

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 12

To amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Mr. GRASSLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE; TABLE OF CON-**
4 **TENTS.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
6 “Class Action Fairness Act of 2004.”

7 (b) REFERENCE.—Whenever in this Act reference is
8 made to an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other
9 provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to

1 a section or other provision of title 28, United States
2 Code.

3 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
4 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; reference; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Consumer class action bill of rights and improved procedures for interstate class actions.
- Sec. 4. Federal district court jurisdiction for interstate class actions.
- Sec. 5. Removal of interstate class actions to Federal district court.
- Sec. 6. Report on class action settlements.
- Sec. 7. Enactment of Judicial Conference recommendations.
- Sec. 8. Rulemaking authority of Supreme Court and Judicial Conference.
- Sec. 9. Effective date.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Class action lawsuits are an important and
8 valuable part of the legal system when they permit
9 the fair and efficient resolution of legitimate claims
10 of numerous parties by allowing the claims to be ag-
11 gregated into a single action against a defendant
12 that has allegedly caused harm.

13 (2) Over the past decade, there have been
14 abuses of the class action device that have—

15 (A) harmed class members with legitimate
16 claims and defendants that have acted respon-
17 sibly;

18 (B) adversely affected interstate commerce;
19 and

1 (C) undermined public respect for our judi-
2 cial system.

3 (3) Class members often receive little or no ben-
4 efit from class actions, and are sometimes harmed,
5 such as where—

6 (A) counsel are awarded large fees, while
7 leaving class members with coupons or other
8 awards of little or no value;

9 (B) unjustified awards are made to certain
10 plaintiffs at the expense of other class mem-
11 bers; and

12 (C) confusing notices are published that
13 prevent class members from being able to fully
14 understand and effectively exercise their rights.

15 (4) Abuses in class actions undermine the na-
16 tional judicial system, the free flow of interstate
17 commerce, and the concept of diversity jurisdiction
18 as intended by the framers of the United States
19 Constitution, in that State and local courts are—

20 (A) keeping cases of national importance
21 out of Federal court;

22 (B) sometimes acting in ways that dem-
23 onstrate bias against out-of-State defendants;
24 and

1 (C) making judgments that impose their
 2 view of the law on other States and bind the
 3 rights of the residents of those States.

4 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

5 (1) assure fair and prompt recoveries for class
 6 members with legitimate claims;

7 (2) restore the intent of the framers of the
 8 United States Constitution by providing for Federal
 9 court consideration of interstate cases of national
 10 importance under diversity jurisdiction; and

11 (3) benefit society by encouraging innovation
 12 and lowering consumer prices.

13 **SEC. 3. CONSUMER CLASS ACTION BILL OF RIGHTS AND IM-**
 14 **PROVED PROCEDURES FOR INTERSTATE**
 15 **CLASS ACTIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part V is amended by inserting
 17 after chapter 113 the following:

18 **“CHAPTER 114—CLASS ACTIONS**

“Sec.

“1711. Definitions.

“1712. Coupon settlements.

“1713. Protection against loss by class members.

“1714. Protection against discrimination based on geographic location.

“1715. Notifications to appropriate Federal and State officials.

19 **“§ 1711. Definitions**

20 “In this chapter:

21 “(1) CLASS.—The term ‘class’ means all of the
 22 class members in a class action.

1 “(2) CLASS ACTION.—The term ‘class action’
2 means any civil action filed in a district court of the
3 United States under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
4 Civil Procedure or any civil action that is removed
5 to a district court of the United States that was
6 originally filed under a State statute or rule of judi-
7 cial procedure authorizing an action to be brought
8 by 1 or more representatives as a class action.

9 “(3) CLASS COUNSEL.—The term ‘class coun-
10 sel’ means the persons who serve as the attorneys
11 for the class members in a proposed or certified
12 class action.

13 “(4) CLASS MEMBERS.—The term ‘class mem-
14 bers’ means the persons (named or unnamed) who
15 fall within the definition of the proposed or certified
16 class in a class action.

17 “(5) PLAINTIFF CLASS ACTION.—The term
18 ‘plaintiff class action’ means a class action in which
19 class members are plaintiffs.

20 “(6) PROPOSED SETTLEMENT.—The term ‘pro-
21 posed settlement’ means an agreement regarding a
22 class action that is subject to court approval and
23 that, if approved, would be binding on some or all
24 class members.

