

appoint any person as provided for by such agreements.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the parties to enter into a new single collective bargaining agreement if the agreement between the parties in effect immediately prior to August 13, 1981, complied with section 774(d)<sup>1</sup> of this title as in effect immediately prior to such date.

**(c) Railway Labor Act notices**

Employees of the Corporation may not serve notices under section 156 of this title for the purpose of negotiating job stabilization or other protective agreements with the Corporation until after April 1, 1984.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, §708, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, §1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 665.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 774 of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), was repealed by Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, §1144(a)(1), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 669.

**§ 797h. Employee and personal injury claims**

**(a) Liability for employee claims**

In all cases of claims, prior to April 1, 1976, by employees, arising under the collective bargaining agreements of the railroads in reorganization in the Region, and subject to section 153 of this title, the Corporation, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or an acquiring carrier, as the case may be, shall assume responsibility for the processing of any such claims, and payment of those which are sustained or settled on or subsequent to the date of conveyance, under section 743(b)(1) of this title, and shall be entitled to direct reimbursement from the Association pursuant to section 721(h) of this title, to the extent that such claims are determined by the Association to be the obligation of a railroad in reorganization in the Region. Any liability of an estate of a railroad in reorganization to its employees which is assumed, processed, and paid pursuant to this subsection by the Corporation, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or an acquiring carrier shall remain the preconveyance obligation of the estate of such railroad for purposes of section 721(h)(1) of this title. The Corporation, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, an acquiring carrier, or the Association, as the case may be, shall be entitled to a direct claim as a current expense of administration, in accordance with the provisions of section 721(h) of this title (other than paragraph (4)(A) thereof), for reimbursement (including costs and expenses of processing such claims) from the estate of the railroad in reorganization on whose behalf such obligations are discharged or paid. In those cases in which claims for employees were sustained or settled prior to such date of conveyance, it shall be the obligation of the employees to seek satisfaction against the estate of the railroads in reorganization which were their former employers.

**(b) Assumption of personal injury claims**

All cases or claims by employees or their personal representatives for personal injuries or

death against a railroad in reorganization in the Region arising prior to the date of conveyance of rail properties, pursuant to section 743 of this title, shall be assumed by the Corporation or an acquiring railroad, as the case may be. The Corporation or the acquiring railroad shall process and pay any such claims that are sustained or settled, and shall be entitled to direct reimbursement from the Association pursuant to section 721(h) of this title, to the extent that such claims are determined by the Association or its successor authority to be the obligation of such railroad. Any liability of an estate of a railroad in reorganization which is assumed, processed, and paid, pursuant to this subsection, by the Corporation or an acquiring railroad shall remain the preconveyance obligation of the estate of such railroad for purposes of section 721(h)(1) of this title. The Corporation, an acquiring railroad, or the Association, as the case may be, shall be entitled to a direct claim as a current expense of administration, in accordance with the provisions of section 721(h) of this title (other than paragraph (4)(A) thereof), for reimbursement (including costs and expenses of processing such claims) from the estate of the railroad in reorganization on whose behalf such obligations were discharged or paid.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, §709, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, §1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 666.)

ABOLITION OF UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND SECURITIES

See section 1341 of this title.

**§ 797i. Limitations on liability**

**(a) Federal Government**

The liability of the United States under an agreement entered into or benefit schedule prescribed under section 797<sup>1</sup> of this title or for payment of a termination allowance under section 797a of this title shall be limited to amounts appropriated under section 797<sup>1</sup> of this title.

**(b) The Corporation**

(1) The Corporation, Amtrak Commuter, and commuter authorities shall incur no liability under an agreement entered into or benefit schedule prescribed under section 797<sup>1</sup> of this title or for the payment of a termination allowance under section 797a of this title.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, until April 1, 1984, the Corporation shall have no liability for employee protection in the event of a sale of any asset to a purchaser, and such purchaser shall assume the liability for the application of employee protection conditions imposed by the Commission for all employees adversely affected by such sale.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, §710, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, §1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 667.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 797 of this title, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b)(1), was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, §4024(c),

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1904, effective on the sale date (Apr. 2, 1987).

Section 797l of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908, and a new section 797l of this title was subsequently added by Pub. L. 104-88, § 327(5).

ABOLITION OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AND  
TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Interstate Commerce Commission abolished and functions of Commission transferred, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, to Surface Transportation Board effective Jan. 1, 1996, by section 1302 of Title 49, Transportation, and section 101 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of Title 49. References to Interstate Commerce Commission deemed to refer to Surface Transportation Board, a member or employee of the Board, or Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate, see section 205 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of Title 49.

**§ 797j. Preemption**

No State may adopt or continue in force any law, rule, regulation, order, or standard requiring the Corporation to employ any specified number of persons to perform any particular task, function, or operation, or requiring the Corporation to pay protective benefits to employees, and no State in the Region may adopt or continue in force any such law, rule, regulation, order, or standard with respect to any railroad in the Region.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 711, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 667; amended Pub. L. 103-272, § 7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1379.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-272 struck out “, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or the Amtrak Commuter Services Corporation” before “to employ any”.

**§ 797k. Factfinding panel**

**(a) Purpose**

The Corporation shall enter into collective bargaining agreements with its employees which provide for the establishment of one or more advisory factfinding panels, chaired by a neutral expert in industrial relations, for purposes of recommending changes in operating practices and procedures which result in greater productivity to the maximum extent practicable.

**(b) National Mediation Board**

The National Mediation Board shall appoint public members to any panel established by an agreement entered into under this subparagraph, and shall perform such functions contained in the agreement as are consistent with the duties of such Board under the Railway Labor Act [45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.].

**(c) Other functions**

The factfinding panel may, before making its report to the parties, provide mediation, conciliation, and other assistance to the parties.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 712, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Railway Labor Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is act May 20, 1926, ch. 347, 44 Stat. 577, as amended, which

is classified principally to chapter 8 (§151 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 151 of this title and Tables.

**§ 797l. Class II railroads receiving Federal assistance**

The Surface Transportation Board shall impose no labor protection conditions in approving an application under section 10902 of title 49 when the application involves a Class II rail carrier which—

(1) is headquartered in a State, and operates in at least one State, with a population of less than 1,000,000 persons, as determined by the 1990 census; and

(2) has, as of January 1, 1996, been a recipient of repayable Federal Railroad Administration assistance in excess of \$5,000,000.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 713, as added Pub. L. 104-88, title III, § 327(5)(A), formerly § 327(5), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 952, renumbered Pub. L. 104-287, § 6(f)(4)(B), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3399.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 797l, Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 713, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668, authorized appropriations to carry out activities for protection of employees of Consolidated Rail Corporation, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of Title 49, Transportation.

**§ 797m. Arbitration**

Any dispute or controversy with respect to the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter, except sections 797b, 797c, 797g, and 797l<sup>1</sup> of this title, or section 1144 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981, and except those matters subject to judicial review under section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 [45 U.S.C. 1105], which have not been resolved within 90 days, may be submitted by either party to an Adjustment Board for a final and binding decision thereon as provided in section 153 of this title, in which event the burden of proof on all issues so presented shall be on the Corporation, or the Association, where appropriate.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 714, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 797l of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908, and a new section 797l of this title was subsequently added by Pub. L. 104-88, § 327(5).

Section 1144 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981, referred to in text, is section 1144 of Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 669, which repealed subchapter V (§ 771 et seq.) of this chapter and sections 910 and 1006 of this title and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 771 of this title.

ABOLITION OF UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION AND  
TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND SECURITIES

See section 1341 of this title.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.