

of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the impact of the allocation of funds under the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) funding formula on the rural subregions of the health care system administered by the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) The report shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of impact of the allocation of funds under the VERA formula on—

(i) travel times to veterans health care in rural areas;

(ii) waiting periods for appointments for veterans health care in rural areas;

(iii) the cost associated with additional community-based outpatient clinics;

(iv) transportation costs; and

(v) the unique challenges that Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in rural, low-population subregions face in attempting to increase efficiency without large economies of scale.

(B) The recommendations of the Secretary, if any, on how rural veterans' access to health care services might be enhanced.

DEWINE (AND VOINOVICH) AMENDMENTS NOS. 1781-1782

Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) proposed two amendments to the bill, H.R. 2684, *supra*; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1781

On page 113, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 431. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by this Act may be obligated or expended for purposes of transferring any research aircraft from Glenn Research Center, Ohio, to another field center of the Administration.

AMENDMENT NO. 1782

On page 113, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 431. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by this Act may be obligated or expended for purposes of establishing at a field center of the Administration any research capability that would duplicate a research capability that currently exists at another field center of the Administration.

CRAIG AMENDMENT NO. 1783

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 2684, *supra*; as follows:

On page 113, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 4 . PESTICIDE TOLERANCE FEES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to promulgate a final regulation to implement changes in the payment of pesticide tolerance processing fees as proposed at 64 Fed. Reg. 30939, or any similar proposals.

SESSIONS AMENDMENT NO. 1784

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 2684, *supra*; as follows:

On page 77, line 21, after "\$642,483,000," insert the following: "of which not less than

\$175,000 shall be available for a study conducted by the Geological Survey of Alabama of the fracturing of coalbed methane reservoirs in Alabama."

FITZGERALD (AND DURBIN) AMENDMENT NO. 1785

Mr. BOND (for Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself and Mr. DURBIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 2684, *supra*; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for the Medical Care appropriation of the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated for the realignment of the health care delivery system in VISN 12 until 60 days after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies that the Department has (a) consulted with veterans organizations, medical school affiliates, employee representatives, State veterans and health associations, and other interested parties with respect to the realignment plan to be implemented, and (b) made available to the Congress and the public information from the consultations regarding possible impacts on the accessibility of veterans health care services to affected veterans.

BOND AMENDMENT NO. 1786

Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 2684, *supra*; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . GAO STUDY ON FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK CAPITAL.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of—

(1) possible revisions to the capital structure of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, including the need for—

(A) more permanent capital;

(B) a statutory leverage ratio; and

(C) a risk-based capital structure; and

(2) what impact such revisions might have on the operations of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, including the obligation of the Federal Home Loan Bank System under section 21B(f)(2)(C) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a)."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 22, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider pending calendar business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Government Affairs Committee be permitted to meet on Wednesday, September 22, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing regarding the Department of Justice's Investigation of Charlie Trie.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 22, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 1587, a bill to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to establish within the Department of the Interior an Office of Special Trustee for Data Cleanup and Internal Control and; S. 1589, to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994.

The hearing will be held in room 485, Russell Senate Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 22, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. to mark up S. Res. 172, a resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 22, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony on the National Security requirements for continued training operations at the Vieques Training Range.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I recognize and congratulate the following