

[Congressional Record: October 5, 1998 (House)]

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[DOCID:cr05oc98-56]

*Congressional Record*  
1998  
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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4194, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California (during debate on H.R. 4280) submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Conference Report (H. Rept. 105-769)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4194) ``making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, 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 House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

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

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I--DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

compensation and pensions

(including transfers of funds)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriates \$10,195,000 for salaries and expenses as proposed by the House, instead of \$10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

## Environmental Protection Agency

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriates \$650,000,000 for science and technology instead of \$656,505,000 as provided by the House and \$643,460,000 as provided by the Senate.

The conferees have agreed to the following increases to the budget request:

1. \$1,250,000 for continuation of the California Regional PM 10 and 2.5 air quality study.
2. \$2,500,000 for EPSCoR.
3. \$400,000 for continuation of the study of livestock and agricultural pollution abatement at Tarleton State University.
4. \$3,000,000 for the Water Environment Research Foundation.
5. \$2,700,000 for continued research on urban waste management at the University of New Orleans.
6. \$800,000 to establish an environmental molecular toxicology program at the University of Montana.
7. \$2,000,000 for the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center.

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8. \$4,000,000 for the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, including \$1,000,000 for continued research on arsenic.

9. \$2,000,000 for the National Decentralized Water Resource Capacity Development Project, in coordination with EPA, for continued training and research and development program.

10. \$1,500,000 for the Integrated Petroleum Environmental Consortium project.

11. \$800,000 for the National Center for Atlantic and Caribbean Reef Research at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

12. \$1,900,000 for continued Salton Sea research, at the University of Redlands.

13. \$1,800,000 for continued research on treatment technologies relating to perchlorate managed by AWWARF on behalf of the East Valley Water District, California.

14. \$2,000,000 for the Lovelace National Environmental Respiratory Center.

15. \$4,000,000 to CE-CERT at the University of California/

Riverside for the development of a next generation environmental chamber to enable advanced research into atmospheric processes under low NO<sub>x</sub> conditions (\$3,000,000) and for the development of test track research facilities (\$1,000,000).

16. \$800,000 to the University of New Hampshire to develop, test, and evaluate innovative technologies for enhanced bioremediation of organically contaminated bedrock aquifers.

17. \$2,500,000 for the Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center.

18. \$1,000,000 for the development, design, and implementation of a research effort on tributyltin based ship bottom paints at Old Dominion University.

19. \$1,750,000 for the National Jewish Medical and Research Center for research on the relationship between indoor and outdoor pollution and the development of respiratory diseases.

20. \$800,000 for the university portion of the Southern Oxidants Study.

21. \$1,250,000 for the Center for Air Toxic Metals at the Energy and Environmental Research Center.

22. \$1,000,000 for the Texas Regional Institute for Environmental Studies to test new cost-effective environmental restoration technologies.

23. \$1,000,000 for the Institute for Environmental and Industrial Science at Southwest Texas State University.

24. \$6,000,000 for the Mine Waste Technology Program and the Heavy Metal Water Program at the National Environmental Waste Technology, Testing, and Evaluation Center.

25. \$1,000,000 for the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies.

26. \$2,000,000 for the Center for Environmental Research, Education and Training at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, for research on watershed science, ecological and environmental impacts of urban and suburban development, fate and transport of contaminants from urban and rural land use, and analysis of large spatial data sets.

27. \$500,000 for the Brazos River Authority for poultry pollution abatement research in the Brazos Navasota watershed.

The conferees have agreed to the following reductions from the budget request:

1. \$19,955,000 from the climate change research program.
2. \$6,358,000 from the global change research program.
3. \$4,000,200 from the Advanced Measurement Initiative.
4. \$8,372,000 from the Project EMPACT.
5. \$11,654,800 as a general reduction.

Within the funds provided for science and technology, the conferees direct that \$2,000,000 be used to continue the initiative to transfer technology developed in Federal laboratories to meet the environmental needs of small companies in the Great Lakes region. This initiative should be accomplished through a NASA sponsored Midwest regional