

during which the annuitant was entitled to an annuity under this subchapter; and

(ii) the average pay which would otherwise be used shall be adjusted to reflect all adjustments made under section 8462(b) with respect to any period (or periods) referred to in clause (i) (without regard to whether the annuitant's annuity was affected by any of those adjustments).

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the annuity of an annuitant under this subchapter shall be computed under section 8415 if—

(1) such annuity commences, or is restored, beginning on or after the redetermination date of the annuitant; or

(2) as of the day on which such annuity commences, or is restored, the annuitant satisfies the age and service requirements for entitlement to an annuity under section 8412 (other than subsection (g) of such section).

(d)(1) The annuity to which an annuitant is entitled under this section (after the reduction under subsection (a)(2), if applicable, has been made) shall not be less than the amount of an annuity computed under section 8415 (excluding subsection (g) of such section).

(2) In applying this subsection with respect to any annuitant, the amount of an annuity so computed under section 8415 shall be adjusted under section 8462 (including subsection (c) thereof)—

(A) to the same extent, and otherwise in the same manner, as if it were an annuity—

(i) subject to adjustment under such section; and

(ii) with a commencement date coinciding with the date the annuitant's annuity commenced or was restored under this subchapter, as the case may be; and

(B) whether the amount actually payable to the annuitant under this section in any month is determined under this subsection or otherwise.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 566; amended Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §§104, 106, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3131, 3132; Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §122(a)–(c), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1753, 1754; Pub. L. 108-176, title II, §226(b)(2)(B), Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2530.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 223 and 224 of the Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), are classified to sections 423 and 424a, respectively, of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 108-176 substituted “subsection (g)” for “subsection (f)”.

1988—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(c)(2)(A), amended subpar. (B) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (B) read as follows: “An annuity computed under this paragraph shall not, for purposes of any adjustment under section 8462 (including any adjustment under subsection (c)(1) of such section), be considered to have commenced until after such annuity ceases to be determined under subparagraph (A)(i).”

Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(i). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(a), amended cl. (i) generally. Prior to amendment, cl. (i) read as follows: “For purposes of this paragraph, the assumed disability insurance benefit of an annuitant for any month shall be equal to—

“(I) the amount of the disability insurance benefit to which the annuitant would have been entitled under section 223 of the Social Security Act for the month in which the annuity under this subchapter commenced, or was restored, determined as if such annuitant had then satisfied all requirements for entitlement to a benefit under such section, adjusted by

“(II) all adjustments made under section 8462(b) between the date on which the annuity commenced, or was restored, and the start of the month involved (without regard to whether the annuitant's annuity was affected by any of those adjustments).

For purposes of computing the assumed disability insurance benefit, the month in which the annuitant's disability began (as determined under section 216(i)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act) shall be the month in which the annuity commenced or, if earlier (and if a determination was actually made) the month determined under such section.”

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(c)(2)(B), added par. (3).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(b), amended subsec. (b) generally, substituting pars. (1) and (2) for former pars. (1) to (4).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(c)(1), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1986—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 99-556, §106, substituted “(a)(1)(A)(i)” for “(a)(1)(A)” in second sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-556, §104, inserted “(after the reduction under subsection (a)(2), if applicable, has been made)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-176 effective on 60th day after Dec. 12, 2003, and applicable with respect to any annuity entitlement based on an individual's separation from service occurring on or after such effective date, and any service performed by any such individual before, on, or after such effective date, subject to special rule relating to deposit requirement, see section 226(c) of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as a note under section 8401 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Section 122(d) of Pub. L. 100-238 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall be effective as of January 1, 1987, as if they had been enacted as part of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 514 and following).”

§ 8453. Application

A claim may be allowed under this subchapter only if application is filed with the Office before the employee or Member is separated from the service or within 1 year thereafter. This time limitation may be waived by the Office for an employee or Member who, at the date of separation from service or within 1 year thereafter, is mentally incompetent if the application is filed with the Office within 1 year from the date of restoration of the employee or Member to competency or the appointment of a fiduciary, whichever is earlier.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8454. Medical examination

An annuitant receiving a disability retirement annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of the Office—

(1) at the end of 1 year from the date of the disability retirement; and

(2) annually thereafter until becoming 60 years of age;

unless the disability is permanent in character. If the annuitant fails to submit to examination as required by this section, payment of the annuity shall be suspended until continuance of the disability is satisfactorily established.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8455. Recovery; restoration of earning capacity

(a)(1) If an annuitant receiving a disability retirement annuity from the Fund recovers from the disability before becoming 60 years of age, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 1 year after the date on which the Office determines that the annuitant has recovered, whichever is earlier.

