

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2158, DEPARTMENTS OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

JULY 14, 1997.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 184]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 184, by a non-record vote, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION

The resolution provides for the consideration of H.R. 2158, the “Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1998” under an open rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI (three day availability of the report), clause 7 of rule XXI (availability of printed hearings on appropriations bills), or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (prohibiting matters within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee in a measure not reported by it).

The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI (prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislative provisions in an appropriations bill) and clause 6 of XXI (prohibiting reappropriations in an appropriations bill), except as specified in the resolution. The rule makes in order those amendments printed in this report, which may be offered only by the Member designated in this report and only at the appropriate time in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the

Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in this report.

Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Record prior to their consideration will be given priority in recognition to offer their amendments if otherwise consistent with House rules. The rule allows the Chair to postpone recorded votes and reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed votes, provided voting time on the first in any series of questions shall be not less than fifteen minutes. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER BY THE RULE—VA,
HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998

1. Solomon—Ensures that VA medical care will receive up to an additional \$579 million in the event the third-party receipts fall short. The amendment would offset the entire \$14 million by reducing the outlays for EPA Science and Technology which would still leave that funding \$16 million above the President's request.

2. Shuster—Relates to two provisions under FEMA's Emergency Management Planning and Assistance Account. The first provision appropriates \$50,000,000 for pre-disaster mitigation and the second appropriates \$60,000,000 for a full-scale windstorm simulation center. The amendment would condition those appropriations by requiring specific authorization by a date certain, which is April 1, 1998.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER BY THE RULE

1. THE AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON
OF NEW YORK OR A DESIGNEE.

Page 16, after line 12, insert the following new section:

SEC. 108. (a) This section is enacted contingent on the enactment of legislation establishing the Medical Collections Fund.

(b) If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that the total amount to be recovered for fiscal year 1998 for deposit to the Medical Collections Fund under the provisions of the legislation establishing such Fund will be less than the amount contained in the latest Congressional Budget Office baseline estimate (computed under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) for the amount of such recoveries for that fiscal year by at least \$25,000,000, the Secretary shall promptly certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount of the shortfall (as estimated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) that is in excess of \$25,000,000. Upon receipt of such a certification, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, not later than 30 days after receiving the certification, deposit in the Medical Collections Fund, from any unobligated amounts in the Treasury, an amount equal to the amount certified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(c) If a deposit is made under subsection (b) and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs subsequently determines that the actual amount recovered for fiscal year 1998 for deposit to the Medical Collections Fund—

(1) is greater than the amount estimated by the Secretary that was used for purposes of the certification by the Secretary

under subsection (b), the Secretary shall pay into the General Fund of the Treasury, from amounts available for medical care, an amount equal to the difference between the amount actually recovered and the amount so estimated (but not in excess of the amount of the deposit under subsection (b) pursuant to such certification); or

(2) is less than the amount estimated by the Secretary that was used for purposes of the certification by the Secretary under subsection (b), the Secretary shall promptly certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount of the shortfall.

(d) Upon receipt of a certification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary of the Treasury shall, not later than 30 days after receiving the certification, deposit in the Medical Collections Fund, from any unobligated amounts in the Treasury, an amount equal to the amount certified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Page 48, line 2, insert “(reduced by \$27,000,000)” after “\$656,223,000,”.

2. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHUSTER OF PENNSYLVANIA, OR A DESIGNEE

Page 57, line 7 strike after the colon all that follows through the period on line 17, and insert the following:

Provided, That for the purposes of pre-disaster mitigation \$50,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available until expended for pre-disaster mitigation project grants for State and local government, and \$60,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available until expended for planning and construction costs of a full-scale windstorm simulation center in conjunction with the Partnership for Natural Disaster Reduction: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading for such pre-disaster mitigation grants and windstorm simulation center shall be available unless specifically authorized: *Provided further*, That the limitation on the use of funds set forth in the preceding proviso shall have no force and effect after April 1, 1998.