance with this subsection if it provides disclosures under paragraph (1) that are substantially similar to the Federal Trade Commission prescription under this paragraph.

"(4) EFFECTIVENESS.—No disclosures shall be required under this subsection until the date on which the Federal Trade Commission prescribes the form and content of such disclosures under paragraph (3).".

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 606(a)(1)(B) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681d(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting "and the written summary of the rights of the consumer prepared pursuant to section 609(c)" before the semicolon.

(e) FORM OF DISCLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 610 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681h) are amended to read as follows:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) PROPER IDENTIFICATION.—A consumer reporting agency shall require, as a condition of making the disclosures required under section 609, that the consumer furnish proper identification.

"(2) DISCLOSURE IN WRITING.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the disclosures required to be made under section 609 shall be provided under that section in writing.

"(b) OTHER FORMS OF DISCLOSURE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If authorized by a consumer, a consumer reporting agency may make the disclosures required under 609—

"(A) other than in writing; and

"(B) in such form as may be—

"(i) specified by the consumer in accordance with paragraph (2); and

"(ii) available from the agency.

"(2) FORM.—A consumer may specify pursuant to paragraph (1) that disclosures under section 609 shall be made—

"(A) in person, upon the appearance of the consumer at the place of business of the consumer reporting agency where disclosures are regularly provided, during normal business hours, and on reasonable notice;

"(B) by telephone, if the consumer has made a written request for disclosure by telephone;

"(C) by electronic means, if available from the agency; or

"(D) by any other reasonable means that is available from the agency.".

(2) SIMPLIFIED DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each consumer reporting agency shall develop a form on which such consumer reporting agency shall make the disclosures required under section 609(a)

15 USC 1681g note.

of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, for the purpose of maximizing the comprehensibility and standardization of such disclosures.

15 USC 1681g note.

(3) GOALS.—The Federal Trade Commission shall take appropriate action to assure that the goals of comprehensibility and standardization are achieved in accordance with paragraph (2).

(4) DEFAMATION.—Section 610(e) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681h(e)) is amended by inserting "or based on information disclosed by a user of a consumer report to or for a consumer against whom the user has taken adverse action, based in whole or in part on the report" before "except".

(5) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

15 USC 1681g.

(A) in section 609(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "and proper identification of any consumer" and inserting ", and subject to section 610(a)(1)";

15 USC 1681h.

(B) in section 610, in the section heading, by inserting "**AND FORM**" after "**CONDITIONS**"; and

(C) in the table of sections at the beginning of that Act, in the item relating to section 610, by inserting "and form" after "conditions".

SEC. 2409. PROCEDURES IN CASE OF THE DISPUTED ACCURACY OF ANY INFORMATION IN A CONSUMER'S FILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 611(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681i(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) REINVESTIGATIONS OF DISPUTED INFORMATION.—

"(1) REINVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the completeness or accuracy of any item of information contained in a consumer's file at a consumer reporting agency is disputed by the consumer and the consumer notifies the agency directly of such dispute, the agency shall reinvestigate free of charge and record the current status of the disputed information, or delete the item from the file in accordance with paragraph (5), before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the agency receives the notice of the dispute from the consumer.

"(B) EXTENSION OF PERIOD TO REINVESTIGATE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the 30-day period described in subparagraph (A) may be extended for not more than 15 additional days if the consumer reporting agency receives information from the consumer during that 30-day period that is relevant to the reinvestigation.

"(C) LIMITATIONS ON EXTENSION OF PERIOD TO REINVESTIGATE.—Subparagraph (B) shall not apply to any reinvestigation in which, during the 30-day period described in subparagraph (A), the information that is the subject of the reinvestigation is found to be inaccurate or incomplete or the consumer reporting agency determines that the information cannot be verified.

"(2) PROMPT NOTICE OF DISPUTE TO FURNISHER OF INFORMATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the expiration of the 5-business-day period beginning on the date on which a consumer reporting agency receives notice of a dispute from any consumer in accordance with paragraph (1), the agency

shall provide notification of the dispute to any person who provided any item of information in dispute, at the address and in the manner established with the person. The notice shall include all relevant information regarding the dispute that the agency has received from the consumer.

"(B) PROVISION OF OTHER INFORMATION FROM CONSUMER.—The consumer reporting agency shall promptly provide to the person who provided the information in dispute all relevant information regarding the dispute that is received by the agency from the consumer after the period referred to in subparagraph (A) and before the end of the period referred to in paragraph (1)(A).

"(3) DETERMINATION THAT DISPUTE IS FRIVOLOUS OR IRRELEVANT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a consumer reporting agency may terminate a reinvestigation of information disputed by a consumer under that paragraph if the agency reasonably determines that the dispute by the consumer is frivolous or irrelevant, including by reason of a failure by a consumer to provide sufficient information to investigate the disputed information.

"(B) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—Upon making any determination in accordance with subparagraph (A) that a dispute is frivolous or irrelevant, a consumer reporting agency shall notify the consumer of such determination not later than 5 business days after making such determination, by mail or, if authorized by the consumer for that purpose, by any other means available to the agency.

"(C) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—A notice under subparagraph (B) shall include—

"(i) the reasons for the determination under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) identification of any information required to investigate the disputed information, which may consist of a standardized form describing the general nature of such information.

"(4) CONSIDERATION OF CONSUMER INFORMATION.—In conducting any reinvestigation under paragraph (1) with respect to disputed information in the file of any consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall review and consider all relevant information submitted by the consumer in the period described in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to such disputed information.

"(5) TREATMENT OF INACCURATE OR UNVERIFIABLE INFORMATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If, after any reinvestigation under paragraph (1) of any information disputed by a consumer, an item of the information is found to be inaccurate or incomplete or cannot be verified, the consumer reporting agency shall promptly delete that item of information from the consumer's file or modify that item of information, as appropriate, based on the results of the reinvestigation.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO REINSERTION OF PREVIOUSLY DELETED MATERIAL.—

"(i) CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF INFORMATION.—If any information is deleted from a consumer's file pursuant to subparagraph (A), the information may

not be reinserted in the file by the consumer reporting agency unless the person who furnishes the information certifies that the information is complete and accurate.

"(ii) NOTICE TO CONSUMER.—If any information that has been deleted from a consumer's file pursuant to subparagraph (A) is reinserted in the file, the consumer reporting agency shall notify the consumer of the reinsertion in writing not later than 5 business days after the reinsertion or, if authorized by the consumer for that purpose, by any other means available to the agency.

"(iii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—As part of, or in addition to, the notice under clause (ii), a consumer reporting agency shall provide to a consumer in writing not later than 5 business days after the date of the reinsertion—

"(I) a statement that the disputed information has been reinserted;

"(II) the business name and address of any furnisher of information contacted and the telephone number of such furnisher, if reasonably available, or of any furnisher of information that contacted the consumer reporting agency, in connection with the reinsertion of such information; and

"(III) a notice that the consumer has the right to add a statement to the consumer's file disputing the accuracy or completeness of the disputed information.

"(C) PROCEDURES TO PREVENT REAPPEARANCE.—A consumer reporting agency shall maintain reasonable procedures designed to prevent the reappearance in a consumer's file, and in consumer reports on the consumer, of information that is deleted pursuant to this paragraph (other than information that is reinserted in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i)).

"(D) AUTOMATED REINVESTIGATION SYSTEM.—Any consumer reporting agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis shall implement an automated system through which furnishers of information to that consumer reporting agency may report the results of a reinvestigation that finds incomplete or inaccurate information in a consumer's file to other such consumer reporting agencies.

"(6) NOTICE OF RESULTS OF REINVESTIGATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency shall provide written notice to a consumer of the results of a reinvestigation under this subsection not later than 5 business days after the completion of the reinvestigation, by mail or, if authorized by the consumer for that purpose, by other means available to the agency.

"(B) CONTENTS.—As part of, or in addition to, the notice under subparagraph (A), a consumer reporting agency shall provide to a consumer in writing before the expiration of the 5-day period referred to in subparagraph (A)—

"(i) a statement that the reinvestigation is completed;

"(ii) a consumer report that is based upon the consumer's file as that file is revised as a result of the reinvestigation;

"(iii) a notice that, if requested by the consumer, a description of the procedure used to determine the accuracy and completeness of the information shall be provided to the consumer by the agency, including the business name and address of any furnisher of information contacted in connection with such information and the telephone number of such furnisher, if reasonably available;

"(iv) a notice that the consumer has the right to add a statement to the consumer's file disputing the accuracy or completeness of the information; and

"(v) a notice that the consumer has the right to request under subsection (d) that the consumer reporting agency furnish notifications under that subsection.

"(7) DESCRIPTION OF REINVESTIGATION PROCEDURE.—A consumer reporting agency shall provide to a consumer a description referred to in paragraph (6)(B)(iv) by not later than 15 days after receiving a request from the consumer for that description.

"(8) EXPEDITED DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—If a dispute regarding an item of information in a consumer's file at a consumer reporting agency is resolved in accordance with paragraph (5)(A) by the deletion of the disputed information by not later than 3 business days after the date on which the agency receives notice of the dispute from the consumer in accordance with paragraph (1)(A), then the agency shall not be required to comply with paragraphs (2), (6), and (7) with respect to that dispute if the agency—

"(A) provides prompt notice of the deletion to the consumer by telephone;

"(B) includes in that notice, or in a written notice that accompanies a confirmation and consumer report provided in accordance with subparagraph (C), a statement of the consumer's right to request under subsection (d) that the agency furnish notifications under that subsection; and

"(C) provides written confirmation of the deletion and a copy of a consumer report on the consumer that is based on the consumer's file after the deletion, not later than 5 business days after making the deletion.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 611(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681i(d)) is amended by striking "The consumer reporting agency shall clearly" and all that follows through the end of the subsection.

SEC. 2410. CHARGES FOR CERTAIN DISCLOSURES.

Section 612 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681j) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 612. CHARGES FOR CERTAIN DISCLOSURES.

"(a) REASONABLE CHARGES ALLOWED FOR CERTAIN DISCLOSURES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b), (c), and (d), a consumer reporting agency may impose a reasonable charge on a consumer—

"(A) for making a disclosure to the consumer pursuant to section 609, which charge—

"(i) shall not exceed $8; and

"(ii) shall be indicated to the consumer before making the disclosure; and

"(B) for furnishing, pursuant to section 611(d), following a reinvestigation under section 611(a), a statement, codification, or summary to a person designated by the consumer under that section after the 30-day period beginning on the date of notification of the consumer under paragraph (6) or (8) of section 611(a) with respect to the reinvestigation, which charge—

"(i) shall not exceed the charge that the agency would impose on each designated recipient for a consumer report; and

"(ii) shall be indicated to the consumer before furnishing such information.

"(2) MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT.—The Federal Trade Commission shall increase the amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index, with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

"(b) FREE DISCLOSURE AFTER ADVERSE NOTICE TO CONSUMER.—Each consumer reporting agency that maintains a file on a consumer shall make all disclosures pursuant to section 609 without charge to the consumer if, not later than 60 days after receipt by such consumer of a notification pursuant to section 615, or of a notification from a debt collection agency affiliated with that consumer reporting agency stating that the consumer's credit rating may be or has been adversely affected, the consumer makes a request under section 609.

"(c) FREE DISCLOSURE UNDER CERTAIN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.—Upon the request of the consumer, a consumer reporting agency shall make all disclosures pursuant to section 609 once during any 12-month period without charge to that consumer if the consumer certifies in writing that the consumer—

"(1) is unemployed and intends to apply for employment in the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the certification is made;

"(2) is a recipient of public welfare assistance; or

"(3) has reason to believe that the file on the consumer at the agency contains inaccurate information due to fraud.

"(d) OTHER CHARGES PROHIBITED.—A consumer reporting agency shall not impose any charge on a consumer for providing any notification required by this title or making any disclosure required by this title, except as authorized by subsection (a).".

SEC. 2411. DUTIES OF USERS OF CONSUMER REPORTS.

(a) DUTIES OF USERS TAKING ADVERSE ACTIONS.—Section 615(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681m(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) DUTIES OF USERS TAKING ADVERSE ACTIONS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CONSUMER REPORTS.—If any person takes any adverse action with respect to any consumer that is

based in whole or in part on any information contained in a consumer report, the person shall—

"(1) provide oral, written, or electronic notice of the adverse action to the consumer;

"(2) provide to the consumer orally, in writing, or electronically—

"(A) the name, address, and telephone number of the consumer reporting agency (including a toll-free telephone number established by the agency if the agency compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis) that furnished the report to the person; and

"(B) a statement that the consumer reporting agency did not make the decision to take the adverse action and is unable to provide the consumer the specific reasons why the adverse action was taken; and

"(3) provide to the consumer an oral, written, or electronic notice of the consumer's right—

"(A) to obtain, under section 612, a free copy of a consumer report on the consumer from the consumer reporting agency referred to in paragraph (2), which notice shall include an indication of the 60-day period under that section for obtaining such a copy; and

"(B) to dispute, under section 611, with a consumer reporting agency the accuracy or completeness of any information in a consumer report furnished by the agency.".

(b) DUTIES OF USERS MAKING CERTAIN CREDIT SOLICITATIONS.—Section 615 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) DUTIES OF USERS MAKING WRITTEN CREDIT OR INSURANCE SOLICITATIONS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CONSUMER FILES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who uses a consumer report on any consumer in connection with any credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer, that is provided to that person under section 604(c)(1)(B), shall provide with each written solicitation made to the consumer regarding the transaction a clear and conspicuous statement that—

"(A) information contained in the consumer's consumer report was used in connection with the transaction;

"(B) the consumer received the offer of credit or insurance because the consumer satisfied the criteria for credit worthiness or insurability under which the consumer was selected for the offer;

"(C) if applicable, the credit or insurance may not be extended if, after the consumer responds to the offer, the consumer does not meet the criteria used to select the consumer for the offer or any applicable criteria bearing on credit worthiness or insurability or does not furnish any required collateral;

"(D) the consumer has a right to prohibit information contained in the consumer's file with any consumer reporting agency from being used in connection with any credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer; and

"(E) the consumer may exercise the right referred to in subparagraph (D) by notifying a notification system established under section 604(e).