(2) If an annuitant receiving a disability annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, is restored to an earning capacity fairly comparable to the current rate of pay of the position occupied at the time of retirement, payment of the annuity terminates 180 days after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is so restored. Earning capacity is deemed restored if in any calendar year the income of the annuitant from wages or self-employment or both equals at least 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(b)(1) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (a) is not reemployed in a position in which that individual is subject to this chapter, such individual is deemed, except for service credit, to have been involuntarily separated from the service for the purpose of subchapter II of this chapter as of the date of termination of the disability annuity, and after that termination is entitled to annuity under the applicable provisions of such subchapter.

(2) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (a)(2)—

(A) is not reemployed in a position subject to this chapter; and

(B) has not recovered from the disability for which that individual was retired;

the annuity of such individual shall be restored at the applicable rate under section 8452 effective the first of the year following any calendar year in which such individual's income from wages or self-employment or both is less than 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(3) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated because of a medical finding that the individual has recovered from disability is not reemployed in a position in which such individual is subject to this chapter, the annuity of such individual shall be restored at the applicable rate under section 8452 effective from the date on which the Office determines that there has been a recurrence of the disability.

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not apply in the case of an annuitant receiving an annuity from the Fund under subchapter II of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8456. Military reserve technicians

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), an individual shall be retired under this subchapter if the individual—

(A) is separated from employment as a military reserve technician by reason of a disability that disqualifies the individual from membership in a reserve component of the Armed Forces specified in section 10101 of title 10 or from holding the military grade required for such employment;

(B) is not considered to be disabled under section 8451(a)(1)(B);

(C) is not appointed to a position in the Government (whether under subsection (b) or otherwise); and

(D) has not declined an offer of an appointment to a position in the Government under subsection (b).

(2) Payment of any annuity for an individual pursuant to this section terminates—

(A) on the date the individual is appointed to a position in the Government (whether pursuant to subsection (b) or otherwise);

(B) on the date the individual declines an offer of appointment to a position in the Government under subsection (b); or

(C) as provided under section 8455(a).

(3) An individual eligible to retire under section 8414(c) shall not be eligible to retire under this section.

(b) Any individual applying for or receiving any annuity pursuant to this section shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office, be considered by any agency of the Government before any vacant position in the agency is filled if—

(1) the position is located within the commuting area of the individual's former position;

(2) the individual is qualified to serve in such position, as determined by the head of the agency; and

(3) the position is at the same grade or equivalent level as the position from which the individual was separated.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 570, §8457; amended Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §118, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3134; renumbered §8456, Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(b)(1)(B), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1756; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §1677(a)(4), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 3019.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8456, added Pub. L. 99-355, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 569, related to relationship between annuity and workers' compensation, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(b)(1)(A), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1756. See section 8464a of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 103-337 substituted "section 10101" for "section 261(a)".

1988—Pub. L. 100-238 renumbered section 8457 of this title as this section.

1986—Subsec. (a)(1)(C), (D), (2)(A), (B). Pub. L. 99-556 substituted "subsection (b)" for "subsection (c)".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-337 effective Dec. 1, 1994, except as otherwise provided, see section 1691 of Pub. L. 103-337, set out as an Effective Date note under section 10001 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this section, including regulations under which an early retirement offer may be made to any employee or group of employees based on—

“(1) geographic area, organizational unit, or occupational series or level;

“(2) skills, knowledge, or performance; or

“(3) such other similar factors (or combination of factors described in this or any other paragraph of this subsection) as the Comptroller General considers necessary and appropriate in order to achieve the purpose involved.

“(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the implementation of this section is intended to reshape the Government Accountability Office workforce and not downsize the Government Accountability Office workforce.”

APPLICATION OF SUBSECTION (d)(2)

Pub. L. 105-174, title III, §7001(a), May 1, 1998, 112 Stat. 91, as amended by Pub. L. 106-58, title VI, §651(a), Sept. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 480, which provided that, effective May 1, 1998, subsec. (d)(2) of this section was to be applied as if it read as specified in Pub. L. 105-174, §7001(a), was repealed by Pub. L. 107-296, title XIII, §1313(b)(4), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2296.

