

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 594. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR USE OF UN-**
2 **OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO DE-**
3 **TERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND**
4 **FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
5 **FOR BENEFITS AND DECORATIONS WHEN**
6 **THE SERVICE RECORDS ARE INCOMPLETE**
7 **BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO THE OFFICIAL**
8 **RECORD.**

9 (a) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of De-
10 fense shall develop guidelines regarding the use by the
11 Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary
12 of Veterans Affairs of unofficial sources of information,
13 including eyewitness statements, to determine the eligi-
14 bility of a member or former member of the Armed Forces
15 for benefits and decorations when the service records of
16 the member are incomplete because of damage to the
17 records as a result of the 1973 fire at the National Per-
18 sonnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, or any sub-

1 sequent incident while the records were in the possession
2 of the Department of Defense.

3 (b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
4 prepare the guidelines in consultation with the Secretary
5 of Veterans Affairs, with respect to veterans benefits
6 under title 38, United States Code, whose eligibility deter-
7 minations depend on the use of service records maintained
8 by the Department of Defense.

9 (c) TIME FOR COMPLETION.—The Secretary of De-
10 fense shall complete development of the guidelines not
11 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
12 Act.

