

(1) for a 2-year period after enactment, the requirement the Vice Chairman have the joint specialty;

(2) for a 4-year period after enactment, the requirement that the Vice Chairman have served in a joint duty assignment for 3 years if the Vice Chairman has served in such an assignment for not less than 2 years; and

(3) for a 4-year period after enactment, the requirement that the Vice Chairman have served in a joint duty assignment as a general or flag officer if the Vice Chairman served as a general or flag officer in an assignment that was considered a joint duty assignment or a joint equivalent assignment under regulations in effect at the time the assignment began.

Although section 154(b)(2) of title 10 (as added by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment) provides the President with authority to waive the requirements for appointment as the Vice Chairman, the conferees agreed to provide a specific waiver for a limited transition period so that the exercise of a Presidential waiver, as would be required in the immediate future, would not become standard practice. After the transition period, the conferees expect the President to exercise his permanent waiver authority only in an extremely limited number of cases and only for officers of exceptional talent who may fail to meet the specified criteria.

## PART B—COMBATANT COMMANDS

### SEC. 211. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMBATANT COMMANDS AND AUTHORITY OF COMMANDERS

#### Sec. 161. Combatant commands: establishment

##### *Review of Combatant Command Structure*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would require the President to review periodically, but not less often than every 2 years, the missions, tasks, responsibilities (including geographic boundaries), and force structure of each unified and specified combatant command and to make whatever revisions are necessary to respond to changing conditions.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the JCS Chairman periodically (not less often than every other year) to review the overall structure of the combatant commands and to recommend to the President, through the Secretary of Defense, any changes that the Chairman considers necessary or appropriate.

The Senate recesses.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would require the President to notify Congress, except during time of hostilities, at least 60 days before establishing a new combatant command or before significantly revising the missions, tasks, responsibilities, or force structure of an existing combatant command.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the President to inform Congress promptly of any action taken in response to recommendations made by the Chairman.