INDIAN PREFERENCE LAWS APPLICABLE TO BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE POSITIONS

Nonapplicability of annuity provisions of subsec. (j) of this section to individuals accepting waiver of Indian preference laws with respect to personnel actions, see section 472a(c)(2) of Title 25, Indians.

INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO ANNUITY PAYMENTS FOR PERIOD PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 1979

Section 1241(b)(2) of Pub. L. 96-70 provided that: “Effective October 1, 1979, any individual who, but for paragraph (1) of this subsection [set out as an Effective Date of 1979 Amendment note above], would have been entitled to one or more annuity payments pursuant to the amendments made by this section [amending this section] for periods before October 1, 1979, shall be entitled, to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts, to a lump sum payment equal to the total amount of all such annuity payments.”

§ 8337. Disability retirement

(a) An employee who completes 5 years of civilian service and has become disabled shall be retired on the employee’s own application or on application by the employee’s agency. Any employee shall be considered to be disabled only if the employee is found by the Office of Personnel Management to be unable, because of disease or injury, to render useful and efficient service in the employee’s position and is not qualified for reassignment, under procedures prescribed by the Office, to a vacant position which is in the agency at the same grade or level and in which the employee would be able to render useful and efficient service. For the purpose of the preceding sentence, an employee of the United States Postal Service shall be considered not qualified for a reassignment described in that sentence if the reassignment is to a position in a different craft or is inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement covering the employee. A judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces who completes 5 years of civilian service and who is found by the Office to be disabled for useful and efficient

service as a judge of such court or who is removed for mental or physical disability under section 942(c) of title 10 shall be retired on the judge’s own application or upon such removal. A Member who completes 5 years of Member service and is found by the Office to be disabled for useful and efficient service as a Member because of disease or injury shall be retired on the Member’s own application. An annuity authorized by this section is computed under section 8339(g) of this title, unless the employee or Member is eligible for a higher annuity computed under section 8339(a) through (e), (n), (q), (r), or (s).

(b) A claim may be allowed under this section only if the application is filed with the Office before the employee or Member is separated from the service or within 1 year thereafter. This time limitation may be waived by the Office for an employee or Member who at the date of separation from service or within 1 year thereafter is mentally incompetent, if the application is filed with the Office within 1 year from the date of restoration of the employee or Member to competency or the appointment of a fiduciary, whichever is earlier.

(c) An annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of the Office—

(1) at the end of 1 year from the date of the disability retirement; and

(2) annually thereafter until he becomes 60 years of age;

unless his disability is permanent in character. If the annuitant fails to submit to examination as required by this section, payment of the annuity shall be suspended until continuance of the disability is satisfactorily established.

(d) If an annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, recovers from his disability, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 1 year after the date of the medical examination showing the recovery, whichever is earlier. If an annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, is restored to an earning capacity fairly comparable to the current rate of pay of the position occupied at the time of retirement, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 180 days after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is so restored, whichever is earlier. Earning capacity is deemed restored if in any calendar year the income of the annuitant from wages or self-employment or both equals at least 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(e) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (d) of this section is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter, he is deemed, except for service credit, to have been involuntarily separated from the service for the purpose of this subchapter as of the date of termination of the disability annuity, and after that termination is entitled to annuity under the applicable provisions of this subchapter. If an annuitant whose annuity is heretofore or hereafter terminated because of an earning capacity provision of this subchapter or an earlier statute—

(1) is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter; and

(2) has not recovered from the disability for which he was retired;

his annuity shall be restored at the same rate effective the first of the year following any calendar year in which his income from wages or self-employment or both is less than 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement. If an annuitant whose annuity is heretofore or hereafter terminated because of a medical finding that he has recovered from disability is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter, his annuity shall be restored at the same rate effective from the date of medical examination showing a recurrence of the disability. The second and third sentences of this subsection do not apply to an individual who has become 62 years of age and is receiving or is eligible to receive annuity under the first sentence of this subsection.

(f)(1) An individual is not entitled to receive—

(A) an annuity under this subchapter, and

(B) compensation for injury to, or disability of, such individual under subchapter I of chapter 81, other than compensation payable under section 8107,

covering the same period of time.

(2) An individual is not entitled to receive an annuity under this subchapter and a concurrent benefit under subchapter I of chapter 81 on account of the death of the same person.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) do not bar the right of a claimant to the greater benefit conferred by either this subchapter or subchapter I of chapter 81.