"(2) DISCLOSURE OF ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.—A statement under paragraph (1) shall include the address and toll-free telephone number of the appropriate notification system established under section 604(e).

"(3) MAINTAINING CRITERIA ON FILE.—A person who makes an offer of credit or insurance to a consumer under a credit or insurance transaction described in paragraph (1) shall maintain on file the criteria used to select the consumer to receive the offer, all criteria bearing on credit worthiness or insurability, as applicable, that are the basis for determining whether or not to extend credit or insurance pursuant to the offer, and any requirement for the furnishing of collateral as a condition of the extension of credit or insurance, until the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the offer is made to the consumer.

"(4) AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL AGENCIES REGARDING UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES NOT AFFECTED.—This section is not intended to affect the authority of any Federal or State agency to enforce a prohibition against unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including the making of false or misleading statements in connection with a credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer.".

(c) DUTIES OF USERS MAKING OTHER SOLICITATIONS.—Section 615 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e)

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 615(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681m(c)) is amended by striking "subsections (a) and (b)" and inserting "this section".

(e) DUTIES OF PERSON TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AFFILIATE.—Section 615(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681m(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(b) Whenever credit" and inserting the following:

"(b) ADVERSE ACTION BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THIRD PARTIES OTHER THAN CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever credit";

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

"(2) DUTIES OF PERSON TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AFFILIATE.—

"(A) DUTIES, GENERALLY.—If a person takes an action described in subparagraph (B) with respect to a consumer, based in whole or in part on information described in subparagraph (C), the person shall—

"(i) notify the consumer of the action, including a statement that the consumer may obtain the information in accordance with clause (ii); and

"(ii) upon a written request from the consumer received within 60 days after transmittal of the notice required by clause (i), disclose to the consumer the nature of the information upon which the action is based by not later than 30 days after receipt of the request.

"(B) ACTION DESCRIBED.—An action referred to in subparagraph (A) is an adverse action described in section

603(k)(1)(A), taken in connection with a transaction initiated by the consumer, or any adverse action described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 603(k)(1)(B).

"(C) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information referred to in subparagraph (A)—

"(i) except as provided in clause (ii), is information that—

"(I) is furnished to the person taking the action by a person related by common ownership or affiliated by common corporate control to the person taking the action; and

"(II) bears on the credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living of the consumer; and

"(ii) does not include—

"(I) information solely as to transactions or experiences between the consumer and the person furnishing the information; or

"(II) information in a consumer report.".

SEC. 2412. CIVIL LIABILITY.

(a) CIVIL LIABILITY FOR WILLFUL NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 616 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681n) is amended by striking "Any consumer reporting agency or user of information which" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who".

(b) MINIMUM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR WILLFUL NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 616(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681n(1)), as so designated by subsection (a) of this section, is amended to read as follows:

"(1)(A) any actual damages sustained by the consumer as a result of the failure or damages of not less than $100 and not more than $1,000; or

"(B) in the case of liability of a natural person for obtaining a consumer report under false pretenses or knowingly without a permissible purpose, actual damages sustained by the consumer as a result of the failure or $1,000, whichever is greater;".

(c) CIVIL LIABILITY FOR KNOWING NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 616 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681n) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) CIVIL LIABILITY FOR KNOWING NONCOMPLIANCE.—Any person who obtains a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency under false pretenses or knowingly without a permissible purpose shall be liable to the consumer reporting agency for actual damages sustained by the consumer reporting agency or $1,000, whichever is greater.".

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENT NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 617 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681o) is amended by striking "Any consumer reporting agency or user of information which" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who".

(e) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—

(1) WILLFUL NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 616 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681n) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—Upon a finding by the court that an unsuccessful pleading, motion, or other paper filed in connection

with an action under this section was filed in bad faith or for purposes of harassment, the court shall award to the prevailing party attorney's fees reasonable in relation to the work expended in responding to the pleading, motion, or other paper.".

(2) NEGLIGENT NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 617 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681o) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—On a finding by the court that an unsuccessful pleading, motion, or other paper filed in connection with an action under this section was filed in bad faith or for purposes of harassment, the court shall award to the prevailing party attorney's fees reasonable in relation to the work expended in responding to the pleading, motion, or other paper.".

SEC. 2413. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERSONS WHO FURNISH INFORMATION TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

15 USC 1681t.

(1) by redesignating section 623 as section 624; and

(2) by inserting after section 622 the following:

15 USC 1681s–2.

"SEC. 623. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FURNISHERS OF INFORMATION TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES.

"(a) DUTY OF FURNISHERS OF INFORMATION TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION.—

"(1) PROHIBITION.—

"(A) REPORTING INFORMATION WITH ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF ERRORS.—A person shall not furnish any information relating to a consumer to any consumer reporting agency if the person knows or consciously avoids knowing that the information is inaccurate.

"(B) REPORTING INFORMATION AFTER NOTICE AND CONFIRMATION OF ERRORS.—A person shall not furnish information relating to a consumer to any consumer reporting agency if—

"(i) the person has been notified by the consumer, at the address specified by the person for such notices, that specific information is inaccurate; and

"(ii) the information is, in fact, inaccurate.

"(C) NO ADDRESS REQUIREMENT.—A person who clearly and conspicuously specifies to the consumer an address for notices referred to in subparagraph (B) shall not be subject to subparagraph (A); however, nothing in subparagraph (B) shall require a person to specify such an address.

"(2) DUTY TO CORRECT AND UPDATE INFORMATION.—A person who—

"(A) regularly and in the ordinary course of business furnishes information to one or more consumer reporting agencies about the person's transactions or experiences with any consumer; and

"(B) has furnished to a consumer reporting agency information that the person determines is not complete or accurate,

shall promptly notify the consumer reporting agency of that determination and provide to the agency any corrections to that information, or any additional information, that is necessary to make the information provided by the person to

the agency complete and accurate, and shall not thereafter furnish to the agency any of the information that remains not complete or accurate.

"(3) DUTY TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF DISPUTE.—If the completeness or accuracy of any information furnished by any person to any consumer reporting agency is disputed to such person by a consumer, the person may not furnish the information to any consumer reporting agency without notice that such information is disputed by the consumer.

"(4) DUTY TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF CLOSED ACCOUNTS.—A person who regularly and in the ordinary course of business furnishes information to a consumer reporting agency regarding a consumer who has a credit account with that person shall notify the agency of the voluntary closure of the account by the consumer, in information regularly furnished for the period in which the account is closed.

"(5) DUTY TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY OF ACCOUNTS.—A person who furnishes information to a consumer reporting agency regarding a delinquent account being placed for collection, charged to profit or loss, or subjected to any similar action shall, not later than 90 days after furnishing the information, notify the agency of the month and year of the commencement of the delinquency that immediately preceded the action.

"(b) DUTIES OF FURNISHERS OF INFORMATION UPON NOTICE OF DISPUTE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—After receiving notice pursuant to section 611(a)(2) of a dispute with regard to the completeness or accuracy of any information provided by a person to a consumer reporting agency, the person shall—

"(A) conduct an investigation with respect to the disputed information;

"(B) review all relevant information provided by the consumer reporting agency pursuant to section 611(a)(2);

"(C) report the results of the investigation to the consumer reporting agency; and

"(D) if the investigation finds that the information is incomplete or inaccurate, report those results to all other consumer reporting agencies to which the person furnished the information and that compile and maintain files on consumers on a nationwide basis.

"(2) DEADLINE.—A person shall complete all investigations, reviews, and reports required under paragraph (1) regarding information provided by the person to a consumer reporting agency, before the expiration of the period under section 611(a)(1) within which the consumer reporting agency is required to complete actions required by that section regarding that information.

"(c) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—Sections 616 and 617 do not apply to any failure to comply with subsection (a), except as provided in section 621(c)(1)(B).

"(d) LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT.—Subsection (a) shall be enforced exclusively under section 621 by the Federal agencies and officials and the State officials identified in that section.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a et

seq.) is amended by striking the item relating to section 623 and inserting the following:

"623. Responsibilities of furnishers of information to consumer reporting agencies.

"624. Relation to State laws.".

SEC. 2414. INVESTIGATIVE CONSUMER REPORTS.

Section 606 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "or" at the end and inserting "and";

(2) by striking subsection (a)(2) and inserting the following:

"(2) the person certifies or has certified to the consumer reporting agency that—

"(A) the person has made the disclosures to the consumer required by paragraph (1); and

"(B) the person will comply with subsection (b).";

(3) in subsection (b), by striking "shall" the second place such term appears; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) PROHIBITIONS.—

"(1) CERTIFICATION.—A consumer reporting agency shall not prepare or furnish an investigative consumer report unless the agency has received a certification under subsection (a)(2) from the person who requested the report.

"(2) INQUIRIES.—A consumer reporting agency shall not make an inquiry for the purpose of preparing an investigative consumer report on a consumer for employment purposes if the making of the inquiry by an employer or prospective employer of the consumer would violate any applicable Federal or State equal employment opportunity law or regulation.

"(3) CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORD INFORMATION.—Except as otherwise provided in section 613, a consumer reporting agency shall not furnish an investigative consumer report that includes information that is a matter of public record and that relates to an arrest, indictment, conviction, civil judicial action, tax lien, or outstanding judgment, unless the agency has verified the accuracy of the information during the 30-day period ending on the date on which the report is furnished.

"(4) CERTAIN ADVERSE INFORMATION.—A consumer reporting agency shall not prepare or furnish an investigative consumer report on a consumer that contains information that is adverse to the interest of the consumer and that is obtained through a personal interview with a neighbor, friend, or associate of the consumer or with another person with whom the consumer is acquainted or who has knowledge of such item of information, unless—

"(A) the agency has followed reasonable procedures to obtain confirmation of the information, from an additional source that has independent and direct knowledge of the information; or

"(B) the person interviewed is the best possible source of the information.".

SEC. 2415. INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION UNDER FALSE PRETENSES.

(a) OBTAINING INFORMATION UNDER FALSE PRETENSES.—Section 619 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681q) is amended by striking "fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both" and inserting "fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both".

(b) UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES BY OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES.—Section 620 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681r) is amended by striking "fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both" and inserting "fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both".

SEC. 2416. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT.

(a) AVAILABLE ENFORCEMENT POWERS.—Section 621(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(a)";

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

"(2)(A) In the event of a knowing violation, which constitutes a pattern or practice of violations of this title, the Commission may commence a civil action to recover a civil penalty in a district court of the United States against any person that violates this title. In such action, such person shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than $2,500 per violation.

"(B) In determining the amount of a civil penalty under subparagraph (A), the court shall take into account the degree of culpability, any history of prior such conduct, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, and such other matters as justice may require.

"(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a court may not impose any civil penalty on a person for a violation of section 623(a)(1) unless the person has been enjoined from committing the violation, or ordered not to commit the violation, in an action or proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Federal Trade Commission, and has violated the injunction or order, and the court may not impose any civil penalty for any violation occurring before the date of the violation of the injunction or order.

"(4) Neither the Commission nor any other agency referred to in subsection (b) may prescribe trade regulation rules or other regulations with respect to this title.".

(b) AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT.—Section 621 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—" before "Compliance with the requirements";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(b) ENFORCEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES.—Compliance with the requirements imposed under this title with respect to consumer reporting agencies, persons who use consumer reports from such agencies, persons who furnish information to such agencies, and users of information that are subject to subsection (d) or (e) of section 615 shall be enforced under—"; and

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following: "Notwithstanding the preceding, no agency referred to in subsection (b) may conduct an examination of a bank, savings association, or credit union regarding compliance with the provisions of this title, except in response to a complaint (or if the agency otherwise has knowledge) that the bank, savings association, or credit union has violated a provision of this title, in which case, the agency may conduct an examination as necessary to investigate the complaint. If an agency determines during an investigation in response to a complaint that a violation of this title has occurred, the agency may, during its next 2 regularly scheduled examinations of the bank, savings association, or credit union, examine for compliance with this title.".

SEC. 2417. STATE ENFORCEMENT OF FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT.

Section 621 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

"(c) STATE ACTION FOR VIOLATIONS.—

"(1) AUTHORITY OF STATES.—In addition to such other remedies as are provided under State law, if the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated or is violating this title, the State—

"(A) may bring an action to enjoin such violation in any appropriate United States district court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction;

"(B) subject to paragraph (5), may bring an action on behalf of the residents of the State to recover—

"(i) damages for which the person is liable to such residents under sections 616 and 617 as a result of the violation;

"(ii) in the case of a violation of section 623(a), damages for which the person would, but for section 623(c), be liable to such residents as a result of the violation; or

"(iii) damages of not more than $1,000 for each willful or negligent violation; and

"(C) in the case of any successful action under subparagraph (A) or (B), shall be awarded the costs of the action and reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court.

"(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL REGULATORS.—The State shall serve prior written notice of any action under paragraph (1) upon the Federal Trade Commission or the appropriate Federal regulator determined under subsection (b) and provide the Commission or appropriate Federal regulator with a copy of its complaint, except in any case in which such prior notice is not feasible, in which case the State shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action. The Federal Trade Commission or appropriate Federal regulator shall have the right—

"(A) to intervene in the action;

"(B) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;

"(C) to remove the action to the appropriate United States district court; and

"(D) to file petitions for appeal.

"(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—For purposes of bringing any action under this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall prevent the chief law enforcement officer, or an official or agency designated by a State, from exercising the powers conferred on the chief law enforcement officer or such official by the laws of such State to conduct investigations or to administer oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

"(4) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION PENDING.—If the Federal Trade Commission or the appropriate Federal regulator has instituted a civil action or an administrative action under section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act for a violation of this title, no State may, during the pendency of such action, bring an action under this section against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission or the appropriate Federal regulator for any violation of this title that is alleged in that complaint.

"(5) LIMITATIONS ON STATE ACTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 623(a)(1).—

"(A) VIOLATION OF INJUNCTION REQUIRED.—A State may not bring an action against a person under paragraph (1)(B) for a violation of section 623(a)(1), unless—

"(i) the person has been enjoined from committing the violation, in an action brought by the State under paragraph (1)(A); and

"(ii) the person has violated the injunction.

