
INCREASED RETIREMENT COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE, THE D.C. FIRE DEPARTMENT, THE U.S. PARK POLICE, THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE, AND THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE—VETO MESSAGE

M E S S A G E

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RETURNING

WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (S. 1528) ENTITLED "AN ACT TO INCREASE THE RELIEF OR RETIREMENT COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE U.S. PARK POLICE FORCE, THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE FORCE, AND THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE; AND OF WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN DECEASED FORMER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF SUCH FORCES, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE"

SEPTEMBER 2, 1961.—Read; referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia and ordered to be printed

To the Senate:

I return herewith, without my approval, S. 1528, to increase the relief or retirement compensation of certain former members of the Metropolitan Police force, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the U.S. Park Police force, the White House Police force, and the U.S. Secret Service; and of widows and children of certain deceased former officers and members of such forces, department, or service.

This bill is a reenactment of a similar proposal in the last Congress which President Eisenhower expressed disapproval of on September 24, 1959.

I find objectionable that portion of the bill which increases by 10 percent the annuities of certain former members of the Police, Fire Department, and Secret Service.

Already, as a result of the Equalization Act of 1923, which gives an automatic proportionate increase in annuities whenever active duty policemen and firemen receive them, a significant number of these retirees now receive a larger pension than their annual salaries while on active duty. The record also indicates that this group is much more generously treated than other District government annuitants who are covered by other retirement programs. The proposal would compound the existing disparity and is inconsistent with essential objectives of fairness and impartiality to all employees.

The provisions of the bill affecting widows and surviving minor children of deceased policemen and firemen who retired prior to October 1, 1956, are a different matter. Their annuities were last adjusted in 1949, and, in the years since, this fixed income has diminished in value with each increase in the cost of living. S. 1918, which has passed the Senate, provides for an early increase in these annuities and I am hopeful that the House of Representatives will pass this bill promptly.

JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 22, 1961.*

S. 1528

EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AT THE FIRST SESSION, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT To increase the relief or retirement compensation of certain former members of the Metropolitan Police force, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police force, the White House Police force, and the United States Secret Service; and of widows and children of certain deceased former officers and members of such forces, department, or service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the amount of relief or retirement compensation payable to each officer or member of the Metropolitan Police force, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police force, the White House Police force, or the United States Secret Service Division who retired under section 12 of the Act approved September 1, 1916 (39 Stat. 718), as amended, prior to the effective date of the Policemen and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act Amendments of 1957, approved August 21, 1957, shall be increased 10 per centum beginning on the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 2. Each widow or child who, on or after the effective date of this Act, was receiving or is now receiving or shall hereafter be entitled to receive relief or annuity by reason of service in the Metropolitan Police force, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police force, the White House Police force, or the United States Secret Service Division, of a deceased former officer or member who died in the service of any such organization prior to the effective date of the Policemen and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act Amendments of 1957, approved August 21, 1957 (71 Stat. 391), or who retired prior to such effective date, shall be entitled to benefits computed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (k) of section 12 of the Act approved September 1, 1916 (39 Stat. 718), as amended (sec. 4-531, District of Columbia Code, 1951 ed., supp. VIII).

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to reduce the relief or retirement compensation any person receives, or is entitled to receive, on the date of approval of this Act.

SEC. 4. The effective date of this Act shall be the first day of the first month following the date of its approval.

JOHN W. McCORMACK,
Speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

[Endorsement on back of bill:]

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

FELTON M. JOHNSTON, *Secretary.*