(g) If an individual is entitled to an annuity under this subchapter, and the individual receives a lump-sum payment for compensation under section 8135 based on the disability or death of the same person, so much of the compensation as has been paid for a period extended beyond the date payment of the annuity commences, as determined by the Department of Labor, shall be refunded to that Department for credit to the Employees' Compensation Fund. Before the individual may receive the annuity, the individual shall—

(1) refund to the Department of Labor the amount representing the commuted compensation payments for the extended period; or

(2) authorize the deduction of the amount from the annuity.

Deductions from the annuity may be made from accrued or accruing payments. The amounts deducted and withheld from the annuity shall be transmitted to the Department of Labor for reimbursement to the Employees' Compensation Fund. When the Department of Labor finds that the financial circumstances of an individual entitled to an annuity under this subchapter warrant deferred refunding, deductions from the annuity may be prorated against and paid from accruing payments in such manner as the Department determines appropriate.

(h)(1) As used in this subsection, the term "technician" means an individual employed under section 709(a) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10 who, as a condition of the employment,

is required under section 709(b) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10, respectively, to be a member of the Selected Reserve.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, an individual shall be retired under this section if the individual—

(i) is separated from employment as a technician under section 709(e)(1) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10 by reason of a disability that disqualifies the individual from membership in the Selected Reserve;

(ii) is not considered to be disabled under the second sentence of subsection (a) of this section;

(iii) is not appointed to a position in the Government (whether under paragraph (3) of this subsection or otherwise); and

(iv) has not declined an offer of an appointment to a position in the Government under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(B) Payment of any annuity for an individual pursuant to this subsection terminates—

(i) on the date the individual is appointed to a position in the Government (whether pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection or otherwise);

(ii) on the date the individual declines an offer of appointment to a position in the Government under paragraph (3); or

(iii) as provided under subsection (d).

(3) Any individual applying for or receiving any annuity pursuant to this subsection shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office, be considered by any agency of the Government before any vacant position in the agency is filled if—

(A) the position is located within the commuting area of the individual's former position;

(B) the individual is qualified to serve in such position, as determined by the head of the agency; and

(C) the position is at the same grade or equivalent level as the position from which the individual was separated under section 709(e)(1) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 572; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(76), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 214; Pub. L. 95-454, title IX, §906(a)(2), (3), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1224; Pub. L. 96-499, title IV, §403(a), Dec. 5, 1980, 94 Stat. 2605; Pub. L. 97-253, title III, §302(a), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 792; Pub. L. 98-94, title XII, §1256(c), Sept. 24, 1983, 97 Stat. 701; Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(a)(1)(A), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1755; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XIII, §1304(b)(2), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1577; Pub. L. 101-428, §2(d)(1), Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 929; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(61), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1354; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title IX, §924(d)(1)(A), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2832; Pub. L. 105-61, title V, §516(a)(2), Oct. 10, 1997, 111 Stat. 1306; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title V, §522(d), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 597; Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(h)(1)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A-88.)

period pending termination of the disability retirement benefit under paragraph (c), (d), or (e) of this section, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the date of reemployment.

§ 831.1209 Termination of disability annuity because of restoration to earning capacity.

(a) *Restoration to earning capacity.* If a disability annuitant is under age 60 on December 31 of any calendar year and his or her income from wages or self-employment or both during that calendar year equal at least 80 percent of the current rate of basic pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement, the annuitant's earning capacity is considered to be restored. The disability annuity will terminate on the June 30 after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is restored. When an agency reemploys a restored disability annuitant at any grade or rate of pay within the 180-day waiting period pending termination of the disability retirement benefit, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the date of reemployment.

(b) *Current rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement.* (1) A disability annuitant's income for a calendar year is compared to the gross annual rate of basic pay in effect on December 31 of that year for the position occupied immediately before retirement. The income for most disability annuitants is based on the rate for the grade and step which reflects the total amount of basic pay (both the grade and step and any additional basic pay) in effect on the date of separation from the agency for disability retirement. Additional basic pay is included subject to the premium pay restrictions of 5 U.S.C. 5545 (c)(1) and (c)(2). A higher grade and step will be established if it results from using either the date of application for disability retirement or the date of reasonable accommodation, as adjusted by any increases in basic pay that would have been effected between each respective date and the date of final separation. Use of these two alternative pay setting methods is subject to paragraph (b)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section. The highest grade and step established as a result of setting pay under the

normal method and the two alternative methods is designated as the rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement and applies only to restoration to earning capacity decisions. In cases involving use of either of the two alternative pay setting methods, the determination of the rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement is made by the employing agency at the time the disability retirement is allowed. OPM must review the rate so determined to establish whether the correct rate has been established, and will inform the employee of the proper rate at the time the disability annuity is awarded. This rate of basic pay becomes the basis for all future earning capacity determinations.

