

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

When said resolution was considered. After debate,

On motion of Mr. SESSIONS, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection and under the operation thereof, the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶12.9 ORDER OF BUSINESS— CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 436

On motion of Mr. HORN, by unanimous consent,

Ordered. That during consideration of H.R. 436 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 43: (1) it may be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute (at the desk); (2) that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read; (3) that points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 4 of rule XXI and section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 be waived; and (4) that any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

¶12.10 REDUCE WASTE, FRAUD, AND ERROR IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SESSIONS, pursuant to House Resolution 43 and rule XVIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 436) to reduce waste, fraud, and error in Government programs by mak-

ing improvements with respect to Federal management and debt collection practices, Federal payment systems, Federal benefit programs, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SESSIONS, by unanimous consent, designated Mr. GIBBONS as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole; and after some time spent therein,

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SESSIONS, assumed the Chair.

When Mr. GIBBONS, Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 43, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee.

The following amendment, reported from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, was agreed to:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Government Waste, Fraud, and Error Reduction Act of 1999”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definition.
- Sec. 4. Application of Act.

TITLE I—GENERAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

- Sec. 101. Improving financial management.
- Sec. 102. Improving travel management.

TITLE II—IMPROVING FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

- Sec. 201. Miscellaneous corrections to subchapter II of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.
- Sec. 202. Barring delinquent Federal debtors from obtaining Federal benefits.
- Sec. 203. Collection and compromise of nontax debts and claims.

TITLE III—SALE OF NONTAX DEBTS OWED TO UNITED STATES

- Sec. 301. Authority to sell nontax debts.
- Sec. 302. Requirement to sell certain nontax debts.

TITLE IV—TREATMENT OF HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBTS

- Sec. 401. Annual report on high value nontax debts.
- Sec. 402. Review by Inspectors General.
- Sec. 403. Requirement to seek seizure and forfeiture of assets securing high value nontax debt.

TITLE V—FEDERAL PAYMENTS

- Sec. 501. Transfer of responsibility to Secretary of the Treasury with respect to prompt payment.
- Sec. 502. Promoting electronic payments.
- Sec. 503. Debt services account.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

- (1) To reduce waste, fraud, and error in Federal benefit programs.
- (2) To focus Federal agency management attention on high-risk programs.
- (3) To better collect debts owed to the United States.
- (4) To improve Federal payment systems.
- (5) To improve reporting on Government operations.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

As used in this Act, the term “nontax debt” means any debt (within the meaning of that term as used in chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code) other than a debt under

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Tariff Act of 1930.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF ACT.

No provision of this Act shall apply to the Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service to the extent that such provision—

- (1) involves the administration of the internal revenue laws; or
- (2) conflicts with the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Tariff Act of 1930.

TITLE I—GENERAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 101. IMPROVING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

Section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
 - (A) by striking “1997” and inserting “2000”; and
 - (B) by inserting “Congress and” after “submit to”; and
- (2) by striking subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h).

SEC. 102. IMPROVING TRAVEL MANAGEMENT.

(a) LIMITED EXCLUSION FROM REQUIREMENT REGARDING OCCUPATION OF QUARTERS.—Section 5911(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to lodging provided under chapter 57 of this title.”

(b) USE OF TRAVEL MANAGEMENT CENTERS, AGENTS, AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEMS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO ENCOURAGE USE.—The head of each executive agency shall, with respect to travel by employees of the agency in the performance of the employment duties by the employee, require, to the extent practicable, the use by such employees of travel management centers, travel agents authorized for use by such employees, and electronic reservation and payment systems for the purpose of improving efficiency and economy regarding travel by employees of the agency.

(2) PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—(A) The Administrator of General Services shall develop a plan regarding the implementation of this subsection and shall, after consultation with the heads of executive agencies, submit to Congress a report describing such plan and the means by which such agency heads plan to ensure that employees use travel management centers, travel agents, and electronic reservation and payment systems as required by this subsection.

(B) The Administrator shall submit the plan required under subparagraph (A) not later than March 31, 2000.

(c) PAYMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES ON TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall develop a mechanism to ensure that employees of executive agencies are not inappropriately charged State and local taxes on travel expenses, including transportation, lodging, automobile rental, and other miscellaneous travel expenses.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2000, the Administrator shall, after consultation with the heads of executive agencies, submit to Congress a report describing the steps taken, and proposed to be taken, to carry out this subsection.

TITLE II—IMPROVING FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

SEC. 201. MISCELLANEOUS CORRECTIONS TO SUBCHAPTER II OF CHAPTER 37 OF TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT.—Section 3716(h)(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(3) In applying this subsection with respect to any debt owed to a State, other than