1 **“§ 1712. Coupon settlements**

2 “(a) CONTINGENT FEES IN COUPON SETTLE-
3 MENTS.—If a proposed settlement in a class action pro-
4 vides for a recovery of coupons to a class member, the
5 portion of any attorney’s fee award to class counsel that
6 is attributable to the award of the coupons shall be based
7 on the value to class members of the coupons that are
8 redeemed.

9 “(b) OTHER ATTORNEY’S FEE AWARDS IN COUPON
10 SETTLEMENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a proposed settlement in
12 a class action provides for a recovery of coupons to
13 class members, and a portion of the recovery of the
14 coupons is not used to determine the attorney’s fee
15 to be paid to class counsel, any attorney’s fee award
16 shall be based upon the amount of time class counsel
17 reasonably expended working on the action.

18 “(2) COURT APPROVAL.—Any attorney’s fee
19 under this subsection shall be subject to approval by
20 the court and shall include an appropriate attorney’s
21 fee, if any, for obtaining equitable relief, including
22 an injunction, if applicable. Nothing in this sub-
23 section shall be construed to prohibit application of
24 a lodestar with a multiplier method of determining
25 attorney’s fees.

1 “(c) ATTORNEY’S FEE AWARDS CALCULATED ON A
 2 MIXED BASIS IN COUPON SETTLEMENTS.—If a proposed
 3 settlement in a class action provides for an award of cou-
 4 pons to class members and also provides for equitable re-
 5 lief, including injunctive relief—

6 “(1) that portion of the attorney’s fee to be
 7 paid to class counsel that is based upon a portion of
 8 the recovery of the coupons shall be calculated in ac-
 9 cordance with subsection (a); and

10 “(2) that portion of the attorney’s fee to be
 11 paid to class counsel that is not based upon a por-
 12 tion of the recovery of the coupons shall be cal-
 13 culated in accordance with subsection (b).

14 “(d) SETTLEMENT VALUATION EXPERTISE.—In a
 15 class action involving the awarding of coupons, the court
 16 may, in its discretion upon the motion of a party, receive
 17 expert testimony from a witness qualified to provide infor-
 18 mation on the actual value to the class members of the
 19 coupons that are redeemed.

20 “(e) JUDICIAL SCRUTINY OF COUPON SETTLE-
 21 MENTS.—In a proposed settlement under which class
 22 members would be awarded coupons, the court may ap-
 23 prove the proposed settlement only after a hearing to de-
 24 termine whether, and making a written finding that, the
 25 settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate for class mem-

bers. The court, in its discretion, may also require that a proposed settlement agreement provide for the distribution of a portion of the value of unclaimed coupons to one or more charitable or governmental organizations, as agreed to by the parties. The distribution and redemption of any proceeds under this subsection shall not be used to calculate attorney’s fees under this section.

§ 1713. Protection against loss by class members

“The court may approve a proposed settlement under which any class member is obligated to pay sums to class counsel that would result in a net loss to the class member only if the court makes a written finding that nonmonetary benefits to the class member substantially outweigh the monetary loss.

§ 1714. Protection against discrimination based on geographic location

“The court may not approve a proposed settlement that provides for the payment of greater sums to some class members than to others solely on the basis that the class members to whom the greater sums are to be paid are located in closer geographic proximity to the court.

§ 1715. Notifications to appropriate Federal and State officials

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—In
2 this section, the term ‘appropriate Federal official’
3 means—

4 “(A) the Attorney General of the United
5 States; or

6 “(B) in any case in which the defendant is
7 a Federal depository institution, a State depository
8 institution, a depository institution holding
9 company, a foreign bank, or a nondepository in-
10 stitution subsidiary of the foregoing (as such
11 terms are defined in section 3 of the Federal
12 Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)), the
13 person who has the primary Federal regulatory
14 or supervisory responsibility with respect to the
15 defendant, if some or all of the matters alleged
16 in the class action are subject to regulation or
17 supervision by that person.

18 “(2) APPROPRIATE STATE OFFICIAL.—In this
19 section, the term ‘appropriate State official’ means
20 the person in the State who has the primary regu-
21 latory or supervisory responsibility with respect to
22 the defendant, or who licenses or otherwise author-
23 izes the defendant to conduct business in the State,
24 if some or all of the matters alleged in the class ac-
25 tion are subject to regulation by that person. If

1 there is no primary regulator, supervisor, or licens-
2 ing authority, or the matters alleged in the class ac-
3 tion are not subject to regulation or supervision by
4 that person, then the appropriate State official shall
5 be the State attorney general.

