Amendment to H.R. \_\_\_\_\_\_, as Reported

(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Appropriations Bill)

Offered by M\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1. General Note**: This amendment template has been prepared by the House Office of the Legislative Counsel to further assist Members and staff in their preparation of Floor amendments to general appropriation bills (such as the regular annual bills) and in their discussions with our office, the House Parliamentarians, the Congressional Budget Office, the Appropriations Committee, and others. It is not intended to show every possible amendment form, but only those most commonly requested.

Amendments to general appropriation bills are subject to the provisions of clause 2 of rule XXI, which includes prohibitions on amendments that change existing law or provide appropriations that have not been authorized.

All amendments should be reviewed by the Parliamentarians for compliance with the rules and precedents of the House. And all amendments relating to funding levels should be reviewed by CBO for an estimate of their effect on budget authority and (if necessary) outlays*.*

**2. Amend or Strike Single Section**: To amend or strike a single section. Appropriation bills are typically read for amendment by appropriation paragraphs and sections. When that procedure is followed, it is not in order to directly amend or strike multiple appropriation paragraphs or sections in a single amendment (except by en bloc amendments permitted by clause 2(f) of rule XXI, discussed below). Any such amendment that would cause an increase in budget authority may be subject to a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act. As shown here, perfecting amendments to dollar amounts on the Floor should generally use a parenthetical approach rather than striking and inserting.

Page \_\_, line \_\_, strike “\_\_\_” and insert “\_\_\_”.

Page \_\_, line \_\_, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $\_\_)”.

Page \_\_, line \_\_, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $\_\_)”.

Page \_\_, beginning on line \_\_, strike section \_\_\_.

**3. Limitation**: As required by clause 2(d) of rule XXI, a new limitation may only be offered on the Floor as a new section at the end of a general appropriation bill, even if it applies only to a single section, title, or division that occurs earlier in the bill. Care should be taken in the description of the prohibited program, project, or activity to ensure that it does not subject the amendment to a legislation point of order by imposing a new duty or otherwise.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used [to / for] [description of prohibited program, project, or activity].

**4. Reachback Reductions**: Makes multiple reductions in amounts provided by the bill by means of a germane amendment that indirectly reaches back to other provisions passed in the reading. It will normally be placed at the end of the bill, but may be located at the end of a division or title if it relates only to amounts made available there. It may address one or more specific accounts, and may accomplish the reductions by dollar amounts or percentages.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. The amount otherwise made available by this Act for [“Agency–Account”] is hereby reduced by [$\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ percent].

Sec. \_\_. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

(1) “[Agency–Account]”, $\_\_.

(2) “[Agency–Account]”, $\_\_.

**5. Across-the-Board Reduction**: Makes a percentage reduction on each amount of discretionary budget authority provided by the bill or any portion of the bill. It will normally be placed at the end of the bill, but may be located at the end of a division or title if it relates only to amounts made available there.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. Each amount made available by this Act (other than an amount required to be made available by a provision of law) is hereby reduced by \_\_\_ percent.

**6. Retrenchment or “Holman Rule” Total Amount Reduction**: Reduces the total of the appropriations made available by the bill, either by dollar amount or percentage. It must be placed at the end of the bill, since by its wording it implicitly assigns to the Executive Branch the duty to allocate the reduction among specific agencies and accounts. This form of reduction amendment, however, does not appear to qualify for placement of the savings in the Spending Reduction Account. Because the allocation of reductions is unknown, CBO is unlikely to be able to determine the effect of the amendment on outlays (or, in the case of a supplemental, on the distribution of budget authority savings among the various Budget Act section 302(b) allocations). However, an estimate by CBO is not required for this form of amendment, since the reduction of total appropriations is obvious and certain on its face.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. The total amount of appropriations made available by this Act is hereby reduced by [$\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ percent].

**7. “2(f)” Increases with Offsets:** Under clause 2(f) of rule XXI, a deficit neutral en bloc amendment may be offered that spans multiple accounts and sections. The amendment may propose numerous reductions and increases. The individual changes made by the amendment are ordered according to the page and line numbers of the affected provisions as they appear in the bill, and the amendment is offered at the time of reading of the first of these provisions. The amendment may not propose a new object of appropriation, change any other language in the appropriation bill, or achieve its reductions through a reachback section or formula. In most cases, it also may not use as an offset a reduction to an account that is subject to a Budget Act section 302(b) allocation different than that of the increased account. An estimate must be requested from CBO to ensure that the amendment does not result in an increase in outlays due to different account spendout rates.

Page \_\_, line \_\_, after the [first and \_\_\_] dollar amount[s], insert “(reduced by $\_\_)”.

Page \_\_, line \_\_, after the [first and \_\_\_] dollar amount[s], insert “(increased by $\_\_)”.

**8. Nondivisible Offsetting Reachbacks**: Amends the bill in a way that reaches back (by reference, but not by direct amendment) to provisions already passed in the reading, in order to make increases and offsetting reductions in the bill that might otherwise not be permissible in a single amendment. To avoid points of order, it uses a form that protects the amendment from a demand for a division of the question. While this form of amendment generally may not result in an increase in budget authority, it is not required to be outlay neutral. Also, a reachback amendment is not considered to be “merely perfecting” and therefore may not make or further increase appropriations for an unauthorized purpose. As shown below, the offsetting reductions possible in reachback amendments include specific account reductions, across-the-board percentage reductions, and retrenchment total amount reductions.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “[Agency–Account]”, and increasing the amount made available for “[Agency–Account]”, by $\_\_.

Sec. \_\_. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “[Agency–Account]”, by reducing the amount made available for “[Agency–Account]”, and by increasing the amount made available for “[Agency–Account]”, by $\_\_, $\_\_, and $\_\_, respectively.

Sec. \_\_. For “[Agency–Account]” for [activity], as authorized by [authorizing law], there is hereby appropriated, and the amount made available by this Act for “[Agency–Account]” is hereby reduced by, $\_\_.

Sec. \_\_. The amount made available by this Act for “[Agency–Account]” is hereby increased by, and each other amount made available by this Act (other than an amount required to be made available by a provision of law) is hereby reduced by, $\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_ percent, respectively.

**9. Enactment by Reference**: A simple and concise approach for an amendment to add the provisions of other legislation to an appropriation bill. This amendment (like an amendment including the full text of another bill or legislative proposal) would be subject to a legislation point of order.

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_. There is hereby enacted into law H.R. \_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_ Congress, as [passed by the House of Representatives / reported by the Committee on \_\_\_ of the House of Representatives / introduced] on \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.