1. This legislation has been extended from time to time by the Congress for periods of two years. Federal impacts continue to grow in the number of school districts and in many instances the two year limitation has posed insurmountable obstacles in the orderly planning and construction of school housing.

Examples of this point would be the situations at Blytheville and Jacksonville, Arkansas; where, at the present time, on-base housing for Air Force personnel is programmed and the planning for same is actually under way; yet, the school districts concerned, that is, the Blytheville and Gosnell Districts in the Blytheville area and the Pulaski County District, in which the Jacksonville area is located, cannot get any assistance at the present time in the planning and construction of facilities to house the children of the Air Force personnel who will live in this housing.

This is due to the fact that the present law expires on June 30, 1956 and the Commissioner is limited in his authority to provide housing for only those children which will actually enroll in the schools concerned, on or before, the close of school during the current school year.

It can readily be understood that if school housing is to be available, when children arrive in the school district, that the school district must be in a position to plan and start construction of school housing at the time the planning and construction of family accommodations takes place.

The removal of appropriation and date barriers or limitations would make possible this planning and would actually have the effect of making this law permanent legislation.

2. The present law requires any eligible school district to absorb a 5 percent enrollment growth, each year based on the previous year's enrollment, before being allowed to count any new federal children. It has been found nation-wide that 3 percent is more nearly the national average growth, and it is not believed that any federally affected district should be required to absorb more than the national average growth.

3. Present legislation requires the President to make certain findings regarding new federal impact and labor in-migration before Districts can qualify for construction assistance.

It is pointed out that determinations affecting the educational welfare of children should be vested in educational people, therefore, it is the purpose of this amendment to vest this authority in the U. S. Commissioner of Education.
4. Present law allows the Commissioner to estimate enrollments as of the end of the second year following the effective date of the law; that is, the present law allowed the Commissioner to estimate enrollments as of the close of the present 1955-56 school year.

This would be effected in the proposal in that the Commissioner would be authorized to use actual data for the school year in which an application might be filed and estimate enrollments to occur during the subsequent school year.

It is noted that if the legislation was now permanent, with this provision, that the conditions prevailing at Blytheville, Gosnell and in the Pulaski County District in Jacksonville, could be cared for in a normal way.

5. Section 4 of the proposed amendments also includes a provision to continue the eligibility of children of military personnel who remain in a school district when the parent or guardian is transferred to another duty station. In many cases the families of servicemen remain in federal-impact area when the serviceman is transferred overseas. Under present law, these children lose their eligibility since the parent is not working within commuting distance from the affected school district.