

Senate passes Pension Reform Legislation

On November 16, 2005 the Senate passed S. 1783, "The Pension Security and Transparency Act of 2005." The bill contains two provisions that amend the Railroad Retirement Act.

Section 902 amends section 2 of the RRA to permit a divorced spouse to become entitled to an annuity without regard to the entitlement of the railroad employee.

Section 903 amends section 5 of the RRA to add language which would provide that a portion of the employee's tier II component awarded to a former spouse pursuant to a property award will continue to be paid to the former spouse after the death of the railroad employee.

The measure is now going to the House for consideration. The House however has been moving its own pension reform legislation, H.R. 2830, "The Pension Reform Bill," which does not contain these provisions.