

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1997, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 31, 1996.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PACKARD, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3754]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3754) “making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes,” having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 9, 20, 23, and 24.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, and 19, and agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 3:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$2,750,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 4:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 4, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$69,356,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 5:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 5, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$33,437,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 7:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 7, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$2,782,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 8:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 8, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$24,532,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 15:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 15, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$9,753,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 16:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 16, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$1,310,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 21:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 21, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

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

SEC. 314. (A) Upon enactment into law of this Act, there shall be established a program for providing the widest possible exchange of information among legislative branch agencies with the long range goal of improving information technology planning and evaluation. The Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate are requested to determine the structure and operation of this program and to provide appropriate oversight. All of the appropriate offices and agencies of the legislative branch as defined below shall participate in this program for information exchange, and shall report annually on the extent and nature of their participation in their budget submissions to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(B) As used in this section—

(1) the term “offices and agencies of the legislative branch” means the office of the Clerk of the House, the office of the Secretary of the Senate, the office of the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, and the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate; and

(2) the term “technology” refers to any form of computer hardware and software; computer-based systems, services, and support for the creation, processing, exchange, and delivery of information; and telecommunications systems, and the associated hardware and software that provide for voice, data, or image communication.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 22:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 22, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the of the first section number named in said amendment, insert: 315; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment Numbered 25:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 25, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the first section number named in said amendment, insert: 316 and at the end of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert the following:

SEC. 317. For payment to Jo Ann Emerson, widow of Bill Emerson, late a Representative from the State of Missouri, \$133,600.

And the Senate agree to the same.

RON PACKARD,
CHARLES H. TAYLOR,
DAN MILLER,
ROGER F. WICKER,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
RAY THORNTON,
JOSÉ SERRANO,
VIC FAZIO,
DAVID R. OBEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

CONNIE MACK,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL,
MARK O. HATFIELD,
PATY MURRAY,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
ROBERT C. BYRD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes on the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3754) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

TITLE I—CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS

SENATE

Amendment No. 1: Appropriates \$441,208,000 for the operations of the Senate, and contains several administrative provisions. Inasmuch as the amendment relates solely to the Senate and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the House, at the request of the managers on the part of the Senate, have receded to the Senate amendment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The managers on the part of the House, with the concurrence of the managers on the part of the Senate, support the policy of disposing of excess House computer equipment for the use of elementary and secondary schools, comparable to the program established by the Senate. The House managers note that, under current statute, the Committee on House Oversight has the authority to make such dispositions.

JOINT ITEMS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF 1997

Amendment No. 2: Deletes \$950,000, and related provisions, appropriated for the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 1997 as proposed by the House and inserts \$950,000, together with related provisions, appropriated for the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 1997 as proposed by the Senate. These funds are provided in accordance with Senate Concurrent Resolutions 47 and 48, 104th Congress, agreed to in the Senate on March 20, 1996.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Amendment No. 3: Appropriates \$2,750,000 for the Joint Economic Committee instead of \$3,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$750,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees agree that the long term need for this committee should be reviewed and expect the funding to be phased down to zero in the future.

CAPITOL POLICE BOARD

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

Amendment No. 4: Appropriates \$69,356,000 for the salaries and related personnel expenses of the Capitol Police instead of \$68,392,000 as proposed by the House and \$70,132,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees believe that the information and systems that support Capitol Police financial management processes are in need of improvement. To some extent, the transfer of payroll/personnel recordkeeping to the National Finance Center will lead to significant improvement in the reliability and accuracy of financial data, but other accounting and management information systems also require attention.

Amendment No. 5: Provides \$33,437,000 to the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, for the Capitol Police assigned to the House rolls instead of \$32,927,000 as proposed by the House and \$34,213,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 6: Provides \$35,919,000 to the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, for the Capitol Police assigned to the Senate rolls as proposed by the Senate instead of \$35,465,000 as proposed by the House.

GENERAL EXPENSES

Amendment No. 7: Appropriates \$2,782,000 for general expenses of the Capitol Police instead of \$2,685,000 as proposed by the House and \$2,880,000 as proposed by the Senate. The additional funds provided above the House bill are provided for vehicle replacement.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 8: Appropriates \$24,532,000 for salaries and expenses, Congressional Budget Office, instead of \$24,288,000 as proposed by the House and \$24,775,000 as proposed by the Senate.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
CAPITOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
CAPITOL BUILDINGS

Amendment No. 9: Appropriates \$23,255,000 for Capitol buildings, Architect of the Capitol as proposed by the House instead of \$23,555,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees note that the Capitol Police, due to legislation enacted in the District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1996, will inherit the D.C. canine facility located at Blue Plains at a site adjacent to the Botanic Garden plant nursery. In the meantime, through a reprogramming of funds made available by the Committees on Appropriations, the Capitol Police canine operation was relocated, on July 24, 1996, to a site adjacent to the buildings, training grounds, and kennels they will occupy when the D.C. canine operation vacates. This recent Capitol Police relocation was accomplished within a few months of learning of extremely hazardous conditions at the former location, and includes new kennels, training grounds, temporary office and classroom buildings, and other facilities necessary to continue this very important security program. The Committees on Appropriations have been advised that the space being developed for the D.C. canine operation will be completed by February 27, 1997. The conferees expect that the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police will make the necessary arrangements to move into those quarters immediately upon their availability. In the meantime, the conferees believe that the Architect of the Capitol should survey the need for renovations at the D.C. canine facility. If it is determined that renovations are necessary, the Committees on Appropriations will entertain a request to reprogram funds based upon the receipt of adequate engineering estimates, plans, and design documentation.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

The managers on the part of the House, with the concurrence of the managers on the part of the Senate, direct that all employees displaced by the custodial contract at the Ford House Office Building will be absorbed in available vacant positions and expect every effort to be made to place them in positions of equal or comparable pay.

SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Amendment No. 10: Appropriates \$39,640,000, of which \$3,200,000 shall remain available until expended, for the operations of the Senate office buildings. Inasmuch as the amendment relates solely to the Senate and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the House, at the request of the managers on the part of the Senate, have receded to the Senate amendment.

TITLE II—OTHER AGENCIES

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 11: Provides \$216,007,000 for salaries and expenses, Library of Congress as proposed by the Senate instead of \$215,007,000 as proposed by the House. The conferees agree with the Senate report language regarding the deputy Librarian of Congress.

Amendment No. 12: Earmarks \$928,800 for the operation of the American Folklife Center as proposed by the Senate.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 13: Deletes a provision proposed by the House and stricken by the Senate authorizing account-to-account transfers, subject to approval, of funds appropriated in the bill to the Library of Congress.

Amendment No. 14: Provides a two-year authorization for the American Folklife Center as proposed by the Senate.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL CARE

Amendment No. 15: Appropriates \$9,753,000 for structural and mechanical care, Library buildings and grounds, Architect of the Capitol instead of \$9,003,000 as proposed by the House and \$10,453,000 as proposed by the Senate. These funds include \$750,000 above the House bill for an uninterruptible power supply. The conferees note that the additional amounts provided were not included in the budget request transmitted to the Congress.

Amendment No. 16: Provides that \$1,310,000 shall remain available until expended for structural and mechanical care, Library buildings and grounds instead of \$560,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,910,000 as proposed by the Senate.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conferees agree that funding included for the General Accounting Office contract audit services is \$8,000,000.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 17: Deletes a provision proposed by the House and stricken by the Senate regarding dynamic macroeconomic scoring of certain spending and revenue legislation.

Amendment No. 18: Authorizes law enforcement personnel of the Capitol Police to elect to receive compensatory time off in lieu of overtime compensation in excess of the maximum for their work period as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 19: Makes a date change in section 316 of Public Law 101-302 regarding Senate artwork as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 20: Deletes a provision proposed by the Senate that the Government Printing Office shall be considered an agency and the Public Printer shall be considered the head of the agency for purposes of sections 801(b)(2)(B) and 801(b)(2)(C), respectively, of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act.

Amendment No. 21: Changes a section number and amends a provision inserted by the Senate regarding technology planning, evaluation, development, and management in the legislative branch. The conference agreement requests the Senate Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Oversight to oversee a program for providing the widest possible exchange of information among legislative branch agencies with the long range goal of improving information technology planning and evaluation.

The conferees note that the Committee on House Oversight and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration have begun a process to develop a common information system. The Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate have been called upon to coordinate the project with the oversight of those Committees and to ultimately propose the standards for a legislative branch-wide information system to the Committees for approval.

An open exchange of technology, projects, plans and developments is crucial to the success of a legislative branch-wide information system. The conferees expect, therefore, that the following organizations will be relied upon to participate and assist in this effort: the Clerk of the House, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, the office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office, House Information Resources, the Senate Computer Center, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, and the office of the Architect of the Capitol.

Section 209 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, directed the Library of Congress to develop a plan and supporting analyses for this system. In so doing, the Library identified the major programs under development in various parts of the legislative branch as well as a significant amount of duplication. The process begun by the oversight committees will enable the strengths of each program to be recognized and integrated into a system that will benefit Congress as a whole.

Amendment No. 22: Retains a provision proposed by the Senate, amended to change a section number, that amends section 3303 of Title 5, United States Code, together with technical and conforming amendments, regarding recommendations made by Senators and Representatives for applicants to the competitive service.

Amendment No. 23: Deletes a provision proposed by the Senate regarding an electronic information system. The managers on the part of the House and Senate agree that the Congressional Research Service, upon the request of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Senate and the heads of the appropriate offices and agencies of the

legislative branch, shall coordinate the development of an electronic congressional legislative information and document retrieval system to provide for the legislative information needs of the Senate through the exchange and retrieval of information and documents among legislative branch offices and agencies. The managers on the part of the House and the Senate also agree that the Library of Congress shall assist the Congressional Research Service in supporting the Senate in this effort, and shall provide technical staff and resources as may be necessary.

Amendment No. 24: Deletes a provision inserted by the Senate regarding employment limitations under section 207(e) of title 18, United States Code.

Amendment No. 25: Retains a provision proposed by the Senate, amended to change a section number, that amends Chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, to exempt from infringement of copyright the reproduction or distribution of certain publications in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities. In addition, the conferees, at the request of the managers on the part of the House, have inserted a provision that provides the traditional death gratuity for the widow of Bill Emerson, late a Representative from the State of Missouri.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1997 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1996 amount, the 1997 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1997 follow:

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	\$2,187,356,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1997	2,339,421,000
House bill, fiscal year 1997	1,681,311,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1997	2,165,081,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1997	2,165,097,600
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	– 22,258,400
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1997	– 174,323,400
House bill, fiscal year 1997	+483,786,600
Senate bill, fiscal year 1997	+16,600

RON PACKARD,
 CHARLES H. TAYLOR,
 DAN MILLER,
 ROGER F. WICKER,
 BOB LIVINGSTON,
 RAY THORNTON,
 JOSÉ SERRANO,
 VIC FAZIO,
 DAVID R. OBEY,
Managers on the Part of the House.

CONNIE MACK,
 ROBERT F. BENNETT,
 BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL,
 MARK O. HATFIELD,
 PATTY MURRAY,
 BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
 ROBERT C. BYRD,
Managers of the Part of the Senate.