6 “(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after a
7 proposed settlement of a class action is filed in court, each
8 defendant that is participating in the proposed settlement
9 shall serve upon the appropriate State official of each
10 State in which a class member resides and the appropriate
11 Federal official, a notice of the proposed settlement con-
12 sisting of—

13 “(1) a copy of the complaint and any materials
14 filed with the complaint and any amended com-
15 plaints (except such materials shall not be required
16 to be served if such materials are made electronically
17 available through the Internet and such service in-
18 cludes notice of how to electronically access such
19 material);

20 “(2) notice of any scheduled judicial hearing in
21 the class action;

22 “(3) any proposed or final notification to class
23 members of—

24 “(A)(i) the members’ rights to request ex-
25 clusion from the class action; or

1 “(ii) if no right to request exclusion exists,
2 a statement that no such right exists; and

3 “(B) a proposed settlement of a class ac-
4 tion;

5 “(4) any proposed or final class action settle-
6 ment;

7 “(5) any settlement or other agreement contem-
8 poraneously made between class counsel and counsel
9 for the defendants;

10 “(6) any final judgment or notice of dismissal;

11 “(7)(A) if feasible, the names of class members
12 who reside in each State and the estimated propor-
13 tionate share of the claims of such members to the
14 entire settlement to that State’s appropriate State
15 official; or

16 “(B) if the provision of information under sub-
17 paragraph (A) is not feasible, a reasonable estimate
18 of the number of class members residing in each
19 State and the estimated proportionate share of the
20 claims of such members to the entire settlement; and

21 “(8) any written judicial opinion relating to the
22 materials described under subparagraphs (3)
23 through (6).

24 “(c) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS NOTIFICATION.—

1 “(1) FEDERAL AND OTHER DEPOSITORY INSTI-
2 TUTIONS.—In any case in which the defendant is a
3 Federal depository institution, a depository institu-
4 tion holding company, a foreign bank, or a non-
5 depository institution subsidiary of the foregoing,
6 the notice requirements of this section are satisfied
7 by serving the notice required under subsection (b)
8 upon the person who has the primary Federal regu-
9 latory or supervisory responsibility with respect to
10 the defendant, if some or all of the matters alleged
11 in the class action are subject to regulation or super-
12 vision by that person.

13 “(2) STATE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—In
14 any case in which the defendant is a State deposi-
15 tory institution (as that term is defined in section 3
16 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.
17 1813)), the notice requirements of this section are
18 satisfied by serving the notice required under sub-
19 section (b) upon the State bank supervisor (as that
20 term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit
21 Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)) of the State in
22 which the defendant is incorporated or chartered, if
23 some or all of the matters alleged in the class action
24 are subject to regulation or supervision by that per-
25 son, and upon the appropriate Federal official.

1 “(d) FINAL APPROVAL.—An order giving final ap-
2 proval of a proposed settlement may not be issued earlier
3 than 90 days after the later of the dates on which the
4 appropriate Federal official and the appropriate State offi-
5 cial are served with the notice required under subsection
6 (b).

7 “(e) NONCOMPLIANCE IF NOTICE NOT PROVIDED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A class member may refuse
9 to comply with and may choose not to be bound by
10 a settlement agreement or consent decree in a class
11 action if the class member demonstrates that the no-
12 tice required under subsection (b) has not been pro-
13 vided.

14 “(2) LIMITATION.—A class member may not
15 refuse to comply with or to be bound by a settlement
16 agreement or consent decree under paragraph (1) if
17 the notice required under subsection (b) was directed
18 to the appropriate Federal official and to either the
19 State attorney general or the person that has pri-
20 mary regulatory, supervisory, or licensing authority
21 over the defendant.

22 “(3) APPLICATION OF RIGHTS.—The rights cre-
23 ated by this subsection shall apply only to class
24 members or any person acting on a class member’s
25 behalf, and shall not be construed to limit any other

1 rights affecting a class member’s participation in the
2 settlement.

3 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to expand the authority of, or im-
5 pose any obligations, duties, or responsibilities upon, Fed-
6 eral or State officials.”.

7 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
8 The table of chapters for part V is amended by inserting
9 after the item relating to chapter 113 the following:

1711’.

