

(ii) At least one floor level exit remains open to provide for the deplaning of passengers; and

(iii) The number of flight attendants on board is at least half the number required by § 121.391(a), rounded down to the next lower number in the case of fractions, but never fewer than one.

(2) The certificate holder may substitute for the required flight attendants other persons qualified in the emergency evacuation procedures for that aircraft as required in § 121.417, if these persons are identified to the passengers.

(3) If only one flight attendant or other qualified person is on board during a stop, that flight attendant or other qualified person shall be located in accordance with the certificate holder's FAA-approved operating procedures. If more than one flight attendant or other qualified person is on board, the flight attendants or other qualified persons shall be spaced throughout the cabin to provide the most effective assistance for the evacuation in case of an emergency.

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments, data, or views. We specifically invite comments relating to how a reduced number of flight attendants onboard: (1) will provide adequate passenger supervision and safety while the airplane is on the ground and stationary; and (2) Will allow for the effective deplaning of passengers should an emergency situation arise.

Before acting on this petition for rulemaking, we will consider all comments we receive on or before the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 20, 2003.

**James J. Ballough,**

*Director, Flight Standards Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-27055 Filed 10-22-03; 5:01 pm]

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## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### 20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

[Regulations No. 4 and 16]

RIN 0960-AF21

### Reinstatement of Entitlement to Disability Benefits

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Social Security Administration is proposing rules

regarding the Reinstatement of Entitlement (Expedited Reinstatement) provision in section 112 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. This provision allows former Social Security disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability or blindness beneficiaries, whose entitlement or eligibility had been terminated due to their work activity, to have their entitlement or eligibility reinstated in a timely fashion if they become unable to do substantial gainful work due to their medical condition. These rules provide beneficiaries an additional incentive to return to work.

**DATES:** To be sure your comments are considered we must receive them no later than December 26, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may give us your comments by using: our Internet site facility (*i.e.*, Social Security Online) at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/regulations/>; by e-mail to [regulations@socialsecurity.gov](mailto:regulations@socialsecurity.gov); by telefax to (410) 966-2830; or by letter to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 17703, Baltimore, MD 21235-7703. You may also deliver them to the Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 100 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days. Comments are posted on our Internet site, Social Security Online at [socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) for your review, or you may inspect them on regular business days by making arrangements with the contact person shown in this preamble.

*Electronic version:* The electronic file of this document is available on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html). It is also available on the Internet site for SSA (*i.e.*, Social Security Online): [socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Nelson, Team Leader, Employment Policy Team, Office of Employment Support Programs, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Room 107 Altmeyer Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401, (410) 966-5114 or TTY 410-966-5609. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits: Call our national toll-free number, 1-(800) 772-1213 or TTY 1-(800) 325-0778, or visit our Internet Web site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/regulations/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

The expedited reinstatement provision, along with other work incentives and the Ticket to Work program contained in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-170) is intended to expand your options as a Social Security disability beneficiary or a disabled or blind Supplementary Security Income recipient. We expect that the expedited reinstatement provision along with other provisions in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 will remove some of the disincentives that may discourage you from either attempting to work or increasing your work activity. If more beneficiaries with disabilities engage in self-supporting work, the net result will be a reduction in the Social Security and Supplementary Security Income disability rolls and savings to the Social Security Trust Fund and general revenues.

## General Goals of the Expedited Reinstatement Provision

The expedited reinstatement provision is intended to relieve some concerns you may have about returning to work. If we terminate your entitlement or eligibility for benefits due to your work activity, this provision provides you an easier way to have your entitlement or eligibility reinstated and to be placed back into payment status. This process should ease some concerns you may have about what will happen if your attempt to return to work is unsuccessful.

## Advice of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel

During the preparation of these proposed rules, we consulted with the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

## Section 112 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999

Congress indicated that the purpose of section 112 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (the expedited reinstatement provision) was to encourage disability beneficiaries to return to work by reassuring them that benefits would be restored in a timely fashion should they become unable to continue working and continue to meet disability standards set by SSA.

Section 112 of Public Law 106-170 amended §§ 223 and 1631 of the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 112(a) added subsection (i) to § 223 of the Act and re-designated the prior subsection