"(B) LIMITATION ON DAMAGES RECOVERABLE.—In an action against a person under paragraph (1)(B) for a violation of section 623(a)(1), a State may not recover any damages incurred before the date of the violation of an injunction on which the action is based.".

SEC. 2418. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD AUTHORITY.

Section 621 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) INTERPRETIVE AUTHORITY.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may issue interpretations of any provision of this title as such provision may apply to any persons identified under paragraph (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b), or to the holding companies and affiliates of such persons, in consultation with Federal agencies identified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b).".

SEC. 2419. PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.

Section 624 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (as redesignated by section 2413(a) of this chapter) is amended—

(1) by striking "This title" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), this title"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) GENERAL EXCEPTIONS.—No requirement or prohibition may be imposed under the laws of any State—

"(1) with respect to any subject matter regulated under—

"(A) subsection (c) or (e) of section 604, relating to the prescreening of consumer reports;

"(B) section 611, relating to the time by which a consumer reporting agency must take any action, including the provision of notification to a consumer or other person, in any procedure related to the disputed accuracy of information in a consumer's file, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to any State law in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996;

"(C) subsections (a) and (b) of section 615, relating to the duties of a person who takes any adverse action with respect to a consumer;

"(D) section 615(d), relating to the duties of persons who use a consumer report of a consumer in connection with any credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by the consumer and that consists of a firm offer of credit or insurance;

"(E) section 605, relating to information contained in consumer reports, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to any State law in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996; or

"(F) section 623, relating to the responsibilities of persons who furnish information to consumer reporting agencies, except that this paragraph shall not apply—

"(i) with respect to section 54A(a) of chapter 93 of the Massachusetts Annotated Laws (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996); or

"(ii) with respect to section 1785.25(a) of the California Civil Code (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996);

"(2) with respect to the exchange of information among persons affiliated by common ownership or common corporate control, except that this paragraph shall not apply with respect to subsection (a) or (c)(1) of section 2480e of title 9, Vermont Statutes Annotated (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996); or

"(3) with respect to the form and content of any disclosure required to be made under section 609(c).

"(c) DEFINITION OF FIRM OFFER OF CREDIT OR INSURANCE.—Notwithstanding any definition of the term 'firm offer of credit or insurance' (or any equivalent term) under the laws of any State, the definition of that term contained in section 603(l) shall be construed to apply in the enforcement and interpretation of the laws of any State governing consumer reports.

"(d) LIMITATIONS.—Subsections (b) and (c)—

"(1) do not affect any settlement, agreement, or consent judgment between any State Attorney General and any consumer reporting agency in effect on the date of enactment of the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act of 1996; and

"(2) do not apply to any provision of State law (including any provision of a State constitution) that—

"(A) is enacted after January 1, 2004;

"(B) states explicitly that the provision is intended to supplement this title; and

"(C) gives greater protection to consumers than is provided under this title.".

SEC. 2420. EFFECTIVE DATE.

15 USC 1681a note.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, the amendments made by this chapter shall become effective 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Any person or other entity that is subject to the requirements of this chapter may, at its option, comply with any provision of this chapter before the date on which that provision becomes effective under this chapter, in which case, each of the corresponding provisions of this chapter shall be fully applicable to such person or entity.

SEC. 2421. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.

15 USC 1681a note.

Nothing in this chapter or the amendments made by this chapter shall be considered to supersede or otherwise affect section 2721 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to motor vehicle records for surveys, marketing, or solicitations.

SEC. 2422. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD STUDY.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in consultation with the other Federal banking agencies (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) and the Federal Trade Commission, shall conduct a study of whether organizations which, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are not subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act as consumer reporting agencies (as defined in section 603 of such Act) are engaged in the business of making sensitive consumer identification information, including social security numbers, mothers' maiden names, prior addresses, and dates of birth, available to the general public.

(b) DETERMINATION OF POTENTIAL FOR FRAUD.—If the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System determines that organizations referred to in subsection (a) are engaged in the business of making sensitive consumer identification information available to the general public, the Board shall determine—

(1) whether such activities create undue potential for fraud and risk of loss to insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act); and

(2) if so, whether changes in Federal law are necessary to address such risks of fraud and loss.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall submit a report to the Congress containing—

(1) the findings and conclusion of the Board in connection with the study required under subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Board determines to be appropriate.

CHAPTER 2—CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS

SEC. 2451. REGULATION OF CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS.

Title IV of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (Public Law 90–321, 82 Stat. 164) is amended to read as follows:

Credit Repair Organizations Act.

"TITLE IV—CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS

15 USC 1601 note.

"SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

"This title may be cited as the 'Credit Repair Organizations Act'.

15 USC 1679.

"SEC. 402. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

"(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

"(1) Consumers have a vital interest in establishing and maintaining their credit worthiness and credit standing in order to obtain and use credit. As a result, consumers who have experienced credit problems may seek assistance from credit repair organizations which offer to improve the credit standing of such consumers.

"(2) Certain advertising and business practices of some companies engaged in the business of credit repair services have worked a financial hardship upon consumers, particularly those of limited economic means and who are inexperienced in credit matters.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are—

"(1) to ensure that prospective buyers of the services of credit repair organizations are provided with the information necessary to make an informed decision regarding the purchase of such services; and

"(2) to protect the public from unfair or deceptive advertising and business practices by credit repair organizations.

15 USC 1679a.

"SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.

"For purposes of this title, the following definitions apply:

"(1) CONSUMER.—The term 'consumer' means an individual.

"(2) CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION.—The term 'consumer credit transaction' means any transaction in which credit is offered or extended to an individual for personal, family, or household purposes.

"(3) CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATION.—The term 'credit repair organization'—

"(A) means any person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails to sell, provide, or perform (or represent that such person can or will sell, provide, or perform) any service, in return for the payment of money or other valuable consideration, for the express or implied purpose of—

"(i) improving any consumer's credit record, credit history, or credit rating; or

"(ii) providing advice or assistance to any consumer with regard to any activity or service described in clause (i); and

"(B) does not include—

"(i) any nonprofit organization which is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(ii) any creditor (as defined in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act), with respect to any consumer, to the extent the creditor is assisting the consumer to restructure any debt owed by the consumer to the creditor; or

"(iii) any depository institution (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) or any Federal or State credit union (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act), or any affiliate or subsidiary of such a depository institution or credit union.

"(4) CREDIT.—The term 'credit' has the meaning given to such term in section 103(e) of this Act.

"SEC. 404. PROHIBITED PRACTICES. 15 USC 1679b.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No person may—

"(1) make any statement, or counsel or advise any consumer to make any statement, which is untrue or misleading (or which, upon the exercise of reasonable care, should be known by the credit repair organization, officer, employee, agent, or other person to be untrue or misleading) with respect to any consumer's credit worthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity to—

"(A) any consumer reporting agency (as defined in section 603(f) of this Act); or

"(B) any person—

"(i) who has extended credit to the consumer; or

"(ii) to whom the consumer has applied or is applying for an extension of credit;

"(2) make any statement, or counsel or advise any consumer to make any statement, the intended effect of which is to alter the consumer's identification to prevent the display of the consumer's credit record, history, or rating for the purpose of concealing adverse information that is accurate and not obsolete to—

"(A) any consumer reporting agency;

"(B) any person—

"(i) who has extended credit to the consumer; or

"(ii) to whom the consumer has applied or is applying for an extension of credit;

"(3) make or use any untrue or misleading representation of the services of the credit repair organization; or

"(4) engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business that constitutes or results in the commission of, or an attempt to commit, a fraud or deception on any person in connection with the offer or sale of the services of the credit repair organization.

"(b) PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.—No credit repair organization may charge or receive any money or other valuable consideration for the performance of any service which the credit repair organization has agreed to perform for any consumer before such service is fully performed.

15 USC 1679c.

"SEC. 405. DISCLOSURES.

"(a) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—Any credit repair organization shall provide any consumer with the following written statement before any contract or agreement between the consumer and the credit repair organization is executed:

"'Consumer Credit File Rights Under State and Federal Law

"'You have a right to dispute inaccurate information in your credit report by contacting the credit bureau directly. However, neither you nor any "credit repair" company or credit repair organization has the right to have accurate, current, and verifiable information removed from your credit report. The credit bureau must remove accurate, negative information from your report only if it is over 7 years old. Bankruptcy information can be reported for 10 years.

"'You have a right to obtain a copy of your credit report from a credit bureau. You may be charged a reasonable fee. There is no fee, however, if you have been turned down for credit, employment, insurance, or a rental dwelling because of information in your credit report within the preceding 60 days. The credit bureau must provide someone to help you interpret the information in your credit file. You are entitled to receive a free copy of your credit report if you are unemployed and intend to apply for employment in the next 60 days, if you are a recipient of public welfare assistance, or if you have reason to believe that there is inaccurate information in your credit report due to fraud.

"'You have a right to sue a credit repair organization that violates the Credit Repair Organization Act. This law prohibits deceptive practices by credit repair organizations.

"'You have the right to cancel your contract with any credit repair organization for any reason within 3 business days from the date you signed it.

"'Credit bureaus are required to follow reasonable procedures to ensure that the information they report is accurate. However, mistakes may occur.

"'You may, on your own, notify a credit bureau in writing that you dispute the accuracy of information in your credit file. The credit bureau must then reinvestigate and modify or remove inaccurate or incomplete information. The credit bureau may not charge any fee for this service. Any pertinent information and copies of all documents you have concerning an error should be given to the credit bureau.

"'If the credit bureau's reinvestigation does not resolve the dispute to your satisfaction, you may send a brief statement to the credit bureau, to be kept in your file, explaining why you think the record is inaccurate. The credit bureau must include a summary of your statement about disputed information with any report it issues about you.

"'The Federal Trade Commission regulates credit bureaus and credit repair organizations. For more information contact:

"'The Public Reference Branch

"'Federal Trade Commission

"'Washington, D.C. 20580'.

"(b) SEPARATE STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.—The written statement required under this section shall be provided as a document which is separate from any written contract or other agreement between the credit repair organization and the consumer or any other written material provided to the consumer.

"(c) RETENTION OF COMPLIANCE RECORDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The credit repair organization shall maintain a copy of the statement signed by the consumer acknowledging receipt of the statement.

"(2) MAINTENANCE FOR 2 YEARS.—The copy of any consumer's statement shall be maintained in the organization's files for 2 years after the date on which the statement is signed bythe consumer.

"SEC. 406. CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS CONTRACTS. 15 USC 1679d.

"(a) WRITTEN CONTRACTS REQUIRED.—No services may be provided by any credit repair organization for any consumer—

"(1) unless a written and dated contract (for the purchase of such services) which meets the requirements of subsection (b) has been signed by the consumer; or

"(2) before the end of the 3-business-day period beginning on the date the contract is signed.

"(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.—No contract referred to in subsection (a) meets the requirements of this subsection unless such contract includes (in writing)—

"(1) the terms and conditions of payment, including the total amount of all payments to be made by the consumer to the credit repair organization or to any other person;

"(2) a full and detailed description of the services to be performed by the credit repair organization for the consumer, including—

"(A) all guarantees of performance; and

"(B) an estimate of—

"(i) the date by which the performance of the services (to be performed by the credit repair organization or any other person) will be complete; or

"(ii) the length of the period necessary to perform such services;

"(3) the credit repair organization's name and principal business address; and

"(4) a conspicuous statement in bold face type, in immediate proximity to the space reserved for the consumer's signature on the contract, which reads as follows: 'You may cancel this

contract without penalty or obligation at any time before midnight of the 3rd business day after the date on which you signed the contract. See the attached notice of cancellation form for an explanation of this right.'.

15 USC 1679e.

"SEC. 407. RIGHT TO CANCEL CONTRACT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Any consumer may cancel any contract with any credit repair organization without penalty or obligation by notifying the credit repair organization of the consumer's intention to do so at any time before midnight of the 3rd business day which begins after the date on which the contract or agreement between the consumer and the credit repair organization is executed or would, but for this subsection, become enforceable against the parties.

"(b) CANCELLATION FORM AND OTHER INFORMATION.—Each contract shall be accompanied by a form, in duplicate, which has the heading 'Notice of Cancellation' and contains in bold face type the following statement:

"'You may cancel this contract, without any penalty or obligation, at any time before midnight of the 3rd day which begins after the date the contract is signed by you.

"'To cancel this contract, mail or deliver a signed, dated copy of this cancellation notice, or any other written notice to [name of credit repair organization] at [address of credit repair organization] before midnight on [date]

"'I hereby cancel this transaction,

[date]

[purchaser's signature].'.

"(c) CONSUMER COPY OF CONTRACT REQUIRED.—Any consumer who enters into any contract with any credit repair organization shall be given, by the organization—

"(1) a copy of the completed contract and the disclosure statement required under section 405; and

"(2) a copy of any other document the credit repair organization requires the consumer to sign, at the time the contract or the other document is signed.

15 USC 1679f.

"SEC. 408. NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THIS TITLE.

"(a) CONSUMER WAIVERS INVALID.—Any waiver by any consumer of any protection provided by or any right of the consumer under this title—

"(1) shall be treated as void; and

"(2) may not be enforced by any Federal or State court or any other person.

"(b) ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN WAIVER.—Any attempt by any person to obtain a waiver from any consumer of any protection provided by or any right of the consumer under this title shall be treated as a violation of this title.

"(c) CONTRACTS NOT IN COMPLIANCE.—Any contract for services which does not comply with the applicable provisions of this title—

"(1) shall be treated as void; and

"(2) may not be enforced by any Federal or State court or any other person.

15 USC 1679g.

"SEC. 409. CIVIL LIABILITY.

"(a) LIABILITY ESTABLISHED.—Any person who fails to comply with any provision of this title with respect to any other person

shall be liable to such person in an amount equal to the sum of the amounts determined under each of the following paragraphs:

"(1) ACTUAL DAMAGES.—The greater of—

"(A) the amount of any actual damage sustained by such person as a result of such failure; or

"(B) any amount paid by the person to the credit repair organization.

"(2) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—

"(A) INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS.—In the case of any action by an individual, such additional amount as the court may allow.