10 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION FOR**
11 **INTERSTATE CLASS ACTIONS.**

12 (a) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL DIVERSITY JURISDIC-
13 TION.—Section 1332 is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
15 section (e); and

16 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(d)(1) In this subsection—

19 “(A) the term ‘class’ means all of the class
20 members in a class action;

21 “(B) the term ‘class action’ means any civil ac-
22 tion filed under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil
23 Procedure or similar State statute or rule of judicial
24 procedure authorizing an action to be brought by 1
25 or more representative persons as a class action;

1 “(C) the term ‘class certification order’ means
2 an order issued by a court approving the treatment
3 of some or all aspects of a civil action as a class ac-
4 tion; and

5 “(D) the term ‘class members’ means the per-
6 sons (named or unnamed) who fall within the defini-
7 tion of the proposed or certified class in a class ac-
8 tion.

9 “(2) the district courts shall have original jurisdiction
10 of any civil action in which the matter in controversy ex-
11 ceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest
12 and costs, and is a class action in which—

13 “(A) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
14 citizen of a State different from any defendant;

15 “(B) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
16 foreign state or a citizen or subject of a foreign state
17 and any defendant is a citizen of a State; or

18 “(C) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
19 citizen of a State and any defendant is a foreign
20 state or a citizen or subject of a foreign state.

21 “(3) A district court may, in the interests of justice
22 and looking at the totality of the circumstances, decline
23 to exercise jurisdiction under paragraph (2) over a class
24 action in which greater than one-third but less than two-
25 thirds of the members of all proposed plaintiff classes in

1 the aggregate and the primary defendants are citizens of
2 the State in which the action was originally filed based
3 on consideration of—

4 “(A) whether the claims asserted involve mat-
5 ters of national or interstate interest;

6 “(B) whether the claims asserted will be gov-
7 erned by laws of the State in which the action was
8 originally filed or by the laws of other States;

9 “(C) whether the class action has been pleaded
10 in a manner that seeks to avoid Federal jurisdiction;

11 “(D) whether the action was brought in a
12 forum with a distinct nexus with the class members,
13 the alleged harm, or the defendants;

14 “(E) whether the number of citizens of the
15 State in which the action was originally filed in all
16 proposed plaintiff classes in the aggregate is sub-
17 stantially larger than the number of citizens from
18 any other State, and the citizenship of the other
19 members of the proposed class is dispersed among a
20 substantial number of States; and

21 “(F) whether, during the 3-year period pre-
22 ceding the filing of that class action, 1 or more other
23 class actions asserting the same or similar claims on
24 behalf of the same or other persons have been filed.

1 “(4) A district court shall decline to exercise jurisdic-
 2 tion under paragraph (2)—

3 “(A)(i) over a class action in which—

4 “(I) greater than two-thirds of the mem-
 5 bers of all proposed plaintiff classes in the ag-
 6 gregate are citizens of the State in which the
 7 action was originally filed;

8 “(II) at least 1 defendant is a defendant—

9 “(aa) from whom significant relief is
 10 sought by members of the plaintiff class;

11 “(bb) whose alleged conduct forms a
 12 significant basis for the claims asserted by
 13 the proposed plaintiff class; and

14 “(cc) who is a citizen of the State in
 15 which the action was originally filed; and

16 “(III) principal injuries resulting from the
 17 alleged conduct or any related conduct of each
 18 defendant were incurred in the State in which
 19 the action was originally filed; and

20 “(ii) during the 3-year period preceding the fil-
 21 ing of that class action, no other class action has
 22 been filed asserting the same or similar factual alle-
 23 gations against any of the defendants on behalf of
 24 the same or other persons; or

1 “(B) two-thirds or more of the members of all
2 proposed plaintiff classes in the aggregate, and the
3 primary defendants, are citizens of the State in
4 which the action was originally filed.

5 “(5) Paragraphs (2) through (4) shall not apply to
6 any class action in which—

7 “(A) the primary defendants are States, State
8 officials, or other governmental entities against
9 whom the district court may be foreclosed from or-
10 dering relief; or

11 “(B) the number of members of all proposed
12 plaintiff classes in the aggregate is less than 100.

