

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1947, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW
MEXICO**

Page 391, after line 24, insert the following:

1 **SEC. _____ . LAND GRANT-MERCEDES ECONOMIC DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT INITIATIVES.**

3 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 379H. LAND GRANT-MERCEDES ECONOMIC DEVELOP-**
7 **MENT INITIATIVES.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) LAND GRANT-MERCEDES.—The term ‘land
10 grant-mercedes’ means a grant of land made by the
11 Government of Spain or of Mexico to a community,
12 town, colony, pueblo, or person for the purpose of
13 founding or establishing a community, town, colony,
14 or pueblo.

15 “(2) LAND GRANT COUNCIL.—The term ‘Land
16 Grant Council’ means an agency of the New Mexico
17 State government established by law—

1 “(A) to provide support to land grants-
2 mercedes in the State of New Mexico; and

3 “(B) to serve as a liaison between land
4 grant-mercedes and other State agencies and
5 the Federal government.

6 “(b) PROGRAM.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other
8 funds made available for similar purposes, the Sec-
9 retary shall use funds set aside under paragraph (3)
10 to provide grants to individual land grant-mercedes
11 and the Land Grant Council for the purpose of car-
12 rying out economic development initiatives under—

13 “(A) the Special Evaluation Assistance for
14 Rural Communities and Households
15 (SEARCH) program;

16 “(B) the community facility grant program
17 under section 306(a);

18 “(C) the program of rural business devel-
19 opment grants under section 310B(e);

20 “(D) the program of rural business enter-
21 prise grants under section 310B(e);

22 “(E) the rural microentrepreneur assist-
23 ance program under section 379E; and

24 “(F) the rural community development ini-
25 tiative.

1 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any
2 other requirement of the programs described in
3 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make available to
4 individual land grant-mercedes grants under those
5 programs at a Federal share of up to 100 percent.

6 “(3) SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, of amounts made available for a
8 fiscal year for rural development programs of the
9 Department of Agriculture, \$1,500,000 shall be used
10 to carry out this section.”.

