

Federal Update 2004-16

May 18, 2004

TO: NCTR Membership

FROM: Cindie Moore, Washington Counsel

RE: After Unusual Delay, Senate Pension Bill Introduced

On May 14, 2004, Charles Grassley (R-IA), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, introduced the National Employee Savings and Trust Equity Guarantee Act of 2004 (NESTEG), even though the Committee *approved the substance of the bill* on September 17, 2003. NESTEG, numbered S. 2424, contains several provisions of interest to NCTR members.

In practice, legislation in Congress is introduced before committee action or shortly thereafter. The eight-month delay between the Finance Committee approval and bill introduction is very unusual. The delay arose in part because the Committee spent the greater part of the intervening period in intense negotiations with the House of Representatives and the White House on revised funding rules for private defined benefit plans. Agreement finally occurred last month.

Although I reported last September on the provisions of NESTEG that affect NCTR members, I will shortly provide a recap of them.

*If you would like to be removed from this list, please contact me at [cmoore@nctr.org](mailto:cmoore@nctr.org).*