13 “(6) In any class action, the claims of the individual
14 class members shall be aggregated to determine whether
15 the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of
16 \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

17 “(7) Citizenship of the members of the proposed
18 plaintiff classes shall be determined for purposes of para-
19 graphs (2) through (6) as of the date of filing of the com-
20 plaint or amended complaint, or, if the case stated by the
21 initial pleading is not subject to Federal jurisdiction, as
22 of the date of service by plaintiffs of an amended pleading,
23 motion, or other paper, indicating the existence of Federal
24 jurisdiction.

1 “(8) This subsection shall apply to any class action
2 before or after the entry of a class certification order by
3 the court with respect to that action.

4 “(9) Paragraph (2) shall not apply to any class action
5 that solely involves a claim—

6 “(A) concerning a covered security as defined
7 under 16(f)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15
8 U.S.C. 78p(f)(3)) and section 28(f)(5)(E) of the Se-
9 curities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.
10 78bb(f)(5)(E));

11 “(B) that relates to the internal affairs or gov-
12 ernance of a corporation or other form of business
13 enterprise and that arises under or by virtue of the
14 laws of the State in which such corporation or busi-
15 ness enterprise is incorporated or organized; or

16 “(C) that relates to the rights, duties (including
17 fiduciary duties), and obligations relating to or cre-
18 ated by or pursuant to any security (as defined
19 under section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933
20 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(1)) and the regulations issued
21 thereunder).

22 “(10) For purposes of this subsection and section
23 1453, an unincorporated association shall be deemed to
24 be a citizen of the State where it has its principal place
25 of business and the State under whose laws it is organized.

1 “(11)(A) For purposes of this subsection and section
 2 1453, a mass action shall be deemed to be a class action
 3 removable under paragraphs (2) through (10) if it other-
 4 wise meets the provisions of those paragraphs.

5 “(B)(i) As used in subparagraph (A), the term ‘mass
 6 action’ means any civil action (except a civil action within
 7 the scope of section 1711(2)) in which monetary relief
 8 claims of 100 or more persons are proposed to be tried
 9 jointly on the ground that the plaintiffs’ claims involve
 10 common questions of law or fact, except that jurisdiction
 11 shall exist only over those plaintiffs whose claims in a
 12 mass action satisfy the jurisdictional amount requirements
 13 under subsection (a).

14 “(ii) As used in subparagraph (A), the term ‘mass
 15 action’ shall not include any civil action in which—

16 “(I) all of the claims in the action arise from
 17 an event or occurrence in the State in which the ac-
 18 tion was filed, and that allegedly resulted in injuries
 19 in that State or in States contiguous to that State;

20 “(II) the claims are joined upon motion of a de-
 21 fendant;

22 “(III) all of the claims in the action are as-
 23 serted on behalf of the general public (and not on
 24 behalf of individual claimants or members of a pur-

1 ported class) pursuant to a State statute specifically
2 authorizing such action; or

3 “(IV) the claims have been consolidated or co-
4 ordinated solely for pretrial proceedings.

5 “(C)(i) Any action(s) removed to Federal court pur-
6 suant to this subsection shall not thereafter be transferred
7 to any other court pursuant to section 1407, or the rules
8 promulgated thereunder, unless a majority of the plaintiffs
9 in the action request transfer pursuant to section 1407.

10 “(ii) This subparagraph will not apply—

11 “(I) to cases certified pursuant to rule 23 of
12 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; or

13 “(II) if plaintiffs propose that the action pro-
14 ceed as a class action pursuant to rule 23 of the
15 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

16 “(D) The limitations periods on any claims asserted
17 in a mass action that is removed to Federal court pursu-
18 ant to this subsection shall be deemed tolled during the
19 period that the action is pending in Federal court.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) Section 1335(a)(1) is amended by inserting
22 “subsection (a) or (d) of” before “section 1332”.

23 (2) Section 1603(b)(3) is amended by striking
24 “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

1 **SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF INTERSTATE CLASS ACTIONS TO FED-**
 2 **ERAL DISTRICT COURT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 89 is amended by adding
 4 after section 1452 the following:

5 **“§ 1453. Removal of class actions**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘class’,
 7 ‘class action’, ‘class certification order’, and ‘class mem-
 8 ber’ shall have the meanings given such terms under sec-
 9 tion 1332(d)(1).

10 “(b) IN GENERAL.—A class action may be removed
 11 to a district court of the United States in accordance with
 12 section 1446 (except that the 1-year limitation under sec-
 13 tion 1446(b) shall not apply), without regard to whether
 14 any defendant is a citizen of the State in which the action
 15 is brought, except that such action may be removed by
 16 any defendant without the consent of all defendants.

