

Provided, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted in this Act is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under the Act listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: Provided, That where an item is not included in either version or where an item is included in only one version of the Act as passed by both Houses as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 211 or 212 under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 202. Appropriations made by section 201 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 203. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 201 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 204. No provision which is included in the appropriations Act enumerated in section 201 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, fund, or authority provided in this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 205. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 206. Unless otherwise provided for in this title of this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this title of this joint resolution, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) January 3, 1996, whichever first occurs.

SEC. 207. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 206, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this joint resolution shall be expended for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SEC. 208. Expenditures made pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 209. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 201 of this title of this joint resolution that makes the availability of any appropriation pro-

vided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 206(c) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 210. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 206, whenever the Act listed in section 201 as passed by both the House and Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, does not include funding for an ongoing project or activity for which there is a budget request, or whenever the rate for operations for an ongoing project or activity provided by section 201 for which there is a budget request would result in the project or activity being significantly reduced, the pertinent project or activity may be continued under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 by increasing the rate for operations provided by section 201 to a rate for operations not to exceed one that provides the minimal level that would enable existing activities to continue. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366. For the purposes of this title of this joint resolution, the minimal level means a rate for operations that is reduced from the current rate by 25 percent.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 206, whenever the rate for operations for any continuing project or activity provided by section 201 or section 211 for which there is a budget request would result in a furlough of Government employees, that rate for operations may be increased to the minimum level that would enable the furlough to be avoided. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366.

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except sections 206, 211, and 212, for those programs that had high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of funding at the beginning of the fiscal year in fiscal year 1995 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, similar distributions of funds for fiscal year 1996 shall not be made and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this title of this resolution that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 214. This title of this joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in this title of this resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 215. The provisions of section 132 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1988, Public Law 100-202, shall not apply for this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 206, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this joint resolution shall be used to implement or enforce any system of registration of unmarried, cohabiting couples whether they are homosexual, lesbian, heterosexual, including but not limited to registration for the purpose of extending employment, health, or governmental benefits to such couples on the same basis that such benefits are extended to legally married couples; nor shall any funds made available pursuant to any provision of this title of this joint resolution otherwise be used to implement

or enforce D.C. Act 9-188, signed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia on April 15, 1992.

TITLE III

VETERANS' BENEFITS

That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 301. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996 OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal year 1996 in which appropriations are not otherwise available for programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall nevertheless ensure that—

(1) payments of existing veterans benefits are made in accordance with regular procedures and schedules and in accordance with eligibility requirements for such benefits; and

(2) payments to contractors of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs are made when due in the case of services provided that directly relate to patient health and safety.

(b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the payments pursuant to subsection (a), including such amounts as may be necessary for the costs of administration of such payments.

(c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIATIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applicable accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and for the costs of administration of such payments, when regular appropriations become available for those purposes.

(d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes of this section, existing veterans benefits are benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for payment as of—

(1) December 15, 1995; or

(2) if appropriations for such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection (b)) after December 15, 1995, the last day on which appropriations for payment of such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

SEC. 302. EXPIRATION DATE.

Section 301 shall expire on January 3, 1996.

House amendment to the Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter inserted by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 1. Section 106(c) of Public Law 104-56 is amended by striking "December 15, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 26, 1996".

SEC. 2. The transmission of this joint resolution to the President shall be in accordance with the requirements of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 131) that establishes procedures making such transmission contingent upon the submission by the President of a seven-year balanced budget using the economic and technical assumptions specified in or consistent with the Congressional Budget Office Memorandum entitled "The Economic and Budget Outlook: December 1995 Update".

□ 1435

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON) at 2 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1996, UNLESS HOUSE SOONER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SENATE TRANSMITTING CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 133.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, January 9, 1996, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 12, 1996, unless the House sooner receives a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 133, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, January 12, 1996, at 10 a.m.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that

committee did on the following day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On January 5:

H.R. 1643. Making appropriations for certain activities for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1996, TO MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1996, AND ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE FROM JANUARY 10, 1996, TO MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1996

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 133) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 133

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the calendar day of Tuesday, January 9, 1996, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 1996, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on the calendar day of Wednesday, January 10, 1996, pursuant to a motion offered by the Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, January 22, 1996, or until noon on

the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X,

Mr. BOEHNER introduced a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 133) providing for an adjournment of the two Houses; which was considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 444: Ms. HARMAN.

H.R. 2386: Ms. HARMAN.

H. Res. 333: Mr. MCHALE, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. FURSE, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.