

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3754, FISCAL  
YEAR 1997 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

---

JULY 9, 1996.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

---

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 473]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 473, by a nonrecord 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. 3754, the “Fiscal Year 1997 Legislative Branch Appropriations” under a modified closed 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 clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI (3 day availability requirement for committee reports), clause 7 of rule XXI (3 day availability of printed hearings and reports on appropriations bills), or section 302 of the Budget Act (prohibiting consideration of legislation which exceeds a committee’s allocation of new entitlement authority) or section 308 of the Budget Act (requiring a cost estimate in committee report on new entitlement authority) against consideration of the bill.

The rule waives clause 2 of rule XXI (prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislation on general appropriations) and clause 6 of rule XXI (prohibiting reappropriations) against the bill.

The rule makes in order only the amendments printed in the report on the rule to be offered only in the order printed, by the Member specified, and debatable for the time specified in the report. The amendments are considered as read and are not subject to amendment except as specified in the report or a demand for a division of the question in the House or Committee of the Whole. All points of order are waived against the amendments.

The rule provides that the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone recorded votes on any amendment and that the chairman may reduce voting time on postponed questions to 5 minutes, provided that the vote immediately follows another recorded vote and that the voting time on the first in a series of votes is not less than 15 minutes.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER BY THE RULE

(Listed in the order in which they will be offered)

1. Fazio—Transfers \$4 million in funds from the Chief Administrative Officer to the Members' Representational Allowance. (30 minutes)

2. Dunn—Reduces the number of 3700 full-time workyears at the Government Printing Office by 100. (20 minutes)

3. Obey—Reduces General Accounting Office contract audits by \$3.5 million. (30 minutes)

4. Volkmer—Reduces the aggregate amount of the General Accounting Office by \$250,000. (20 minutes)

5. Smith (MI) or Roemer—Extends last year's "lock-box" which earmarked unspent money from Members' office allowances to deficit reduction. (20 minutes)

6. Campbell—Provides a recommendation that the CBO and Joint Tax Committees use dynamic economic modeling for informational purposes to complement budgetary estimates on certain major spending and tax bills. (20 minutes)

7. Gutknecht—Reduces all discretionary spending in the bill across-the-board by 1.9%. (20 minutes)

8. Castle—Requires mass mailings sent by Members of the House to contain a notice specifying that the mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense, and requires the quarterly disclosure of the number and cost of mass mailing by each Member. (20 minutes)

1. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE FAZIO OF CALIFORNIA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 30 MINUTES

Page 3, after line 3, insert the following caption: "(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)".

Page 3, line 6, insert before the period at the end the following: ; and, in addition, \$4,000,000, which shall be derived by transfer from the amount provided in this Act for "Office of the Chief Administrative Officer" under the heading "Salaries, officers and employees" and shall be available for obligation only by members for initiatives to promote the increased use of computers and other electronic technologies funded by this Act to carry out legislative activities.

2. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE DUNN OF WASHINGTON OR HER DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 28, beginning on line 9, strike out “3,700 workyears” and insert in lieu thereof “3,600 workyears by the end of fiscal year 1997”.

3. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE OBEY OF WISCONSIN OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 30 MINUTES

Page 29, line 11, strike “: *Provided, That,*” and insert the following: “(reduced by \$3,500,000): *Provided, That,* not more than \$4,500,000 of such funds shall be available for contract audit services: *Provided further, That*”.

4. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE VOLKMER OF MISSOURI OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 31, after line 2, insert the following:

The aggregate amount otherwise provided under this heading is hereby reduced by \$250,000, and the amount of such reduction shall be retained in the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction and shall not be available for appropriation for any other purpose for fiscal year 1997.

5. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH OF MICHIGAN OR ROEMER OF INDIANA OR A DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 35, after line 22, insert the following new section:

SEC. 310. Any amount appropriated in this Act for “HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Salaries and Expenses—Members’ Representational Allowances” shall be available only for fiscal year 1997. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for such fiscal year shall be deposited in the Treasury, to be used for deficit reduction.

6. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL OF CALIFORNIA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 35, after line 22, insert the following new section:

SEC. 310. (a) In addition to any other estimates the Director is required to make pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall, upon the request of the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives (after consultation with the ranking minority member of that committee), prepare an estimate for any major spending legislation, as designated by the majority leader of the House of Representatives (after consultation with the minority leader of the House), of the change in spending and revenues resulting from that legislation on the basis of assumptions that estimate the probable dynamic macroeconomic feedback effects of such legislation, and shall include a statement identifying those assumptions. Such estimates

shall be submitted to the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on the Budget and of the committees of subject-matter jurisdiction, and, if timely submitted, shall be included in the reports on such legislation.

(b)(1) The Joint Committee on Taxation shall conduct a study of the feasibility of providing fiscal estimates of the dynamic macroeconomic feedback effects of tax legislation. Such study shall analyze—

(A) the difficulty of predicting—

- (i) monetary responses to tax legislation,
- (ii) international responses to domestic policy changes, including changes in international flows of capital,
- (iii) short-term changes in the labor supply, interest rates, and savings rates,
- (iv) the effect that changes in investment will have on growth rates, and
- (v) changes in economic efficiencies,

(B) how significant a proposal should be in order to warrant a dynamic macroeconomic feedback estimate,

(C) under what circumstances it is appropriate to estimate microeconomic effects or sector effects even when there is no macroeconomic effect,

(D) whether it is feasible to quantify the reliability of dynamic macroeconomic feedback estimates,

(E) whether there are procedural complexities in making such estimates where such estimates involve variables outside traditional revenue models, and

(F) whether it is appropriate to make such estimates for tax legislation if such estimates are not made for other legislation.

(2) If the Joint Committee on Taxation determines that fiscal estimates of dynamic macroeconomic feedback effects of tax legislation are feasible, such study shall include examples of such estimates for several hypothetical tax policy changes.

(3) The report of such study shall be submitted not later than May 1, 1997, to—

(A) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives,

(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate,

(C) the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and

(D) the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate.

(4) Pending completion of such study, the Joint Committee on Taxation shall continue its current practice of taking into account the following behavioral effects (among others): changes in the timing of transactions; shifts between corporate and noncorporate income; changes in the mix of employee compensation between cash and nontaxable fringe benefits; changes in relative prices and resulting shifts in demand between taxed and untaxed commodities; capital gains realization effects; and portfolio shifts between taxable and nontaxable assets.

(5) The Joint Committee on Taxation may continue its current practice of contracting with nationally recognized macroeconomic modeling firms to investigate macroeconomic feedback effects of hypothetical tax policy changes.

(c) Estimates made pursuant to this section are to be used for informational purposes only.

7. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE GUTKNECHT OF MINNESOTA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 35, after line 22, insert the following new section:

SEC. 310. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1.9 percent.

8. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE CASTLE OF DELAWARE OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 20 MINUTES

Page 35, after line 22, insert the following new section:

SEC. 310. (a) Each mass mailing sent by a Member of the House of Representatives shall bear in a prominent place on its face, or on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper in which the mail matter is sent, the following notice: **“THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PUBLISHED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.”**, or a notice to the same effect in words which may be prescribed under subsection (c). The notice shall be printed in a type size not smaller than 7-point.

(b)(1) There shall be published in the itemized report of disbursements of the House of Representatives as required by law, a summary tabulation setting forth, for the office of each Member of the House of Representatives, the total number of pieces of mass mail mailed during the period involved and the total cost of those mass mailings.

(2) Each such tabulation shall also include—

(A) the total cost (as referred to in paragraph (1)) divided by the number (as determined by the Postmaster General) of addresses (other than business possible delivery stops) in the Congressional district from which the Member was elected (as such addresses are described in section 3210(d)(7)(B) of title 39, United States Code); and

(B) the total number of pieces of mass mail (as referred to in paragraph (1)) divided by the number (as determined by the Postmaster General) of addresses (other than business possible delivery stops) in the Congressional district from which the Member was elected (as such addresses are described in section 3210(d)(7)(B) of title 39, United States Code).

(c) The Committee on House Oversight shall prescribe such rules and regulations and shall take such other action as the Committee considers necessary and proper for Members to conform to the provisions of this subsection and applicable rules and regulations.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “Member of the House of Representatives” means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress; and

(2) the term “mass mailing” has the meaning given such term by section 3210(a)(6)(E) of title 39, United States Code.

(e) This section shall apply with respect to sessions of Congress beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