(i) The "date of application for disability retirement" is the date the application is signed by the authorized official of the employing agency immediately before forwarding the application to OPM.

(ii) The "date of reasonable accommodation" is the date of the employing agency's notice of reasonable accommodation to an employee's medical condition (as a result of its review of medical documentation) which results in a reduction in the rate of basic pay. The use of the date of reasonable accommodation to establish the rate of basic pay for the position held at retirement is subject to the following conditions:

(A) The date of the employing agency's notice to provide accommodation is no more than 1 year before the date the disability retirement application is signed by the authorized official in the employing agency immediately before forwarding it to OPM; and

(B) A complete record of the date of the personnel decision, the medical documentation substantiating the existence of the medical condition, and the justification for the accommodation is established in writing and included at the time the agency submits the application for disability retirement. OPM will review the record to determine whether the medical documentation demonstrates that the medical condition existed at the time of the accommodation and warranted the accommodation made.

(2) In the case of an annuitant whose basic pay rate on the date determined under paragraph (b)(1) of this section did not match a specific grade and step in a pay schedule:

(i) For those retiring from a merit pay position, a position for which a special pay rate is authorized (except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section), or any other position in which the rate of basic pay is not equal to a grade and step in a pay schedule, the grade and step will be established for this purpose at the lowest step in the pay schedule grade that is equal to or greater than the actual rate of basic pay payable. This rule will not be applied when the rate exceeds that of the schedule applicable to the organization from which the individual retired, when there is no existing apposite schedule with grades and steps, or in other organizations which are excluded from coverage of schedules with grades and steps, as in the case of pay systems using pay bands.

(ii) For those retiring with a retained rate of basic pay or from a position for which a special pay rate is in effect but whose rate of basic pay exceeds the highest rate payable in the pay schedule grade applicable to the position held, the grade and step is established for this purpose in the grade of the schedule that is closest to the grade of the position held and within which the amount of the retained pay falls. The step is established for this purpose at the lowest step in that grade which equals or exceeds the actual rate of pay payable.

(iii) When the pay system under which an annuitant retired has been either modified or eliminated since the individual retired, the individual will be treated as if he or she had been employed at their retirement grade and step at the time of the system change, and will be deemed to have been placed under the new system using whatever rules would have been applicable at that time. This will only apply when a pay system has been abolished or modified, and not when the grade and step of a position has been modified subsequent to retirement by reclassification or other action, in which case the grade and step in effect at the time of retirement will control.

(iv) If using the above rules it is not possible to set a grade and step for computing the current rate of pay, then if possible the current rate of pay will be set using the relative position in the range of pay applicable to the position from which the individual retired. For example, if at the time of retirement the rate of pay was \$75,000 in a range from \$70,000 to \$90,000, for all future determinations, the current rate of pay would be 25% up the new pay range from the bottom. If the new range was \$96,000 to \$120,000, then the new current rate of pay would be \$102,000 (\$96,000 plus 0.25 times \$24,000 (\$120,000 minus \$96,000)).

(v) In those cases, such as of some former Congressional staff employees and others whose pay is not set under a formal system, where none of the above guidelines will yield a current rate of pay, OPM will ascertain the current rate of pay after consultation with the former employing organization, or successor organization.

(3) For annuitants retiring from the United States Postal Service, only cost-of-living allowances subject to civil service retirement deductions are included in determining the current rate of basic pay of the position held at retirement.

(c) *Income.* Earning capacity for the purposes of this section is demonstrated by an annuitant's ability to earn post-retirement income in a calendar year through personal work efforts or services. The total amount of income from all sources is used to determine earning capacity. This includes income received as gross wages from one or more employers, net earnings from one or more self-employment endeavors, and deferred income that is earned in a calendar year. In determining an annuitant's income for a calendar year, the following considerations apply:

(1) There are two sources of income: wages and self-employment income. All income which is subject to Federal employment taxes (i.e., social security or Medicare taxes) or self-employment taxes constitutes earned income. In addition, any other income as described in this section also constitutes earned income. The determination of whether a disability annuitant earns wages as

credit for all periods before the annuitant's 62nd birthday during which he or she was entitled to an annuity under this part. The average pay used in computing the annuity under 5 U.S.C. 8415 is adjusted by all cost-of-living increases effective under 5 U.S.C. 8462(b) during the period the annuitant was receiving the disability annuity under this part.