"(B) CLASS ACTIONS.—In the case of a class action, the sum of—

"(i) the aggregate of the amount which the court may allow for each named plaintiff; and

"(ii) the aggregate of the amount which the court may allow for each other class member, without regard to any minimum individual recovery.

"(3) ATTORNEYS' FEES.—In the case of any successful action to enforce any liability under paragraph (1) or (2), the costs of the action, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

"(b) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN AWARDING PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—In determining the amount of any liability of any credit repair organization under subsection (a)(2), the court shall consider, among other relevant factors—

"(1) the frequency and persistence of noncompliance by the credit repair organization;

"(2) the nature of the noncompliance;

"(3) the extent to which such noncompliance was intentional; and

"(4) in the case of any class action, the number of consumers adversely affected.

"SEC. 410. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT. 15 USC 1679h.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Compliance with the requirements imposed under this title with respect to credit repair organizations shall be enforced under the Federal Trade Commission Act by the Federal Trade Commission.

"(b) VIOLATIONS OF THIS TITLE TREATED AS VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of the exercise by the Federal Trade Commission of the Commission's functions and powers under the Federal Trade Commission Act, any violation of any requirement or prohibition imposed under this title with respect to credit repair organizations shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice in commerce in violation of section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

"(2) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY UNDER OTHER LAW.—All functions and powers of the Federal Trade Commission under the Federal Trade Commission Act shall be available to the Commission to enforce compliance with this title by any person subject to enforcement by the Federal Trade Commission pursuant to this subsection, including the power to enforce the provisions of this title in the same manner as if the violation had been a violation of any Federal Trade Commission trade regulation rule, without regard to whether the credit repair organization—

"(A) is engaged in commerce; or

"(B) meets any other jurisdictional tests in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

"(c) STATE ACTION FOR VIOLATIONS.—

"(1) AUTHORITY OF STATES.—In addition to such other remedies as are provided under State law, whenever the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated or is violating this title, the State—

"(A) may bring an action to enjoin such violation;

"(B) may bring an action on behalf of its residents to recover damages for which the person is liable to such residents under section 409 as a result of the violation; and

"(C) in the case of any successful action under subparagraph (A) or (B), shall be awarded the costs of the action and reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court.

"(2) RIGHTS OF COMMISSION.—

"(A) NOTICE TO COMMISSION.—The State shall serve prior written notice of any civil action under paragraph (1) upon the Federal Trade Commission and provide the Commission with a copy of its complaint, except in any case where such prior notice is not feasible, in which case the State shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action.

"(B) INTERVENTION.—The Commission shall have the right—

"(i) to intervene in any action referred to in subparagraph (A);

"(ii) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising in the action; and

"(iii) to file petitions for appeal.

"(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—For purposes of bringing any action under this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall prevent the chief law enforcement officer, or an official or agency designated by a State, from exercising the powers conferred on the chief law enforcement officer or such official by the laws of such State to conduct investigations or to administer oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

"(4) LIMITATION.—Whenever the Federal Trade Commission has instituted a civil action for violation of this title, no State may, during the pendency of such action, bring an action under this section against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of this title that is alleged in that complaint.

15 USC 1679i.

"SEC. 411. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

"Any action to enforce any liability under this title may be brought before the later of—

"(1) the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the occurrence of the violation involved; or

"(2) in any case in which any credit repair organization has materially and willfully misrepresented any information which—

"(A) the credit repair organization is required, by any provision of this title, to disclose to any consumer; and

"(B) is material to the establishment of the credit repair organization's liability to the consumer under this title, the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the discovery by the consumer of the misrepresentation.

"SEC. 412. RELATION TO STATE LAW. 15 USC 1679j.

"This title shall not annul, alter, affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this title from complying with any law of any State except to the extent that such law is inconsistent with any provision of this title, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

"SEC. 413. EFFECTIVE DATE. 15 USC 1679 note.

"This title shall apply after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Credit Repair Organizations Act, except with respect to contracts entered into by a credit repair organization before the end of such period.".

SEC. 2452. CREDIT WORTHINESS.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) individuals should generally be judged for credit worthiness based on their own credit worthiness and not on the zip code or neighborhood in which they live; and

(2) the Federal Trade Commission, after consultation with the appropriate Federal banking agency, should report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate as to whether and how the location of the residence of an applicant for unsecured credit is considered by many companies and financial institutions in deciding whether an applicant should be granted credit.

Subtitle E—Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection

Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection Act of 1996. 42 USC 9601 note.

SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection Act of 1996".

SEC. 2502. CERCLA LENDER AND FIDUCIARY LIABILITY LIMITATIONS AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(n) LIABILITY OF FIDUCIARIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The liability of a fiduciary under any provision of this Act for the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at, from, or in connection with a vessel or facility held in a fiduciary capacity shall not exceed the assets held in the fiduciary capacity.

"(2) EXCLUSION.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to the extent that a person is liable under this Act independently of the person's ownership of a vessel or facility as a fiduciary or actions taken in a fiduciary capacity.

"(3) LIMITATION.—Paragraphs (1) and (4) do not limit the liability pertaining to a release or threatened release of a

hazardous substance if negligence of a fiduciary causes or contributes to the release or threatened release.

"(4) SAFE HARBOR.—A fiduciary shall not be liable in its personal capacity under this Act for—

"(A) undertaking or directing another person to undertake a response action under subsection (d)(1) or under the direction of an on scene coordinator designated under the National Contingency Plan;

"(B) undertaking or directing another person to undertake any other lawful means of addressing a hazardous substance in connection with the vessel or facility;

"(C) terminating the fiduciary relationship;

"(D) including in the terms of the fiduciary agreement a covenant, warranty, or other term or condition that relates to compliance with an environmental law, or monitoring, modifying or enforcing the term or condition;

"(E) monitoring or undertaking 1 or more inspections of the vessel or facility;

"(F) providing financial or other advice or counseling to other parties to the fiduciary relationship, including the settlor or beneficiary;

"(G) restructuring, renegotiating, or otherwise altering the terms and conditions of the fiduciary relationship;

"(H) administering, as a fiduciary, a vessel or facility that was contaminated before the fiduciary relationship began; or

"(I) declining to take any of the actions described in subparagraphs (B) through (H).

"(5) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act:

"(A) FIDUCIARY.—The term 'fiduciary'—

"(i) means a person acting for the benefit of another party as a bona fide—

"(I) trustee;

"(II) executor;

"(III) administrator;

"(IV) custodian;

"(V) guardian of estates or guardian ad litem;

"(VI) receiver;

"(VII) conservator;

"(VIII) committee of estates of incapacitated persons;

"(IX) personal representative;

"(X) trustee (including a successor to a trustee) under an indenture agreement, trust agreement, lease, or similar financing agreement, for debt securities, certificates of interest or certificates of participation in debt securities, or other forms of indebtedness as to which the trustee is not, in the capacity of trustee, the lender; or

"(XI) representative in any other capacity that the Administrator, after providing public notice, determines to be similar to the capacities described in subclauses (I) through (X); and

"(ii) does not include—

"(I) a person that is acting as a fiduciary with respect to a trust or other fiduciary estate that was organized for the primary purpose of, or is

engaged in, actively carrying on a trade or business for profit, unless the trust or other fiduciary estate was created as part of, or to facilitate, 1 or more estate plans or because of the incapacity of a natural person; or

"(II) a person that acquires ownership or control of a vessel or facility with the objective purpose of avoiding liability of the person or of any other person.

"(B) FIDUCIARY CAPACITY.—The term 'fiduciary capacity' means the capacity of a person in holding title to a vessel or facility, or otherwise having control of or an interest in the vessel or facility, pursuant to the exercise of the responsibilities of the person as a fiduciary.

"(6) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection—

"(A) affects the rights or immunities or other defenses that are available under this Act or other law that is applicable to a person subject to this subsection; or

"(B) creates any liability for a person or a private right of action against a fiduciary or any other person.

"(7) NO EFFECT ON CERTAIN PERSONS.—Nothing in this subsection applies to a person if the person—

"(A)(i) acts in a capacity other than that of a fiduciary or in a beneficiary capacity; and

"(ii) in that capacity, directly or indirectly benefits from a trust or fiduciary relationship; or

"(B)(i) is a beneficiary and a fiduciary with respect to the same fiduciary estate; and

"(ii) as a fiduciary, receives benefits that exceed customary or reasonable compensation, and incidental benefits, permitted under other applicable law.

"(8) LIMITATION.—This subsection does not preclude a claim under this Act against—

"(A) the assets of the estate or trust administered by the fiduciary; or

"(B) a nonemployee agent or independent contractor retained by a fiduciary.".

(b) DEFINITION OF OWNER OR OPERATOR.—Section 101(20) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(20)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(E) EXCLUSION OF LENDERS NOT PARTICIPANTS IN MANAGEMENT.—

"(i) INDICIA OF OWNERSHIP TO PROTECT SECURITY.—The term 'owner or operator' does not include a person that is a lender that, without participating in the management of a vessel or facility, holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect the security interest of the person in the vessel or facility.

"(ii) FORECLOSURE.—The term 'owner or operator' does not include a person that is a lender that did not participate in management of a vessel or facility prior to foreclosure, notwithstanding that the person—

"(I) forecloses on the vessel or facility; and

"(II) after foreclosure, sells, re-leases (in the case of a lease finance transaction), or liquidates the vessel or facility, maintains business activities,

winds up operations, undertakes a response action under section 107(d)(1) or under the direction of an on-scene coordinator appointed under the National Contingency Plan, with respect to the vessel or facility, or takes any other measure to preserve, protect, or prepare the vessel or facility prior to sale or disposition,

if the person seeks to sell, re-lease (in the case of a lease finance transaction), or otherwise divest the person of the vessel or facility at the earliest practicable, commercially reasonable time, on commercially reasonable terms, taking into account market conditions and legal and regulatory requirements.

"(F) PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (E)—

"(i) the term 'participate in management'—

"(I) means actually participating in the management or operational affairs of a vessel or facility; and

"(II) does not include merely having the capacity to influence, or the unexercised right to control, vessel or facility operations;

"(ii) a person that is a lender and that holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest in a vessel or facility shall be considered to participate in management only if, while the borrower is still in possession of the vessel or facility encumbered by the security interest, the person—

"(I) exercises decisionmaking control over the environmental compliance related to the vessel or facility, such that the person has undertaken responsibility for the hazardous substance handling or disposal practices related to the vessel or facility; or

"(II) exercises control at a level comparable to that of a manager of the vessel or facility, such that the person has assumed or manifested responsibility—

"(aa) for the overall management of the vessel or facility encompassing day-to-day decisionmaking with respect to environmental compliance; or

"(bb) over all or substantially all of the operational functions (as distinguished from financial or administrative functions) of the vessel or facility other than the function of environmental compliance;

"(iii) the term 'participate in management' does not include performing an act or failing to act prior to the time at which a security interest is created in a vessel or facility; and

"(iv) the term 'participate in management' does not include—

"(I) holding a security interest or abandoning or releasing a security interest;

"(II) including in the terms of an extension of credit, or in a contract or security agreement

relating to the extension, a covenant, warranty, or other term or condition that relates to environmental compliance;

"(III) monitoring or enforcing the terms and conditions of the extension of credit or security interest;

"(IV) monitoring or undertaking 1 or more inspections of the vessel or facility;

"(V) requiring a response action or other lawful means of addressing the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance in connection with the vessel or facility prior to, during, or on the expiration of the term of the extension of credit;

"(VI) providing financial or other advice or counseling in an effort to mitigate, prevent, or cure default or diminution in the value of the vessel or facility;

"(VII) restructuring, renegotiating, or otherwise agreeing to alter the terms and conditions of the extension of credit or security interest, exercising forbearance;

"(VIII) exercising other remedies that may be available under applicable law for the breach of a term or condition of the extension of credit or security agreement; or

"(IX) conducting a response action under section 107(d) or under the direction of an on-scene coordinator appointed under the National Contingency Plan,

if the actions do not rise to the level of participating in management (within the meaning of clauses (i) and (ii)).

"(G) OTHER TERMS.—As used in this Act:

"(i) EXTENSION OF CREDIT.—The term 'extension of credit' includes a lease finance transaction—

"(I) in which the lessor does not initially select the leased vessel or facility and does not during the lease term control the daily operations or maintenance of the vessel or facility; or

"(II) that conforms with regulations issued by the appropriate Federal banking agency or the appropriate State bank supervisor (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813) or with regulations issued by the National Credit Union Administration Board, as appropriate.

"(ii) FINANCIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION.—The term 'financial or administrative function' includes a function such as that of a credit manager, accounts payable officer, accounts receivable officer, personnel manager, comptroller, or chief financial officer, or a similar function.

"(iii) FORECLOSURE; FORECLOSE.—The terms 'foreclosure' and 'foreclose' mean, respectively, acquiring, and to acquire, a vessel or facility through—

"(I)(aa) purchase at sale under a judgment or decree, power of sale, or nonjudicial foreclosure sale;

"(bb) a deed in lieu of foreclosure, or similar conveyance from a trustee; or

"(cc) repossession,

if the vessel or facility was security for an extension of credit previously contracted;

"(II) conveyance pursuant to an extension of credit previously contracted, including the termination of a lease agreement; or

"(III) any other formal or informal manner by which the person acquires, for subsequent disposition, title to or possession of a vessel or facility in order to protect the security interest of the person.

"(iv) LENDER.—The term 'lender' means—

"(I) an insured depository institution (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));

"(II) an insured credit union (as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752));

"(III) a bank or association chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.);

"(IV) a leasing or trust company that is an affiliate of an insured depository institution;

"(V) any person (including a successor or assignee of any such person) that makes a bona fide extension of credit to or takes or acquires a security interest from a nonaffiliated person;

"(VI) the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, or any other entity that in a bona fide manner buys or sells loans or interests in loans;

"(VII) a person that insures or guarantees against a default in the repayment of an extension of credit, or acts as a surety with respect to an extension of credit, to a nonaffiliated person; and

"(VIII) a person that provides title insurance and that acquires a vessel or facility as a result of assignment or conveyance in the course of underwriting claims and claims settlement.

