

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Legislative Program for Fiscal Year 2009

Agency's Legislative Program Proposals

1. **Amend the Railroad Retirement Act to provide that, notwithstanding any other law, employees of covered employers shall be issued social security numbers.**

Under Immigration and Naturalization Service rules governing when non-resident aliens may be issued a social security number, non-citizens who reside outside the United States do not qualify for social security numbers. However, employers covered under the Railroad Retirement Act are required to report employee earnings to the Railroad Retirement Board using a social security number.

Consequently, the Railroad Retirement Board is unable to readily retrieve an individual record for approximately 300-400 employees annually, primarily railroad employees who reside in Canada and perform some of their railroad work in the United States.

Under this proposal, all railroad employees must be given social security numbers, which would facilitate the processing of earnings records of railroad employees who are not resident in the United States.

2. **Amend the Railroad Retirement Act to allow the Railroad Retirement Board to utilize various hiring authorities available to other Federal agencies.**

Section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act contains language requiring that all employees of the Railroad Retirement Board, except for one assistant for each Board Member, must be hired under the competitive civil service.

Elimination of this requirement would enable the Railroad Retirement Board to use various hiring authorities offered by the Office of Personnel Management.