Subpart D—Termination and Reinstatement of Disability Annuity

§ 844.401 Recovery from disability.

(a) Each annuitant receiving disability annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of OPM at the end of one year from the date of disability retirement and annually thereafter until the annuitant becomes 60 years of age unless the disability is found by OPM to be permanent in character. OPM may order a medical or other examination at any time to determine the facts relative to the nature and degree of disability of the annuitant. Failure to submit to reexamination shall result in suspension of annuity.

(b) A disability annuitant may request medical reevaluation under the provisions of this section at any time. OPM may reevaluate the medical condition of disability annuitants age 60 or over only on their own request.

(c) *Recovery based on medical or other documentation.* When OPM determines on the basis of medical documentation or other evidence that a disability annuitant has recovered from the disability, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the first day of the month beginning 1 year after the date of the medical documentation or other evidence showing recovery. If an agency reemploys a disability annuitant who has been found recovered at any grade or rate of pay within the 1-year period pending termination of the disability annuity under this paragraph, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the date of reemployment.

(d) *Recovery based on reemployment by the Federal Government.* Reemployment by an agency at any time before age 60 is evidence of recovery if the reemployment is under an appointment not limited to a year or less, at the same or

higher grade or pay level as the position from which the disability annuitant retired. The new position must be full-time unless the position the disability annuitant occupied immediately before retirement was less than full-time, in which case the new position must have a work schedule of no less time than that of the position from which the disability annuitant retired. In this instance, OPM needs no medical documentation to find the annuitant recovered. Disability annuity payments will terminate effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the recovery finding is made under this paragraph.

§ 844.402 Restoration of earning capacity.

(a) *Earning capacity determinations.* If a disability annuitant is under age 60 on December 31 of any calendar year and his or her income from wages or self-employment or both during that calendar year equals at least 80 percent of the current rate of basic pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement, the annuitant's earning capacity is considered to be restored. The disability annuity will terminate on the June 30 after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is restored.

(b) *Current rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement.* (1) A disability annuitant's income for a calendar year is compared to the gross annual rate of basic pay in effect on December 31 of that year for the position occupied immediately before retirement. The income limitation for most disability annuitants is based on the rate for the grade and step that reflects the total amount of basic pay (both the grade and step and any additional basic pay) in effect on the date of separation from the agency for disability retirement. Additional basic pay is included subject to the premium pay restrictions of 5 U.S.C. 5545 (c)(1) and (c)(2).

(2) In the case of an annuitant whose basic pay rate on the date determined under paragraph (b)(1) of this section did not match a specific grade and step in the pay schedule:

(i) For those retiring from a Senior Executive Service position, a merit pay

position, a position for which a special pay rate is authorized (except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section), or any other position in which the rate of basic pay is not equal to a grade and step in a pay schedule, the grade and step will be established for this purpose at the lowest step in the pay schedule grade that is equal to or greater than the actual rate of basic pay payable.

(ii) For those retiring with a retained rate of basic pay or from a position for which a special pay rate is in effect but whose rate of basic pay exceeds the highest rate payable in the pay schedule grade applicable to the position held, the grade is established for this purpose at the highest grade in the schedule that is closest to the grade of the position held and within which the amount of the retained pay falls. The step is established for this purpose at the lowest step in that grade that equals or exceeds the actual rate of pay payable.

(3) For annuitants retiring from the United States Postal Service, only cost-of-living allowances subject to FERS deductions are included in determining the current rate of basic pay of the position held at retirement.

(c) *Income.* (1) Earning capacity for the purposes of this section is demonstrated by an annuitant's ability to earn post-retirement income in exchange for personal services or a work product, or as a profit from one or more businesses wholly or partly owned by the disability annuitant and in the management of which the annuitant has an active role. Income for the purposes of this section is not necessarily the same as income for the purposes of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Income earned from one source is not offset by losses from another source. Income earned as wages is not reduced by a net loss from self-employment. The net income from each self-employment endeavor is calculated separately, and the income earned as net earnings from one self-employment endeavor is not reduced by a net loss from another self-employment endeavor. Thus, a net loss from one endeavor is considered to be a net income of zero, and the net incomes from each separate self-employment endeavor are

added together to determine the total amount of income from self-employment for a calendar year.

