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Amendments to H.R. 5822 – FY 2011 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act

Order of Business: H.R. 5822, the FY 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (sponsored by *Rep. Edwards, D-TX*), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 under a restrictive *structured rule* ([H.Res. 1559](#)) that provides one hour of general debate, and waives all points of order against the bill’s consideration, except for clauses 9 (the earmark rule) and 10 (PAYGO) of Rule XXI.

The rule also waives points of order against provisions of the bill for failures to comply with various rules for appropriations bills (such as prohibitions on appropriating funds to unauthorized programs). The bill would be considered as read. Only the Appropriations Committee Chairman or his designee could offer a motion that the Committee of the Whole rise (i.e. stop considering amendments). The Minority would get one motion to recommit the bill, with or without instructions.

The rule makes in order measures considered under suspension of the rules through August 1, 2010.

Total amendments submitted to the Rules Committee: **37**

Total allowed under this restrictive rule: **14**

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AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

- 1. Holt (D-NJ).** According to the sponsor, the amendment is intended to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to set aside \$20 million for suicide outreach prevention through direct advertising and online social media. The text of the amendment reduces by \$20 million (and then increases by the same amount) funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Departmental Administration.

2. **Buyer (R-IN).** The amendment would require that \$10 million of funding provided in the bill for Department of Veterans Affairs, Departmental Administration, be used for the purpose of hiring employees to provide training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.
3. **Buyer (R-IN).** The amendment would require that \$162,734,000 (of the funding provided in the bill for Construction, Minor Projects) be used for renewable energy projects at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.
4. **Buyer (R-IN).** The amendment would require that \$10 million of funding provided in the bill for Department of Veterans Affairs, Departmental Administration, be used to fund the second year of the VA-US Paralympics Adaptive Sports Program for disabled veterans.
5. **Cuellar (D-TX).** The amendment would prohibit first-class travel in contravention of the Code of Federal Regulations under this Act.
6. **Flake (R-AZ).** The amendment would prohibit funding for all of the member-requested earmarks for military construction projects.
7. **Hill (D-IN).** The amendment would decrease the VA's General Operating Expense Account by \$100,000, and then increase it by \$100,000. According to the sponsor, the purpose of the amendment is to direct the VA to examine its practices for accounting of returned Post-9/11 GI Benefits from veterans or institutions, and to direct the VA to issue a report by Jan 1, 2011 on any changes made, or planned, to increase efficiency and timeliness of such accounting.
8. **Gingrey (R-GA).** The amendment would prohibit funds under the Act from being used to exercise the power of eminent domain without payment of just compensation.
9. **Gingrey (R-GA).** The amendment would prohibit funds made available under this Act from being used by the Department of Defense to renovate or construct any facility within the continental U.S. for the purpose of housing any individual detained, at any time after Sep 11, 2001, at the U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay.
10. **Halvorson (D-IL).** The amendment would subtract \$10 million from General Operating Expenses and add \$10 million to Major Construction Projects.
11. **Bilirakis (R-FL).** The amendment would require the VA to use \$9.5 million of appropriated funds (of the funding provided in the bill for Construction, Minor Projects) to acquire and construct up to four long-term care residential brain injury medical facilities.
12. **Peters (D-MI).** The amendment would decrease the Veteran's Administration General Operating Expense account by \$50,000, then increase it by \$50,000. According to the sponsor, the purpose of the amendment is to direct the VA to

implement a program that would re-label prescription drugs used in VA hospitals to be sent home with discharged patients for outpatient use.

- 13. *Peters (D-MI)*.** The amendment would decrease the Veteran's Administration General Operating Expense account by \$150,000, then increase it by \$150,000. According to the sponsor, the purpose of the amendment is to direct the VA to create a program to review all contracts after every 90 day period of inactivity to determine if the funds obligated for the contract could be deobligated and returned to the account from which the funds were obligated.
- 14. *Garrett (R-NJ), Adler (D-NJ), Lance (R-NJ)*.** The amendment would increase funding for the Grants for Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries account by \$7,000,000 and decrease funding for the Grants for Construction, Minor Projects account by \$7,000,000.