"(v) OPERATIONAL FUNCTION.—The term 'operational function' includes a function such as that of a facility or plant manager, operations manager, chief operating officer, or chief executive officer.

"(vi) SECURITY INTEREST.—The term 'security interest' includes a right under a mortgage, deed of trust, assignment, judgment lien, pledge, security agreement, factoring agreement, or lease and any other right accruing to a person to secure the repayment of money, the performance of a duty, or any other obligation by a nonaffiliated person.".

SEC. 2503. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6991b(h)) is amended by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

"(9) DEFINITION OF OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—As used in this subtitle, the terms 'owner' and 'operator' do not include a person that, without participating in the management of an underground storage tank and otherwise not engaged in petroleum production, refining, or marketing, holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect the person's security interest.

"(B) SECURITY INTEREST HOLDERS.—The provisions regarding holders of security interests in subparagraphs (E) through (G) of section 101(20) and the provisions regarding fiduciaries at section 107(n) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 shall apply in determining a person's liability as an owner or operator of an underground storage tank for the purposes of this subtitle.

"(C) EFFECT ON RULE.—Nothing in subparagraph (B) shall be construed as modifying or affecting the final rule issued by the Administrator on September 7, 1995 (60 Fed. Reg. 46,692), or as limiting the authority of the Administrator to amend the final rule, in accordance with applicable law. The final rule in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph shall prevail over any inconsistent provision regarding holders of security interests in subparagraphs (E) through (G) of section 101(20) or any inconsistent provision regarding fiduciaries in section 107(n) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. Any amendment to the final rule shall be consistent with the provisions regarding holders of security interests in subparagraphs (E) through (G) of section 101(20) and the provisions regarding fiduciaries in section 107(n) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. This subparagraph does not preclude judicial review of any amendment of the final rule made after the date of enactment of this subparagraph.".

SEC. 2504. LENDER LIABILITY RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the portion of the final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on April 29, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 18,344), prescribing section 300.1105 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed to have been validly issued under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and to have been effective according to the terms of the final rule. No additional judicial proceedings shall be necessary or may be held with respect to such portion of the final rule. Any reference in that portion of the final rule to section 300.1100 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed to be a reference to the amendments made by this subtitle.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding section 113(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and

Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9613(a)), no court shall have jurisdiction to review the portion of the final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on April 29, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 18,344) that prescribed section 300.1105 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) AMENDMENT.—No provision of this section shall be construed as limiting the authority of the President or a delegee of the President to amend the portion of the final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on April 29, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 18,344), prescribing section 300.1105 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, consistent with the amendments made by this subtitle and other applicable law.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No provision of this section shall be construed as precluding judicial review of any amendment of section 300.1105 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, made after the date of enactment of this Act.

42 USC 6991b note.

SEC. 2505. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this subtitle shall be applicable with respect to any claim that has not been finally adjudicated as of the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous

SEC. 2601. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD STUDY.

(a) STUDY OF ELECTRONIC STORED VALUE PRODUCTS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Board shall conduct a study of electronic stored value products which evaluates whether provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act could be applied to such products without adversely impacting the cost, development, and operation of such products.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting its study under paragraph (1), the Board shall consider whether alternatives to regulation under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, such as allowing competitive market forces to shape the development and operation of electronic stored value products, could more efficiently achieve the objectives embodied in that Act.

(b) REPORT.—The Board shall submit a report of its study under subsection (a) to the Congress not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) ACTION TO FINALIZE.—The Board shall take no action to finalize any amendments to regulations under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act that would regulate electronic stored value products until the later of—

(1) 3 months after the date on which the report is submitted to the Congress under subsection (b); or

(2) 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2602. TREATMENT OF CLAIMS ARISING FROM BREACH OF CONTRACTS EXECUTED BY THE RECEIVER OR CONSERVATOR.

Section 11(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(20) TREATMENT OF CLAIMS ARISING FROM BREACH OF CONTRACTS EXECUTED BY THE RECEIVER OR CONSERVATOR.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, any final

and unappealable judgment for monetary damages entered against a receiver or conservator for an insured depository institution for the breach of an agreement executed or approved by such receiver or conservator after the date of its appointment shall be paid as an administrative expense of the receiver or conservator. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the power of a receiver or conservator to exercise any rights under contract or law, including to terminate, breach, cancel, or otherwise discontinue such agreement.".

SEC. 2603. CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FOR FICTITIOUS FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND COUNTERFEITING.

(a) INCREASED PENALTIES FOR COUNTERFEITING VIOLATIONS.—Sections 474 and 474A of title 18, United States Code, are amended by striking "class C felony" each place that term appears and inserting "class B felony".

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR PRODUCTION, SALE, TRANSPORTATION, POSSESSION OF FICTITIOUS FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS PURPORTING TO BE THOSE OF THE STATES, OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 25 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 513, the following new section:

"§ 514. Fictitious obligations

"(a) Whoever, with the intent to defraud—

"(1) draws, prints, processes, produces, publishes, or otherwise makes, or attempts or causes the same, within the United States;

"(2) passes, utters, presents, offers, brokers, issues, sells, or attempts or causes the same, or with like intent possesses, within the United States; or

"(3) utilizes interstate or foreign commerce, including the use of the mails or wire, radio, or other electronic communication, to transmit, transport, ship, move, transfer, or attempts or causes the same, to, from, or through the United States,

any false or fictitious instrument, document, or other item appearing, representing, purporting, or contriving through scheme or artifice, to be an actual security or other financial instrument issued under the authority of the United States, a foreign government, a State or other political subdivision of the United States, or an organization, shall be guilty of a class B felony.

"(b) For purposes of this section, any term used in this section that is defined in section 513(c) has the same meaning given such term in section 513(c).

"(c) The United States Secret Service, in addition to any other agency having such authority, shall have authority to investigate offenses under this section.".

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 513 the following:

"514. Fictitious obligations.".

SEC. 2604. AMENDMENTS TO THE TRUTH IN SAVINGS ACT.

(a) REPEAL.—Effective as of the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, section 271 of the Truth in Savings Act (12 U.S.C. 4310) is repealed.

(b) ON-PREMISES DISPLAYS.—Section 263(c) of the Truth in Savings Act (12 U.S.C. 4302(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking "(1) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and indenting appropriately.

(c) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION DEFINITION.—Section 274(6) of the Truth in Savings Act (12 U.S.C. 4313(6)) is amended by inserting before the period ", but does not include any nonautomated credit union that was not required to comply with the requirements of this title as of the date of enactment of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, pursuant to the determination of the National Credit Union Administration Board".

(d) TIME DEPOSITS.—Section 266(a)(3) of the Truth in Savings Act (12 U.S.C. 4305(a)(3)) is amended by inserting "has a maturity of more than 30 days" after "deposit which".

15 USC 1667 note.

SEC. 2605. CONSUMER LEASING ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(A) competition among the various financial institutions and other firms engaged in the business of consumer leasing is greatest when there is informed use of leasing;

(B) the informed use of leasing results from an awareness of the cost of leasing by consumers; and

(C) there has been a continued trend toward leasing automobiles and other durable goods for consumer use as an alternative to installment credit sales and that leasing product advances have occurred such that lessors have been unable to provide consistent industry-wide disclosures to fully account for the competitive progress that has occurred.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to assure a simple, meaningful disclosure of leasing terms so that the consumer will be able to compare more readily the various leasing terms available to the consumer and avoid the uninformed use of leasing, and to protect the consumer against inaccurate and unfair leasing practices;

(B) to provide for adequate cost disclosures that reflect the marketplace without impairing competition and the development of new leasing products; and

(C) to provide the Board with the regulatory authority to assure a simplified, meaningful definition and disclosure of the terms of certain leases of personal property for personal, family, or household purposes so as to—

(i) enable the lessee to compare more readily the various lease terms available to the lessee;

(ii) enable comparison of lease terms with credit terms, as appropriate; and

(iii) assure meaningful and accurate disclosures of lease terms in advertisements.

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1667 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 187. REGULATIONS. 15 USC 1667f.

"(a) REGULATIONS AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall prescribe regulations to update and clarify the requirements and definitions applicable to lease disclosures and contracts, and any other issues specifically related to consumer leasing, to the extent that the Board determines such action to be necessary—

"(A) to carry out this chapter;

"(B) to prevent any circumvention of this chapter; or

"(C) to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the chapter.

"(2) CLASSIFICATIONS, ADJUSTMENTS.—Any regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) may contain classifications and differentiations, and may provide for adjustments and exceptions for any class of transactions, as the Board considers appropriate.

"(b) MODEL DISCLOSURE.—

"(1) PUBLICATION.—The Board shall establish and publish model disclosure forms to facilitate compliance with the disclosure requirements of this chapter and to aid the consumer in understanding the transaction to which the subject disclosure form relates.

"(2) USE OF AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT.—In establishing model forms under this subsection, the Board shall consider the use by lessors of data processing or similar automated equipment.

"(3) USE OPTIONAL.—A lessor may utilize a model disclosure form established by the Board under this subsection for purposes of compliance with this chapter, at the discretion of the lessor.

"(4) EFFECT OF USE.—Any lessor who properly uses the material aspects of any model disclosure form established by the Board under this subsection shall be deemed to be in compliance with the disclosure requirements to which the form relates.".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.— 15 USC 1667f note.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any regulation of the Board, or any amendment or interpretation of any regulation of the Board issued pursuant to section 187 of the Truth in Lending Act (as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection), shall become effective on the first October 1 that follows the date of promulgation of that regulation, amendment, or interpretation by not less than 6 months.

(B) LONGER PERIOD.—The Board may, at the discretion of the Board, extend the time period referred to in subparagraph (A) in accordance with subparagraph (C), to permit lessors to adjust their disclosure forms to accommodate the requirements of section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection).

(C) SHORTER PERIOD.—The Board may shorten the time period referred to in subparagraph (A), if the Board makes a specific finding that such action is necessary to comply with the findings of a court or to prevent an unfair or deceptive practice.

(D) COMPLIANCE BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any lessor may comply with any means of disclosure provided for in section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection) before the effective date of such requirement.

(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "lessor" has the same meaning as in section 181 of the Truth in Lending Act.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title I of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 186 the following new item:

"187. Regulations.".

(c) CONSUMER LEASE ADVERTISING.—Section 184 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1667c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (c);

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting before subsection (c), as so redesignated, the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—If an advertisement for a consumer lease includes a statement of the amount of any payment or a statement that any or no initial payment is required, the advertisement shall clearly and conspicuously state, as applicable—

"(1) the transaction advertised is a lease;

"(2) the total amount of any initial payments required on or before consummation of the lease or delivery of the property, whichever is later;

"(3) that a security deposit is required;

"(4) the number, amount, and timing of scheduled payments; and

"(5) with respect to a lease in which the liability of the consumer at the end of the lease term is based on the anticipated residual value of the property, that an extra charge may be imposed at the end of the lease term.

"(b) ADVERTISING MEDIUM NOT LIABLE.—No owner or employee of any entity that serves as a medium in which an advertisement appears or through which an advertisement is disseminated, shall be liable under this section.".

12 USC 1752a note.

SEC. 2606. STUDY OF CORPORATE CREDIT UNIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the National Credit Union Administration.

(2) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the National Credit Union Administration Board.

(3) CORPORATE CREDIT UNION.—The term "corporate credit union" has the meaning given such term by rule or regulation of the Board.

(4) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund established under section 203 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Board, the Corporation, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Administration, shall conduct a study and evaluation of—

(A) the oversight and supervisory practices of the Administration concerning the Fund, including the treatment of amounts deposited in the Fund pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act, including analysis of—

(i) whether those amounts should be—

(I) refundable; or

(II) treated as expenses; and

(ii) the use of those amounts in determining equity capital ratios;

(B) the potential for, and potential effects of, administration of the Fund by an entity other than the Administration;

(C) the 10 largest corporate credit unions in the United States, conducted in cooperation with appropriate employees of other Federal agencies with expertise in the examination of federally insured financial institutions, including—

(i) the investment practices of those credit unions; and

(ii) the financial stability, financial operations, and financial controls of those credit unions;

(D) the regulations of the Administration; and

(E) the supervision of corporate credit unions by the Administration.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress, a report that includes the results of the study and evaluation conducted under subsection (b), together with any recommendations that the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

SEC. 2607. REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REGULATORY ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each appropriate Federal banking agency shall submit to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, a report describing both the actions that have been taken by the agency and the actions that will be taken by the agency to eliminate or conform inconsistent or duplicative accounting and reporting requirements applicable to reports or statements filed with any such agency by insured depository institutions, as required by section 121 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.

SEC. 2608. STATE-BY-STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA-BY-METROPOLITAN AREA STUDY OF BANK FEES.

Section 1002(b)(2)(A) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1811 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) a description of any discernible trend, in the Nation as a whole, in each of the 50 States, and in each consolidated metropolitan statistical area or primary metropolitan statistical area (as defined by the Director of the

Office of Management and Budget), in the cost and availability of retail banking services (including fees imposed for providing such services), that delineates differences between insured depository institutions on the basis of both the size of the institution and any engagement of the institution in multistate activity; and".

SEC. 2609. PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF GOLD CLAUSES IN CONTRACTS.

Section 5118(d)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "This paragraph shall apply to any obligation issued on or before October 27, 1977, notwithstanding any assignment or novation of such obligation after October 27, 1977, unless all parties to the assignment or novation specifically agree to include a gold clause in the new agreement. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to affect the enforceability of a Gold Clause contained in any obligation issued after October 27, 1977 if the enforceability of that Gold Clause has been finally adjudicated before the date of enactment of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996.".

SEC. 2610. QUALIFIED FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS.

