No. 5 SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO ATRS RULES ON DEATH-RELATED BENEFITS

These amendments revised ATRS rules on death-related benefits to implement the provisions of Act 494 of 2005 and to clarify and make more complete the existing rules. The rules are:

Rule No. 9-1 Age and Service "Voluntary" Retirement: Section H. Annuity Options,
Rules No. 11-1 Survivor Benefits, and
Rule No. 11-2 Lump-Sum Death Benefit

Generally, Act 494 of 2005 provides that, effective for members and retirants dying after June 30, 2006, if there is no surviving designated beneficiary, benefits, residues, or refunds of accumulated contributions will be payable to the member's or retirant's estate. Previously, if no designated beneficiary survived, such payments were made "in the following statutory succession: spouse, then children, then parents, then estate."

Also, these rules are being revised so that they more completely and clearly incorporate statutory requirements rather than being purely supplemental to such statutes.