



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA****WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1989****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****RAHALL ANNOUNCES NEW LAW SETTING TIME LIMITS
ON CASHING GOVERNMENT CHECKS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today that effective October 1, 1989, a new law will limit the time for cashing Federal Government checks to one year. Previously, there had been no time limit on cashing Government checks.

Rahall noted that although the law will require checks dated October 1 and later to be cashed within one year, checks issued before October 1 will have until September 30, 1990 before they expire.

The new law allows a one-year period during which a claim concerning a lost or stolen check may be filed. In addition, the Department of the Treasury will have 18 months to begin recovery of funds from a financial institution if a check has been negotiated over a forged or unauthorized endorsement.

Rahall stressed that while the new law sets a time limit on cashing a check, it will not affect an individual's entitlement to payment. The Congressman said that a bona fide holder of an expired check, however, will have to contact the government agency which authorized the check and the agency can arrange for a replacement check to be issued.

The Federal Government issues approximately 550 million checks annually with a valued exceeding \$600 billion.

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