Section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting ", and shall not include a qualified family partnership" after "by any State"; and

(2) in subsection (o), by adding at the end the following:

"(10) QUALIFIED FAMILY PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'qualified family partnership' means a general or limited partnership that the Board determines—

"(A) does not directly control any bank, except through a registered bank holding company;

"(B) does not control more than 1 registered bank holding company;

"(C) does not engage in any business activity, except indirectly through ownership of other business entities;

"(D) has no investments other than those permitted for a bank holding company pursuant to section 4(c);

"(E) is not obligated on any debt, either directly or as a guarantor;

"(F) has partners, all of whom are either—

"(i) individuals related to each other by blood, marriage (including former marriage), or adoption; or

"(ii) trusts for the primary benefit of individuals related as described in clause (i); and

"(G) has filed with the Board a statement that includes—

"(i) the basis for the eligibility of the partnership under subparagraph (F);

"(ii) a list of the existing activities and investments of the partnership;

"(iii) a commitment to comply with this paragraph;

"(iv) a commitment to comply with section 7 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to any acquisition of control of an insured depository institution occurring after date of enactment of this paragraph; and

"(v) a commitment to be subject, to the same extent as if the qualified family partnership were a bank holding company—

"(I) to examination by the Board to assure compliance with this paragraph; and

"(II) to section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.".

SEC. 2611. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress hereby finds the following:

(1) Severe drought is being experienced in the Plains and the Southwest portions of our country.

(2) Soil erosion is becoming a critical issue as the dry season approaches and summer winds may rob these fields of nutrient-rich topsoil.

(3) Without immediate assistance, ranchers and farmers would be forced to cull their herds bringing tremendous volatility in the beef market.

(4) The American people will feel the impact of this drought in their pocketbooks through higher prices for grain products.

(5) The communities in drought-stricken areas are suffering and borrowers may have difficulty meeting their obligations to financial institutions.

(6) Congress has already passed the Depository Institutions Disaster Relief Act of 1992 which allows financial institutions to make emergency exceptions to the appraisal requirement in times of national disasters.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that financial institutions and Federal bank regulators should work cooperatively with farmers and ranchers in communities affected by drought conditions to allow financial obligations to be met without imposing undue burdens.

SEC. 2612. STREAMLINING PROCESS FOR DETERMINING NEW NON-BANKING ACTIVITIES.

Section 4(c)(8) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1843(c)(8)) is amended by striking "and opportunity for hearing" and inserting the following: "(and opportunity for hearing in the case of an acquisition of a savings association)".

SEC. 2613. AUTHORIZING BANK SERVICE COMPANIES TO ORGANIZE AS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES.

(a) AMENDMENT TO SHORT TITLE.—Section 1 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1861(a)) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

"(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the 'Bank Service Company Act'.";

(b) AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS.—Section 1(b) of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1861(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(2) the term 'bank service company' means—

"(A) any corporation—

"(i) which is organized to perform services authorized by this Act; and

"(ii) all of the capital stock of which is owned by 1 or more insured banks; and

"(B) any limited liability company—

"(i) which is organized to perform services authorized by this Act; and

"(ii) all of the members of which are 1 or more insured banks.";

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking "corporation" and inserting "company"; and

(B) by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8) and inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

"(7) the term 'limited liability company' means any company, partnership, trust, or similar business entity organized under the law of a State (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) which provides that a member or manager of such company is not personally liable for a debt, obligation, or liability of the company solely by reason of being, or acting as, a member or manager of such company; and"; and

(4) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company"; and

(B) by striking "capital stock" and inserting "equity".

(c) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 2.—Section 2 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1862) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" and inserting "company";

(2) by striking "corporations" and inserting "companies"; and

(3) in the heading for such section, by striking "CORPORATION" and inserting "COMPANY".

(d) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 3.—Section 3 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1863) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company"; and

(2) in the heading for such section, by striking "CORPORATION" and inserting "COMPANY".

(e) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 4.—Section 4 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1864) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company";

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting "or members" after "shareholders" each place such term appears;

(3) in subsections (c) and (d), by inserting "or member" after "shareholder" each place such term appears;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting "or members" after "national bank and State bank shareholders";

(B) by striking "its national bank shareholder or shareholders" and inserting "any shareholder or member of the company which is a national bank";

(C) by striking "its State bank shareholder or shareholders" and inserting "any shareholder or member of the company which is a State bank";

(D) by striking "such State bank or banks" and inserting "any such State bank"; and

(E) by inserting "or members" after "State bank and national bank shareholders"; and

(5) in the heading for such section, by striking "CORPORATION" and inserting "COMPANY".

(f) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 5.—Section 5 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1865) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company"; and

(2) in the heading for such section, by striking "CORPORATIONS" and inserting "COMPANIES".

(g) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6.—Section 6 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1866) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company";

(2) by inserting "or is not a member of" after "does not own stock in";

(3) by striking "the nonstockholding institution" and inserting "such depository institution";

(4) by inserting "or is a member of" after "that owns stock in";

(5) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting "or nonmember" after "nonstockholding"; and

(6) in the heading for such section by inserting "OR NONMEMBERS" after "NONSTOCKHOLDERS".

(h) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 7.—Section 7 of the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1867) is amended—

(1) by striking "corporation" each place such term appears and inserting "company";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting "or principal member" after "principal shareholder"; and

(B) by inserting "or member" after "other shareholder"; and

(3) in the heading for such section, by striking "CORPORATIONS" and inserting "COMPANIES".

SEC. 2614. RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(l)(5) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(l)(5) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) any liability of an insured depository institution that arises under an annuity contract, the income of which is tax deferred under section 72 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to any liability of an insured depository that arises under an annuity contract issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act. 12 USC 1813 note.

SEC. 2615. PROHIBITIONS ON CERTAIN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION ASSOCIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES.

(a) CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 201 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1781) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ASSOCIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No insured credit union may be sponsored by or accept financial support, directly or indirectly, from any Government-sponsored enterprise, if the credit union includes the customers of the Government-sponsored enterprise in the field of membership of the credit union.

"(2) ROUTINE BUSINESS FINANCING.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to advances or other forms of financial assistance generally provided by a Government-sponsored enterprise in the ordinary course of business of the enterprise.

"(3) GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Government-sponsored enterprise' has the meaning given to such term in section 1404(e)(1)(A) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989.

"(4) EMPLOYEE CREDIT UNION.—No provision of this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting any employee of a Government-sponsored enterprise from becoming a member of a credit union whose field of membership is the employees of such enterprise.".

(b) BANKS AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS.—Section 18 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(s) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN AFFILIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No depository institution may be an affiliate of, be sponsored by, or accept financial support, directly or indirectly, from any Government-sponsored enterprise.

"(2) EXCEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF A FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to the membership of a depository institution in a Federal home loan bank.

"(3) ROUTINE BUSINESS FINANCING.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to advances or other forms of financial assistance provided by a Government-sponsored enterprise pursuant to the statutes governing such enterprise.

"(4) GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Government-sponsored enterprise' has the meaning given to such term in section 1404(e)(1)(A) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989.".

12 USC 1781 note.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on and after January 1, 1996.

Subtitle G—Deposit Insurance Funds

Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996.

12 USC 1811 note.

SEC. 2701. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996".

12 USC 1817 note.

SEC. 2702. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO CAPITALIZE SAIF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (f), the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall impose a special assessment on the SAIF-assessable deposits of each insured depository institution in accordance with assessment regulations of the Corporation at a rate applicable to all such

institutions that the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, determines (after taking into account the adjustments described in subsections (g), (h), and (j)) will cause the Savings Association Insurance Fund to achieve the designated reserve ratio on the first business day of the 1st month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Board of Directors shall base its determination on—

(1) the monthly Savings Association Insurance Fund balance most recently calculated;

(2) data on insured deposits reported in the most recent reports of condition filed not later than 70 days before the date of enactment of this Act by insured depository institutions; and

(3) any other factors that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

(c) DATE OF DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the amount of the SAIF-assessable deposits of an insured depository institution shall be determined as of March 31, 1995.

(d) DATE PAYMENT DUE.—Except as provided in subsection (g), the special assessment imposed under this section shall be—

(1) due on the first business day of the 1st month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) paid to the Corporation on the later of—

(A) the first business day of the 1st month beginning after such date of enactment; or

(B) such other date as the Corporation shall prescribe, but not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) ASSESSMENT DEPOSITED IN SAIF.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the proceeds of the special assessment imposed under this section shall be deposited in the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

(f) EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) EXEMPTION FOR WEAK INSTITUTIONS.—The Board of Directors may, by order, in its sole discretion, exempt any insured depository institution that the Board of Directors determines to be weak, from paying the special assessment imposed under this section if the Board of Directors determines that the exemption would reduce risk to the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

(2) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors shall prescribe guidelines setting forth the criteria that the Board of Directors will use in exempting institutions under paragraph (1). Such guidelines shall be published in the Federal Register.

(3) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN NEWLY CHARTERED AND OTHER DEFINED INSTITUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the institutions exempted from paying the special assessment under paragraph (1), the Board of Directors shall exempt any insured depository institution from payment of the special assessment if the institution—

(i) was in existence on October 1, 1995, and held no SAIF-assessable deposits before January 1, 1993;

(ii) is a Federal savings bank which—

(I) was established de novo in April 1994 in order to acquire the deposits of a savings association which was in default or in danger of default; and

(II) received minority interim capital assistance from the Resolution Trust Corporation under section 21A(w) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act in connection with the acquisition of any such savings association; or

(iii) is a savings association, the deposits of which are insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund, which—

(I) before January 1, 1987, was chartered as a Federal savings bank insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation for the purpose of acquiring all or substantially all of the assets and assuming all or substantially all of the deposit liabilities of a national bank in a transaction consummated after July 1, 1986; and

(II) as of the date of that transaction, had assets of less than $150,000,000.

(B) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, an institution shall be deemed to have held SAIF-assessable deposits before January 1, 1993, if—

(i) it directly held SAIF-assessable deposits before that date; or

(ii) it succeeded to, acquired, purchased, or otherwise holds any SAIF-assessable deposits as of the date of enactment of this Act that were SAIF-assessable deposits before January 1, 1993.

(4) EXEMPT INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO PAY ASSESSMENTS AT FORMER RATES.—

(A) PAYMENTS TO SAIF AND DIF.—Any insured depository institution that the Board of Directors exempts under this subsection from paying the special assessment imposed under this section shall pay semiannual assessments—

(i) during calendar years 1996, 1997, and 1998, into the Savings Association Insurance Fund, based on SAIF-assessable deposits of that institution, at assessment rates calculated under the schedule in effect for Savings Association Insurance Fund members on June 30, 1995; and

(ii) during calendar year 1999—

(I) into the Deposit Insurance Fund, based on SAIF-assessable deposits of that institution as of December 31, 1998, at assessment rates calculated under the schedule in effect for Savings Association Insurance Fund members on June 30, 1995; or

(II) in accordance with clause (i), if the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund are not merged into the Deposit Insurance Fund.

(B) OPTIONAL PRO RATA PAYMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any insured depository institution (or successor insured depository institution) that has paid, during any calendar

year from 1997 through 1999, upon such terms as the Corporation may announce, an amount equal to the product of—

(i) 16.7 percent of the special assessment that the institution would have been required to pay under subsection (a), if the Board of Directors had not exempted the institution; and

(ii) the number of full semiannual periods remaining between the date of the payment and December 31, 1999.

(g) SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS FACING HARDSHIP AS A RESULT OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ELECTION AUTHORIZED.—If—

(A) an insured depository institution, or any depository institution holding company which, directly or indirectly, controls such institution, is subject to terms or covenants in any debt obligation or preferred stock outstanding on September 13, 1995; and

(B) the payment of the special assessment under subsection (a) would pose a significant risk of causing such depository institution or holding company to default or violate any such term or covenant,

the depository institution may elect, with the approval of the Corporation, to pay such special assessment in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) in lieu of paying such assessment in the manner required under subsection (a).

(2) 1ST ASSESSMENT.—An insured depository institution which makes an election under paragraph (1) shall pay an assessment in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the special assessment that would otherwise apply under subsection (a), by the date on which such special assessment is payable under subsection (d).

(3) 2D ASSESSMENT.—An insured depository institution which makes an election under paragraph (1) shall pay a 2d assessment, by the date established by the Board of Directors in accordance with paragraph (4), in an amount equal to the product of 51 percent of the rate determined by the Board of Directors under subsection (a) for determining the amount of the special assessment and the SAIF-assessable deposits of the institution on March 31, 1996, or such other date in calendar year 1996 as the Board of Directors determines to be appropriate.

(4) DUE DATE OF 2D ASSESSMENT.—The date established by the Board of Directors for the payment of the assessment under paragraph (3) by a depository institution shall be the earliest practicable date which the Board of Directors determines to be appropriate, which is at least 15 days after the date used by the Board of Directors under paragraph (3).

(5) SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.—An insured depository institution which makes an election under paragraph (1) shall pay a supplemental special assessment, at the same time the payment under paragraph (3) is made, in an amount equal to the product of—

(A) 50 percent of the rate determined by the Board of Directors under subsection (a) for determining the amount of the special assessment; and

(B) 95 percent of the amount by which the SAIF-assessable deposits used by the Board of Directors for determining the amount of the 1st assessment under paragraph (2) exceeds, if any, the SAIF-assessable deposits used by the Board for determining the amount of the 2d assessment under paragraph (3).

