



# PUBLIC NOTICE

03-10

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Brenda K. Argoe, Clerk of Court**



TO: Practitioners/Constituents

SUBJECT: Chapter 12

DATE: December 29, 2003

**CHAPTER 12 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE WILL EXPIRE JANUARY 1, 2004.** This event does not affect pending chapter 12 cases; however new chapter 12 filings will not be accepted following the sunset date.

Several bills that would affect the status of chapter 12 are pending in Congress. On November 25, 2003, the Senate passed S. 1920, which would extend chapter 12 until July 1, 2004. The House of Representatives has not voted on bills that would provide a similar extension (H.R. 3540 and H.R. 3542). Additionally, on December 9, 2003, Senator Grassley (R-IA) introduced S. 2004, which would make chapter 12 a permanent feature of the Bankruptcy Code, increase the debt limits for chapter 12 filings, and add family fishermen to those eligible to file for such relief.

Until further legislation is passed regarding chapter 12, practitioners should counsel their clients regarding the other chapters available to them and not attempt to file a chapter 12 case with the court.