(3) Income is counted in the calendar year in which it is earned, even though receipt may be deferred.

(d) *Requirement to report income.* All disability annuitants who, on December 31 of any calendar year, are under age 60 must report to OPM their income from wages or self-employment or both for that calendar year. Each year as early as possible, OPM will send a form to annuitants to use in reporting their income from the previous calendar year. The form specifies the date by which OPM must receive the report. OPM will determine entitlement to continued annuity on the basis of the report. If an annuitant fails to submit the report, OPM may stop annuity payments until it receives the report.

§ 844.403 Annuity rights after a disability annuity terminates.

(a) When a disability annuity is terminated because of recovery or restoration of earning capacity and the individual is not employed in the Government, the individual is entitled to an annuity:

(1) Under 5 U.S.C. 8414(b) if the individual:

(i) Is at least age 50 when the disability annuity ceases and had 20 or more years of service at the time of retiring for disability; or

(ii) Has 25 or more years of service at the time of retiring for disability, regardless of age; or

(2) Under 5 U.S.C. 8412(g) if the individual is at least the minimum retirement age applicable under 5 U.S.C. 8412(h) when the disability annuity ceases and had 10 or more years of service at the time of retiring for disability.

(b) When a disability annuitant whose annuity was terminated because of Federal reemployment is separated and meets the age and service requirements for immediate retirement under 5 U.S.C. 8412 or 8414, the individual is entitled to an annuity computed under 5 U.S.C. 8415.

[55 FR 6598, Feb. 26, 1990. Redesignated at 58 FR 48273, Sept. 15, 1993]

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§ 844.404 Reinstatement of disability annuity.

(a) When a disability annuity stops, the individual must again prove that he or she meets the eligibility requirements in order to have the annuity reinstated.

(b) *Reinstatement of annuity terminated based on recovery.* (1) When a recovered disability annuitant under age 62 whose annuity was terminated because he or she was found recovered on the basis of medical evidence (§844.401) is not reemployed in a position subject to FERS, and, based on the results of a current medical examination, OPM finds that the disability has recurred, OPM will reinstate the disability annuity as provided in paragraph (d) of this section. The right to the reinstated annuity begins on the date of the medical documentation showing that the disability has recurred, or if the medical documentation clearly shows that the disability recurred on an earlier date, the annuity will be reinstated on that earlier date.

(2) Except in the case of an individual receiving an annuity under §844.404(b), OPM will, as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, reinstate the disability annuity of a former annuitant whose annuity was terminated because he or she was found recovered on the basis of Federal reemployment when:

(i) The results of a current medical examination show that the individual's medical condition has worsened since the finding of recovery and that the original disability on which retirement was based has recurred; and

(ii) As a result, he or she has been:

(A) Separated and not reemployed in a position subject to FERS; or

(B) Placed in a position that results in a reduction in grade or pay below that from which the individual retired, or in a change to a temporary or intermittent appointment. The right to the reinstated annuity begins on the date the reemployment ends or the effective date of the placement in the position that results in a reduction in grade or pay or change in appointment.

(c) *Reinstatement of annuity terminated because earning capacity was restored.* (1) OPM will reinstate the disability annuity as provided in paragraph (d) of this section when a disability annuitant

whose annuity was terminated under §844.402(a):

(i) Is not reemployed in a position subject to FERS;

(ii) Has not recovered from the disability for which the individual retired (except in the case of a military reserve technician whose annuity was awarded under 5 U.S.C. 8456); and

(iii) Again loses earning capacity, as determined by OPM.

(2) The reinstated annuity is payable from January 1 of the year following the calendar year in which earning capacity was lost. Earning capacity is lost if, during any calendar year, the individual's income from wages or self-employment or both is less than 80 percent of the current rate of basic pay of the position held at retirement.

(d) Except as provided in §§844.303 and 844.304, a disability annuity reinstated under the preceding paragraphs of this section is paid at the rate provided under §844.302(b) until the end of the 12th month beginning after the annuity is reinstated. Thereafter, the rate determined under §844.302(c) is payable until age 62.

(e) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs, an annuity may not be reinstated under this section if the individual is receiving an annuity under part 842 of this chapter.

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PART 845—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM—DEBT COLLECTION

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