(h) ADJUSTMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR CERTAIN BANK INSURANCE FUND MEMBER BANKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of computing the special assessment imposed under this section with respect to a Bank Insurance Fund member bank, the amount of any deposits of any insured depository institution which section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act treats as insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall be reduced by 20 percent—

(A) if the adjusted attributable deposit amount of the Bank Insurance Fund member bank is less than 50 percent of the total domestic deposits of that member bank as of June 30, 1995; or

(B) if, as of June 30, 1995, the Bank Insurance Fund member—

(i) had an adjusted attributable deposit amount equal to less than 75 percent of the total assessable deposits of that member bank;

(ii) had total assessable deposits greater than $5,000,000,000; and

(iii) was owned or controlled by a bank holding company that owned or controlled insured depository institutions having an aggregate amount of deposits insured or treated as insured by the Bank Insurance Fund greater than the aggregate amount of deposits insured or treated as insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

(2) ADJUSTED ATTRIBUTABLE DEPOSIT AMOUNT.—For purposes of this subsection, the "adjusted attributable deposit amount" shall be determined in accordance with section 5(d)(3)(C) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(i) ADJUSTMENT TO THE ADJUSTED ATTRIBUTABLE DEPOSIT AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN BANK INSURANCE FUND MEMBER BANKS.—Section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1815(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking "The adjusted attributable deposit amount" and inserting "Except as provided in subparagraph (K), the adjusted attributable deposit amount"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(K) ADJUSTMENT OF ADJUSTED ATTRIBUTABLE DEPOSIT AMOUNT.—The amount determined under subparagraph (C)(i) for deposits acquired by March 31, 1995, shall be reduced by 20 percent for purposes of computing the adjusted attributable deposit amount for the payment of any assessment for any semiannual period that begins after the date of the enactment of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996 (other than the special assessment imposed under section 2702(a) of such Act), for a Bank Insurance Fund member bank that, as of June 30, 1995—

"(i) had an adjusted attributable deposit amount that was less than 50 percent of the total deposits of that member bank; or

"(ii)(I) had an adjusted attributable deposit amount equal to less than 75 percent of the total assessable deposits of that member bank;

"(II) had total assessable deposits greater than $5,000,000,000; and

"(III) was owned or controlled by a bank holding company that owned or controlled insured depository institutions having an aggregate amount of deposits insured or treated as insured by the Bank Insurance Fund greater than the aggregate amount of deposits insured or treated as insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund.".

(j) ADJUSTMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR CERTAIN SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL ASSESSMENT REDUCTION.—For purposes of computing the special assessment imposed under this section, in the case of any converted association, the amount of any deposits of such association which were insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund as of March 31, 1995, shall be reduced by 20 percent.

(2) CONVERTED ASSOCIATION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "converted association" means—

(A) any Federal savings association—

(i) that is a member of the Savings Association Insurance Fund and that has deposits subject to assessment by that fund which did not exceed $4,000,000,000, as of March 31, 1995; and

(ii) that had been, or is a successor by merger, acquisition, or otherwise to an institution that had been, a State savings bank, the deposits of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation before August 9, 1989, that converted to a Federal savings association pursuant to section 5(i) of the Home Owners' Loan Act before January 1, 1985;

(B) a State depository institution that is a member of the Savings Association Insurance Fund that had been a State savings bank before October 15, 1982, and was a Federal savings association on August 9, 1989;

(C) an insured bank that—

(i) was established de novo in order to acquire the deposits of a savings association in default or in danger of default;

(ii) did not open for business before acquiring the deposits of such savings association; and

(iii) was a Savings Association Insurance Fund member before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(D) an insured bank that—

(i) resulted from a savings association before December 19, 1991, in accordance with section 5(d)(2)(G) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; and

(ii) had an increase in its capital in conjunction with the conversion in an amount equal to more than 75 percent of the capital of the institution on the day before the date of the conversion.

SEC. 2703. FINANCING CORPORATION FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1441) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) in the matter immediately preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "To the extent the amounts available pursuant to paragraph (1) are insufficient to cover the amount of interest payments, issuance costs, and custodial fees," and inserting "In addition to the amounts obtained pursuant to paragraph (1),";

(ii) by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund member" and inserting "insured depository institution"; and

(iii) by striking "members" and inserting "institutions"; and

(B) by striking ", except that—" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ", except that—

"(A) the assessments imposed on insured depository institutions with respect to any BIF-assessable deposit shall be assessed at a rate equal to ⅕ of the rate of the assessments imposed on insured depository institutions with respect to any SAIF-assessable deposit; and

"(B) no limitation under clause (i) or (iii) of section 7(b)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall apply for purposes of this paragraph."; and

(2) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking "section—" and inserting "section, the following definitions shall apply:";

(B) by striking paragraph (1);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(3) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'insured depository institution' has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act

"(4) DEPOSIT TERMS.—

"(A) BIF-ASSESSABLE DEPOSITS.—The term 'BIF-assessable deposit' means a deposit that is subject to assessment for purposes of the Bank Insurance Fund under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (including a deposit that is treated as a deposit insured by the Bank Insurance Fund under section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act).

"(B) SAIF-ASSESSABLE DEPOSIT.—The term 'SAIF-assessable deposit' has the meaning given to such term in section 2710 of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(b)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

12 USC 1441 note.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (c) and the amendments made by such subsections shall apply with respect to semiannual periods which begin after December 31, 1996.

(2) TERMINATION OF CERTAIN ASSESSMENT RATES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 21(f)(2) of the Federal Home Loan

Bank Act (as amended by subsection (a)) shall not apply after the earlier of—

(A) December 31, 1999; or

(B) the date as of which the last savings association ceases to exist.

(d) PROHIBITION ON DEPOSIT SHIFTING.— 12 USC 1441 note.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision shall take appropriate actions, including enforcement actions, denial of applications, or imposition of entrance and exit fees as if such transactions qualified as conversion transactions pursuant to section 5(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, to prevent insured depository institutions and depository institution holding companies from facilitating or encouraging the shifting of deposits from SAIF-assessable deposits to BIF-assessable deposits (as defined in section 21(k) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act) for the purpose of evading the assessments imposed on insured depository institutions with respect to SAIF-assessable deposits under section 7(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and section 21(f)(2) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may issue regulations, including regulations defining terms used in paragraph (1), to prevent the shifting of deposits described in such paragraph.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No provision of this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting conduct or activity of any insured depository institution which—

(A) is undertaken in the ordinary course of business of such depository institution; and

(B) is not directed towards the depositors of an insured depository institution affiliate (as defined in section 2(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956) of such depository institution.

SEC. 2704. MERGER OF BIF AND SAIF.

(a) IN GENERAL.— 12 USC 1821 note.

(1) MERGER.—The Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall be merged into the Deposit Insurance Fund established by section 11(a)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended by this section.

(2) DISPOSITION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—All assets and liabilities of the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall be transferred to the Deposit Insurance Fund.

(3) NO SEPARATE EXISTENCE.—The separate existence of the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall cease.

(b) SPECIAL RESERVE OF THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.— 12 USC 1821 note.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Immediately before the merger of the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund, if the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund exceeds the designated reserve ratio, the amount by which

that reserve ratio exceeds the designated reserve ratio shall be placed in the Special Reserve of the Deposit Insurance Fund, established under section 11(a)(5) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended by this section.

(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "reserve ratio" means the ratio of the net worth of the Savings Association Insurance Fund to the aggregate estimated amount of deposits insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

12 USC 1821 note.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall become effective on January 1, 1999, if no insured depository institution is a savings association on that date.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—Section 11(a)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Deposit Insurance Fund, which the Corporation shall—

"(i) maintain and administer;

"(ii) use to carry out its insurance purposes in the manner provided by this subsection; and

"(iii) invest in accordance with section 13(a).

"(B) USES.—The Deposit Insurance Fund shall be available to the Corporation for use with respect to Deposit Insurance Fund members."; and

(C) by striking "(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO FUNDS.—" and inserting the following:

"(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—".

(2) OTHER REFERENCES.—Section 11(a)(4)(C) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(4)(C), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) is amended by striking "Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

(3) DEPOSITS INTO FUND.—Section 11(a)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) DEPOSITS.—All amounts assessed against insured depository institutions by the Corporation shall be deposited in the Deposit Insurance Fund.".

(4) SPECIAL RESERVE OF DEPOSITS.—Section 11(a)(5) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) SPECIAL RESERVE OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Special Reserve of the Deposit Insurance Fund, which shall be administered by the Corporation and shall be invested in accordance with section 13(a).

"(ii) LIMITATION.—The Corporation shall not provide any assessment credit, refund, or other payment from any amount in the Special Reserve.

"(B) EMERGENCY USE OF SPECIAL RESERVE.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(ii), the Corporation may, in its sole discretion, transfer amounts from the Special Reserve

to the Deposit Insurance Fund, for the purposes set forth in paragraph (4), only if—

"(i) the reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund is less than 50 percent of the designated reserve ratio; and

"(ii) the Corporation expects the reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund to remain at less than 50 percent of the designated reserve ratio for each of the next 4 calendar quarters.

"(C) EXCLUSION OF SPECIAL RESERVE IN CALCULATING RESERVE RATIO.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts in the Special Reserve shall be excluded in calculating the reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund under section 7.".

(5) FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ACT.—Section 21B(f)(2)(C)(ii) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1441b(f)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking "to Savings Associations Insurance Fund members" and inserting "to insured depository institutions, and their successors, which were Savings Association Insurance Fund members on September 1, 1995"; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking "to Savings Associations Insurance Fund members" and inserting "to insured depository institutions, and their successors, which were Savings Association Insurance Fund members on September 1, 1995".

(6) REPEALS.—

(A) SECTION 3.—Section 3(y) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(y)) is amended to read as follows:

"(y) DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—

"(1) DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—The term 'Deposit Insurance Fund' means the fund established under section 11(a)(4).

"(2) RESERVE RATIO.—The term 'reserve ratio' means the ratio of the net worth of the Deposit Insurance Fund to aggregate estimated insured deposits held in all insured depository institutions.

"(3) DESIGNATED RESERVE RATIO.—The designated reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund for each year shall be—

"(A) 1.25 percent of estimated insured deposits; or

"(B) a higher percentage of estimated insured deposits that the Board of Directors determines to be justified for that year by circumstances raising a significant risk of substantial future losses to the fund."

(B) SECTION 7.—Section 7 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817) is amended—

(i) by striking subsection (*l*);

(ii) by redesignating subsections (m) and (n) as subsections (*l*) and (m), respectively;

(iii) in subsection (b)(2), by striking subparagraphs (B) and (F), and by redesignating subparagraphs (C), (E), (G), and (H) as subparagraphs (B) through (E), respectively.

(C) SECTION 11.—Section 11(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraphs (6) and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (6).

(7) SECTION 5136 OF THE REVISED STATUTES.—The paragraph designated the "Eleventh" of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 24) is amended in the 5th sentence, by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

(8) INVESTMENTS PROMOTING PUBLIC WELFARE; LIMITATIONS ON AGGREGATE INVESTMENTS.—The 23d undesignated paragraph of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a) is amended in the 4th sentence, by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

(9) ADVANCES TO CRITICALLY UNDERCAPITALIZED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 10B(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 347b(b)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking "any deposit insurance fund in" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund of".

(10) AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking "Bank Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(B) by striking "Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Savings Association Insurance Fund;".

(11) FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ACT.—The Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 11(k) (12 U.S.C. 1431(k))—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking "SAIF" and inserting "THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND"; and

(ii) by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" each place such term appears and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(B) in section 21A(b)(4)(B) (12 U.S.C. 1441a(b)(4)(B)), by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(C) in section 21A(b)(6)(B) (12 U.S.C. 1441a(b)(6)(B))—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "SAIF-INSURED BANKS" and inserting "CHARTER CONVERSIONS"; and

(ii) by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund member" and inserting "savings association";

(D) in section 21A(b)(10)(A)(iv)(II) (12 U.S.C. 1441a(b)(10)(A)(iv)(II)), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(E) in section 21B(e) (12 U.S.C. 1441b(e))—

(i) in paragraph (5), by inserting "as of the date of funding" after "Savings Association Insurance Fund members" each place such term appears;

(ii) by striking paragraph (7); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (7); and

(F) in section 21B(k) (12 U.S.C. 1441b(k))—

(i) by striking paragraph (8); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively.

(12) AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME OWNERS' LOAN ACT.—The Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 5— 12 USC 1464.

(i) in subsection (c)(5)(A), by striking "that is a member of the Bank Insurance Fund";

(ii) in subsection (c)(6), by striking "As used in this subsection—" and inserting "For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:";

(iii) in subsection (o)(1), by striking "that is a Bank Insurance Fund member";

(iv) in subsection (o)(2)(A), by striking "a Bank Insurance Fund member until such time as it changes its status to a Savings Association Insurance Fund member" and inserting "insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(v) in subsection (t)(5)(D)(iii)(II), by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(vi) in subsection (t)(7)(C)(i)(I), by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(vii) in subsection (v)(2)(A)(i), by striking ", the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "or the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(B) in section 10— 12 USC 1467a.

(i) in subsection (e)(1)(A)(iii)(VII), by adding "or" at the end;

(ii) in subsection (e)(1)(A)(iv), by adding "and" at the end;

(iii) in subsection (e)(1)(B), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund or Bank Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(iv) in subsection (e)(2), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund or the Bank Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(v) in subsection (m)(3), by striking subparagraph (E), and by redesignating subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), respectively.