17 “(c) REVIEW OF REMAND ORDERS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1447 shall apply to
 19 any removal of a case under this section, except that
 20 notwithstanding section 1447(d), a court of appeals
 21 may accept an appeal from an order of a district
 22 court granting or denying a motion to remand a
 23 class action to the State court from which it was re-
 24 moved if application is made to the court of appeals
 25 not less than 7 days after entry of the order.

1 “(2) TIME PERIOD FOR JUDGMENT.—If the
2 court of appeals accepts an appeal under paragraph
3 (1), the court shall complete all action on such ap-
4 peal, including rendering judgment, not later than
5 60 days after the date on which such appeal was
6 filed, unless an extension is granted under para-
7 graph (3).

8 “(3) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.—The court
9 of appeals may grant an extension of the 60-day pe-
10 riod described in paragraph (2) if—

11 “(A) all parties to the proceeding agree to
12 such extension, for any period of time; or

13 “(B) such extension is for good cause
14 shown and in the interests of justice, for a pe-
15 riod not to exceed 10 days.

16 “(4) DENIAL OF APPEAL.—If a final judgment
17 on the appeal under paragraph (1) is not issued be-
18 fore the end of the period described in paragraph
19 (2), including any extension under paragraph (3),
20 the appeal shall be denied.

21 “(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to
22 any class action that solely involves—

23 “(1) a claim concerning a covered security as
24 defined under section 16(f)(3) of the Securities Act
25 of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 78p(f)(3)) and section

1 28(f)(5)(E) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
 2 (15 U.S.C. 78bb(f)(5)(E)):

3 “(2) a claim that relates to the internal affairs
 4 or governance of a corporation or other form of busi-
 5 ness enterprise and arises under or by virtue of the
 6 laws of the State in which such corporation or busi-
 7 ness enterprise is incorporated or organized; or

8 “(3) a claim that relates to the rights, duties
 9 (including fiduciary duties), and obligations relating
 10 to or created by or pursuant to any security (as de-
 11 fined under section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act of
 12 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(1)) and the regulations
 13 issued thereunder).”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
 15 The table of sections for chapter 89 is amended by adding
 16 after the item relating to section 1452 the following:

“1453. Removal of class actions.”.

17 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after
 19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference
 20 of the United States, with the assistance of the Director
 21 of the Federal Judicial Center and the Director of the Ad-
 22 ministrative Office of the United States Courts, shall pre-
 23 pare and transmit to the Committees on the Judiciary of
 24 the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on
 25 class action settlements.

1 (b) CONTENT.—The report under subsection (a) shall
2 contain—

3 (1) recommendations on the best practices that
4 courts can use to ensure that proposed class action
5 settlements are fair to the class members that the
6 settlements are supposed to benefit;

7 (2) recommendations on the best practices that
8 courts can use to ensure that—

9 (A) the fees and expenses awarded to
10 counsel in connection with a class action settle-
11 ment appropriately reflect the extent to which
12 counsel succeeded in obtaining full redress for
13 the injuries alleged and the time, expense, and
14 risk that counsel devoted to the litigation; and

15 (B) the class members on whose behalf the
16 settlement is proposed are the primary bene-
17 ficiaries of the settlement; and

18 (3) the actions that the Judicial Conference of
19 the United States has taken and intends to take to-
20 ward having the Federal judiciary implement any or
21 all of the recommendations contained in the report.

22 (c) AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL COURTS.—Nothing in
23 this section shall be construed to alter the authority of
24 the Federal courts to supervise attorneys' fees.

1 **SEC. 7. ENACTMENT OF JUDICIAL CONFERENCE REC-**
2 **COMMENDATIONS.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
4 amendments to rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-
5 cedure, which are set forth in the order entered by the
6 Supreme Court of the United States on March 27, 2003,
7 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act or
8 on December 1, 2003 (as specified in that order), which-
9 ever occurs first.

10 **SEC. 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF SUPREME COURT**
11 **AND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.**

12 Nothing in this Act shall restrict in any way the au-
13 thority of the Judicial Conference and the Supreme Court
14 to propose and prescribe general rules of practice and pro-
15 cedure under chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any
18 civil action commenced on or after the date of enactment
19 of this Act.

