

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. KINGSTON]. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1836, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1836, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES LIFE INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2675) to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit proposed legislation under which group universal life insurance and group variable universal life insurance would be available under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2675

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Employees Life Insurance Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL BE SUBMITTED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress proposed legislation under which there would be made available to Federal employees and annuitants the following:

- (1) Group universal life insurance.
- (2) Group variable universal life insurance.
- (3) Additional voluntary accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

The proposal shall indicate whether any such insurance could be taken in addition to, in lieu of, or in combination with any insurance otherwise offered under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF POLICIES AND COSTS.—The proposed legislation shall be accompanied by a report which shall include a concise description of the policies proposed, an estimate of the cost to the Government anticipated with respect to each of those policies, and any other information which the Office of Personnel Management may consider appropriate.

SEC. 3. UNREDUCED ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8714b of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking the last 2 sentences of paragraph (2); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) The amount of additional optional insurance continued under paragraph (2) shall be continued, with or without reduction, in accordance with the employee's written election at the time eligibility to continue insurance during retirement or receipt of compensation arises, as follows:

"(A) The employee may elect to have withholdings cease in accordance with subsection (d), in which case—

"(i) the amount of additional optional insurance continued under paragraph (2) shall be reduced each month by 2 percent effective at the beginning of the second calendar month after the date the employee becomes 65 years of age and is retired or is in receipt of compensation; and

"(ii) the reduction under clause (i) shall continue for 50 months at which time the insurance shall stop.

"(B) The employee may, instead of the option under subparagraph (A), elect to have the full cost of additional optional insurance continue to be withheld from such employee's annuity or compensation on and after the date such withholdings would otherwise cease pursuant to an election under subparagraph (A), in which case the amount of additional optional insurance continued under paragraph (2) shall not be reduced, subject to paragraph (4).

"(C) An employee who does not make any election under the preceding provisions of this paragraph shall be treated as if such employee had made an election under subparagraph (A).

"(4) If an employee makes an election under paragraph (3)(B), that individual may subsequently cancel such election, in which case additional optional insurance shall be determined as if the individual had originally made an election under paragraph (3)(A)."; and

(2) in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) by inserting "if insurance is continued as provided in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3)," after "except that,".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The last sentence of section 8714b(d)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "(and any amounts withheld as provided in subsection (c)(3)(B))" after "Amounts so withheld".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the 120th day after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to employees who become eligible, on or after such 120th day, to continue additional optional insurance during retirement or receipt of compensation.

SEC. 4. IMPROVED OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE ON FAMILY MEMBERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 8714c of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b) The optional life insurance on family members provided under this section shall be made available to each eligible employee who has elected coverage under this section, under conditions the Office shall prescribe, in multiples, at the employee's election, of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 times—

"(1) \$5,000 for a spouse; and

"(2) \$2,500 for each child described in section 8701(d).

An employee may reduce or stop coverage elected pursuant to this section at any time."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8714c of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2) by striking "section 8714b(c)(2) of this title" and inserting "section 8714b(c)(2)-(4)"; and

(2) in subsection (d)(1) by inserting before the last sentence the following: "Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the full cost shall be continued after the calendar month in which the former employee becomes 65 years of age if, and for so long as, an election under this section corresponding to that described in section 8714b(c)(3)(B) remains in effect with respect to such former employee."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE; OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period which begins on or after the 180th day following the date of enactment of this Act or on any earlier date that the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe.

(2) OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the effective date under paragraph (1), the Office shall afford eligible employees a reasonable opportunity to elect to begin coverage under section 8714c of title 5, United States Code (as amended by this section), or to increase any existing optional life insurance on family members to any amount allowable under such section (as so amended), beginning on such effective date.

(B) DEFINITION OF AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "eligible employee" means any employee (within the meaning of section 8701 of title 5, United States Code) covered by group life insurance under section 8704(a) of such title.

□ 1530

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA].

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before the House today, entitled the Federal Employees Life Insurance Improvement Act, is in fact a bipartisan effort. It incorporates the provisions of the bill which I originally introduced and amendments offered by the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS], the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Civil Service.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his hard work on this legislation and also for his close cooperation on putting this legislation together.

The bill also addresses an issue first brought to our attention by the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], and I also want to commend her for her interest and contributions to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, employer-provided benefit packages are in fact critical elements of employee compensation in our society today. If the Federal Government is to deliver the quality of services our overburdened taxpayers deserve, it must be competitive with the private sector to attract and to maintain a quality work force. Benefits must provide good value to Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I held an oversight hearing on the Federal Employees Government Life Insurance