(13) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL HOUSING ACT.—The National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 317(b)(1)(B) (12 U.S.C. 1723i(b)(1)(B)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund for banks or through the Savings Association Insurance Fund for savings associations" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(B) in section 526(b)(1)(B)(ii) (12 U.S.C. 1735f–14(b)(1)(B)(ii)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund for banks and through the Savings Association Insurance Fund for savings associations" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

(14) FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT.—The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 3(a)(1) (12 U.S.C. 1813(a)(1)), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) includes any former savings association.";

(B) in section 5(b)(5) (12 U.S.C. 1815(b)(5)), by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund;" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund,";

(C) in section 5(d) (12 U.S.C. 1815(d)), by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(D) in section 5(d)(1) (12 U.S.C. 1815(d)(1))—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "reserve ratios in the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "the reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(2) FEE CREDITED TO THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—The fee paid by the depository institution under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the Deposit Insurance Fund.";

(iii) by striking "(1) UNINSURED INSTITUTIONS.—"; and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (C) as paragraphs (1) and (3), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the left;

(E) in section 5(e) (12 U.S.C. 1815(e))—

(i) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(ii) by striking paragraph (6); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

(F) in section 6(5) (12 U.S.C. 1816(5)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(G) in section 7(b) (12 U.S.C. 1817(b))—

(i) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking "each deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(ii) in clauses (i)(I) and (iv) of paragraph (2)(A), by striking "each deposit insurance fund" each place such term appears and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(iii) in paragraph (2)(A)(iii), by striking "a deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(iv) by striking clause (iv) of paragraph (2)(A);

(v) in paragraph (2)(C) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)(B) of this subsection)—

(I) by striking "any deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(II) by striking "that fund" each place such term appears and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(vi) in paragraph (2)(D) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)(B) of this subsection)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "FUNDS ACHIEVE" and inserting "FUND ACHIEVES"; and

(II) by striking "a deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(vii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the paragraph heading, by striking "FUNDS" and inserting "FUND";

(II) by striking "members of that fund" where such term appears in the portion of subparagraph (A) which precedes clause (i) of such subparagraph and inserting "insured depository institutions";

(III) by striking "that fund" each place such term appears (other than in connection with term amended in subclause (II) of this clause) and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(IV) in subparagraph (A), by striking "Except as provided in paragraph (2)(F), if" and inserting "If";

(V) in subparagraph (A), by striking "any deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(VI) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

"(C) AMENDING SCHEDULE.—The Corporation may, by regulation, amend a schedule prescribed under subparagraph (B).."; and

(viii) in paragraph (6)—

(I) by striking "any such assessment" and inserting "any such assessment is necessary";

(II) by striking "(A) is necessary—";

(III) by striking subparagraph (B);

(IV) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the left; and

(V) in subparagraph (C) (as redesignated), by striking "; and" and inserting a period;

(H) in section 11(f)(1) (12 U.S.C. 1821(f)(1)), by striking ", except that—" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting a period;

(I) in section 11(i)(3) (12 U.S.C. 1821(i)(3))—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as redesignated), by striking "subparagraphs (A) and (B)" and inserting "subparagraph (A)";

(J) in section 11A(a) (12 U.S.C. 1821a(a))—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking "LIABILITIES.—" and all that follows through "Except" and inserting "LIABILITIES.—Except";

(ii) by striking paragraph (2)(B); and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund," and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(K) in section 11A(b) (12 U.S.C. 1821a(b)), by striking paragraph (4);

(L) in section 11A(f) (12 U.S.C. 1821a(f)), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(M) in section 13 (12 U.S.C. 1823)—

(i) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund," and

inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund, the Special Reserve of the Deposit Insurance Fund,";

(ii) in subsection (c)(4)(E)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "FUNDS" and inserting "FUND"; and

(II) in clause (i), by striking "any insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(iii) in subsection (c)(4)(G)(ii)—

(I) by striking "appropriate insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(II) by striking "the members of the insurance fund (of which such institution is a member)" and inserting "insured depository institutions";

(III) by striking "each member's" and inserting "each insured depository institution's"; and

(IV) by striking "the member's" each place such term appears and inserting "the institution's";

(iv) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (11);

(v) in subsection (h), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(vi) in subsection (k)(4)(B)(i), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(vii) in subsection (k)(5)(A), by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(N) in section 14(a) (12 U.S.C. 1824(a)) in the 5th sentence—

(i) by striking "Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(ii) by striking "each such fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(O) in section 14(b) (12 U.S.C. 1824(b)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund or Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(P) in section 14(c) (12 U.S.C. 1824(c)), by striking paragraph (3);

(Q) in section 14(d) (12 U.S.C. 1824(d))—

(i) by striking "BIF" each place such term appears and inserting "DIF"; and

(ii) by striking "Bank Insurance Fund" each place such term appears and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(R) in section 15(c)(5) (12 U.S.C. 1825(c)(5))—

(i) by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund or Savings Association Insurance Fund, respectively" each place such term appears and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund, respectively" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(S) in section 17(a) (12 U.S.C. 1827(a))—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking "BIF, SAIF," and inserting "THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND"; and

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund," each place such term appears and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(T) in section 17(d) (12 U.S.C. 1827(d)), by striking "the Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund," each place such term appears and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund";

(U) in section 18(m)(3) (12 U.S.C. 1828(m)(3))—

(i) by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" each place such term appears and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or the Bank Insurance Fund";

(V) in section 18(p) (12 U.S.C. 1828(p)), by striking "deposit insurance funds" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(W) in section 24 (12 U.S.C. 1831a) in subsections (a)(1) and (d)(1)(A), by striking "appropriate deposit insurance fund" each place such term appears and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(X) in section 28 (12 U.S.C. 1831e), by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" each place such term appears and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(Y) by striking section 31 (12 U.S.C. 1831h);

(Z) in section 36(i)(3) (12 U.S.C. 1831m(i)(3)) by striking "affected deposit insurance fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund";

(AA) in section 38(a) (12 U.S.C. 1831o(a)) in the subsection heading, by striking "FUNDS" and inserting "FUND";

(BB) in section 38(k) (12 U.S.C. 1831o(k))—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "a deposit insurance fund" and inserting "the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(I) by striking "A deposit insurance fund" and inserting "The Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(II) by striking "the deposit insurance fund's outlays" and inserting "the outlays of the Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(CC) in section 38(o) (12 U.S.C. 1831o(o))—

(i) by striking "ASSOCIATIONS.—" and all that follows through "Subsections (e)(2)" and inserting "ASSOCIATIONS.—Subsections (e)(2)";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the left; and

(iii) in paragraph (1) (as redesignated), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the left.

(15) AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS REFORM, RECOVERY, AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1989.—The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act is amended—

(A) in section 951(b)(3)(B) (12 U.S.C. 1833a(b)(3)(B)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association

Insurance Fund," and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund"; and

(B) in section 1112(c)(1)(B) (12 U.S.C. 3341(c)(1)(B)), by striking "Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund," and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

(16) AMENDMENT TO THE BANK ENTERPRISE ACT OF 1991.—Section 232(a)(1) of the Bank Enterprise Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 1834(a)(1)) is amended by striking "section 7(b)(2)(H)" and inserting "section 7(b)(2)(G)".

(17) AMENDMENT TO THE BANK HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1956.—Section 2(j)(2) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841(j)(2)) is amended by striking "Savings Association Insurance Fund" and inserting "Deposit Insurance Fund".

SEC. 2705. CREATION OF SAIF SPECIAL RESERVE.

Section 11(a)(6) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(L) ESTABLISHMENT OF SAIF SPECIAL RESERVE.—

"(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—If, on January 1, 1999, the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund exceeds the designated reserve ratio, there is established a Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund, which shall be administered by the Corporation and shall be invested in accordance with section 13(a).

"(ii) AMOUNTS IN SPECIAL RESERVE.—If, on January 1, 1999, the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund exceeds the designated reserve ratio, the amount by which the reserve ratio exceeds the designated reserve ratio shall be placed in the Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund established by clause (i).

"(iii) LIMITATION.—The Corporation shall not provide any assessment credit, refund, or other payment from any amount in the Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

"(iv) EMERGENCY USE OF SPECIAL RESERVE.—Notwithstanding clause (iii), the Corporation may, in its sole discretion, transfer amounts from the Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund to the Savings Association Insurance Fund for the purposes set forth in paragraph (4), only if—

"(I) the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund is less than 50 percent of the designated reserve ratio; and

"(II) the Corporation expects the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund to remain at less than 50 percent of the designated reserve ratio for each of the next 4 calendar quarters.

"(v) EXCLUSION OF SPECIAL RESERVE IN CALCULATING RESERVE RATIO.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts in the Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall be excluded in calculating the reserve ratio of the Savings Association Insurance Fund.".

SEC. 2706. REFUND OF AMOUNTS IN DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND IN EXCESS OF DESIGNATED RESERVE AMOUNT.

Subsection (e) of section 7 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(e)) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) REFUNDS.—

"(1) OVERPAYMENTS.—In the case of any payment of an assessment by an insured depository institution in excess of the amount due to the Corporation, the Corporation may—

"(A) refund the amount of the excess payment to the insured depository institution; or

"(B) credit such excess amount toward the payment of subsequent semiannual assessments until such credit is exhausted.

"(2) BALANCE IN INSURANCE FUND IN EXCESS OF DESIGNATED RESERVE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), if, as of the end of any semiannual assessment period beginning after the date of the enactment of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996, the amount of the actual reserves in—

"(i) the Bank Insurance Fund (until the merger of such fund into the Deposit Insurance Fund pursuant to section 2704 of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996); or

"(ii) the Deposit Insurance Fund (after the establishment of such fund),

exceeds the balance required to meet the designated reserve ratio applicable with respect to such fund, such excess amount shall be refunded to insured depository institutions by the Corporation on such basis as the Board of Directors determines to be appropriate, taking into account the factors considered under the risk-based assessment system.

"(B) REFUND NOT TO EXCEED PREVIOUS SEMIANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—The amount of any refund under this paragraph to any member of a deposit insurance fund for any semiannual assessment period may not exceed the total amount of assessments paid by such member to the insurance fund with respect to such period.

"(C) REFUND LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.—No refund may be made under this paragraph with respect to the amount of any assessment paid for any semiannual assessment period by any insured depository institution described in clause (v) of subsection (b)(2)(A).".

SEC. 2707. ASSESSMENT RATES FOR SAIF MEMBERS MAY NOT BE LESS THAN ASSESSMENT RATES FOR BIF MEMBERS.

Section 7(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(2)(E), as redesignated by section 2704(d)(6) of this subtitle) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of clause (i);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of

1996, and ending on December 31, 1998, the assessment rate for a Savings Association Insurance Fund member may not be less than the assessment rate for a Bank Insurance Fund member that poses a comparable risk to the deposit insurance fund.".

SEC. 2708. ASSESSMENTS AUTHORIZED ONLY IF NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE RESERVE RATIO OF A DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended in the matter preceding subclause (I) by inserting "when necessary, and only to the extent necessary" after "insured depository institutions".

(b) LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT.—Section 7(b)(2)(A)(iii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

"(iii) LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT.—Except as provided in clause (v), the Board of Directors shall not set semiannual assessments with respect to a deposit insurance fund in excess of the amount needed—

"(I) to maintain the reserve ratio of the fund at the designated reserve ratio; or

"(II) if the reserve ratio is less than the designated reserve ratio, to increase the reserve ratio to the designated reserve ratio.".

(c) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENTS.—Section 7(b)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(v) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENTS.—The Board of Directors may set semiannual assessments in excess of the amount permitted under clauses (i) and (iii) with respect to insured depository institutions that exhibit financial, operational, or compliance weaknesses ranging from moderately severe to unsatisfactory, or are not well capitalized, as that term is defined in section 38.".

SEC. 2709. TREASURY STUDY OF COMMON DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION CHARTER.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct a study of all issues which the Secretary considers to be relevant with respect to the development of a common charter for all insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) and the abolition of separate and distinct charters between banks and savings associations.

(b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a report to the Congress on or before March 31, 1997, containing the findings and conclusions of the Secretary in connection with the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) DETAILED ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed analysis of each issue the Secretary considered relevant to the subject of the study;

(B) recommendations of the Secretary with regard to the establishment of a common charter for insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act); and

(C) such recommendations for legislative and administrative action as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to implement the recommendations of the Secretary under subparagraph (B).

SEC. 2710. DEFINITIONS.

12 USC 1821 note.

For purposes of this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) BANK INSURANCE FUND.—The term "Bank Insurance Fund" means the fund established pursuant to section (11)(a)(5)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as that section existed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) BIF MEMBER, SAIF MEMBER.—The terms "Bank Insurance Fund member" and "Savings Association Insurance Fund member" have the same meanings as in section 7(*l*) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(3) VARIOUS BANKING TERMS.—The terms "bank", "Board of Directors", "Corporation", "deposit", "insured depository institution", "Federal savings association", "savings association", "State savings bank", and "State depository institution" have the same meanings as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(4) DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUND.—The term "Deposit Insurance Fund" means the fund established under section 11(a)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (as amended by section 2704(d) of this subtitle).

(5) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION HOLDING COMPANY.—The term "depository institution holding company" has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(6) DESIGNATED RESERVE RATIO.—The term "designated reserve ratio" has the same meaning as in section 7(b)(2)(A)(iv) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(7) SAIF.—The term "Savings Association Insurance Fund" means the fund established pursuant to section 11(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as that section existed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(8) SAIF-ASSESSABLE DEPOSIT.—The term "SAIF-assessable deposit"—

(A) means a deposit that is subject to assessment for purposes of the Savings Association Insurance Fund under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (including a deposit that is treated as insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund under section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act); and

(B) includes any deposit described in subparagraph (A) which is assumed after March 31, 1995, if the insured depository institution, the deposits of which are assumed, is not an insured depository institution when the special assessment is imposed under section 2702(a).

SEC. 2711. DEDUCTION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.

26 USC 162 note.

For purposes of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) the amount allowed as a deduction under section 162 of such Code for a taxable year shall include any amount paid during such year by reason of an assessment under section 2702 of this subtitle, and

(2) section 172(f) of such Code shall not apply to any deduction described in paragraph (1).

TITLE III—SPECTRUM ALLOCATION PROVISIONS

SEC. 3001. COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR SPECTRUM.

(a) COMMISSION OBLIGATION TO MAKE ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM AVAILABLE.—The Federal Communications Commission shall—

(1) reallocate the use of frequencies at 2305–2320 megahertz and 2345–2360 megahertz to wireless services that are consistent with international agreements concerning spectrum allocations; and

(2) assign the use of such frequencies by competitive bidding pursuant to section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)).

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In making the bands of frequencies described in subsection (a) available for competitive bidding, the Commission shall—

(1) seek to promote the most efficient use of the spectrum; and

(2) take into account the needs of public safety radio services.

(c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—The Commission shall commence the competitive bidding for the assignment of the frequencies described in subsection (a)(1) no later than April 15, 1997. The rules governing such frequencies shall be effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register notwithstanding section 553(d), 801(a)(3), and 806(a) of title 5, United States Code. Chapter 6 of such title, and sections 3507 and 3512 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the rules and competitive bidding procedures governing such frequencies. Notwithstanding section 309(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(b)), no application for an instrument of authorization for such frequencies shall be granted by the Commission earlier than 7 days following issuance of public notice by the Commission of the acceptance for filing of such application or of any substantial amendment thereto. Notwithstanding section 309(d)(1) of such Act (47 U.S.C. 309(d)(1)), the Commission may specify a period (no less than 5 days following issuance of such public notice) for the filing of petitions to deny any application for an instrument of authorization for such frequencies.

(d) DEADLINE FOR COLLECTION.—The Commission shall conduct the competitive bidding under subsection (a)(2) in a manner that ensures that all proceeds of the bidding are deposited in accordance with section 309(j)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 not later September 30, 1997.