



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 – H.R. 2765

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia appropriations bill reported to the House on 17 July 2003 (HR 2765; H.Rept. 108-214) provides new budget authority equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the District of Columbia subcommittee. The bill is consistent with the House budget resolution for fiscal year 2004 (H.Con.Res. 95) and also complies with the requirements of the Congressional Budget Act.

Under authority granted in Article I of the United States Constitution (section 8, clause 17), this bill appropriates Federal payments to the District to fund certain activities, and also approves the District of Columbia's entire budget, including the expenditure of local funds (\$7.4 billion for fiscal year 2004). This *Appropriations Update* reflects only the Federal payments.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 2765 provides \$466 million in new budget authority [BA] and \$464 million in outlays for 2004 – a decrease of \$43 million in BA and \$133 million in outlays from fiscal year 2003 (see Table 1 below). Although budget authority in the bill declines by 8.4 percent from the previous year, it is \$45 million above the President's request.

As shown in the chart alongside, assuming enactment of this bill, new BA for the District of Columbia will have increased an average of 0.7 percent a year in 2000-04, a growth rate significantly lower than that of other Federal spending.

The bill does not contain emergency-designated new BA, advance appropriations, or rescissions of previously enacted budget authority.

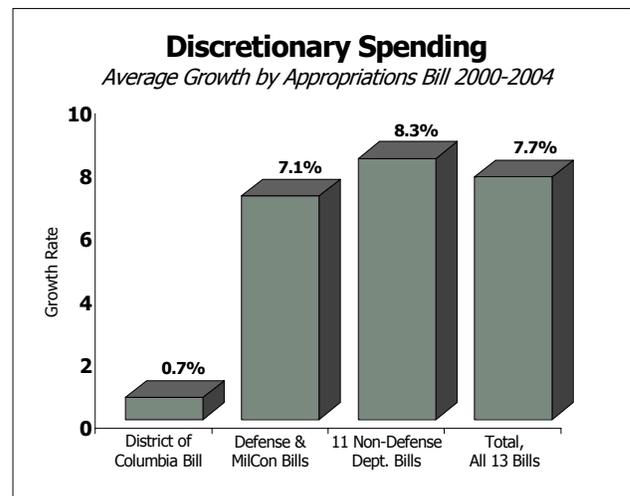


Table 1: District of Columbia Appropriations Bill

(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2003 Spending	Administration 2004	302 (b) for 2004	Bill
Budget Authority	509	421	466	466
Outlays	597	423	464	464

(continued on reverse side)

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act. The first of these prohibits consideration of bills in excess of a subcommittee’s 302(b) allocation for new budget authority. The second, section 311(a), prohibits consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays established in the concurrent resolution on the budget.

The \$466 million in new discretionary budget authority is equal to the 302(b) allocation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia; outlays also are equal to the allocation. Because no appropriations bills for fiscal year 2004 have been enacted, there is ample room under the BA ceiling and hence the bill would not violate section 311(a).

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill
(in millions of dollars)

	2003 Budget Authority	2003 Outlays	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Courts	178	207	196	195	18	-12
Court Services and Offender Supervision	154	163	163	167	9	4
Tuition Assistance	17	17	17	17	0	0
Security Planning	15	65	15	15	0	-50
Other Payments	145	145	75	70	-70	-75
Total	509	597	466	464	-43	-133

DISCUSSION

The bill is \$43 million below spending levels in the comparable measure for fiscal year 2003.

As shown in Table 2 above, increases are provided for Courts (\$18 million), and court services and offender supervision (\$9 million). These are more than offset by a reduction of \$70 million in other accounts.

In the category of other accounts, there are reductions, compared with fiscal year 2003, in the Payment to the Chief Financial Officer (for initiatives in education, public safety, health, economic development and infrastructure) (\$31 million); public charter school facilities (\$16 million); the water and sewer authority (\$15 million); one-time payments for hospital bioterrorism preparedness (\$10 million); and other activities (\$14 million). These are offset by increases

in the District of Columbia scholarship program (\$10 million), public school facilities (\$5 million), and the criminal justice coordinating council (\$1 million).

Relative to the President’s request, the bill increases BA by a net of \$45 million. These increases include \$49 million for accounts in the “other” category: the water and sewer authority (\$20 million); the District of Columbia scholarship program (\$10 million); the Payment to the Chief Financial Officer (\$10 million); the unified communications center (\$8 million); public school facilities (\$5 million); and the family literacy program (\$2 million). These are partly offset by a reduction, compared with the President’s request, in the Anacostia waterfront initiative (\$6 million). The increase in the “other” category is partly offset by a \$4-million reduction in court services and offender supervision.

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