



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 2005 – H.R. 4850

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia appropriations bill reported to the House on 19 July 2004 (H.R. 4850; H.Rept. 108-610) provides new budget authority equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the District of Columbia subcommittee. The bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2005 (S.Con.Res. 95, as applied in the House of Representatives by H.Res.

649,108th Congress), and hence complies with provisions of the Congressional Budget Act. Under authority granted in Article I of the United States Constitution (section 8, clause 17), the bill appropriates Federal payments to the District for certain activities, and also approves the District's entire budget, including the expenditure of local funds. This *Appropriations Update* reflects only the Federal payments.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 4850 provides \$560 million in new budget authority [BA] and \$538 million in outlays for 2005 – an increase of \$18 million in BA and \$22 million in outlays from fiscal year 2005 (see Table 1 below). Budget authority is the same

as the President's request. The bill does not contain emergency-designated new budget authority, advance appropriations, or rescissions of previously enacted budget authority.

Table 1: District of Columbia Appropriations Bill
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2004 Spending	Administration 2005	302 (b) for 2005	Bill
Budget Authority	542	560	560	560
Outlays	516	534	554	538

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 BA and outlays established in the budget resolution.

The \$560 million in new discretionary BA is equal to the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia; outlays are \$16 million below the allocation.

Because no appropriations bills for fiscal year 2005 have been enacted, there is ample room under the BA ceiling and hence the bill would not violate section 311(a).

Nevertheless, because House-passed appropriations bills to date have exceeded their allocations by a total of \$114 million, it is possible that conference agreements on appropriations bills will cause a breach of the BA ceiling unless corrective action is taken by the Appropriations Committee.

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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.

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

	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Courts	199	197	244	240	45	43
Court Services and Offender Supervision	167	150	183	165	16	15
Tuition Assistance	17	17	26	26	9	9
Security Planning	11	11	15	15	4	4
Other Payments	148	141	92	92	-56	-49
Total	542	516	560	538	18	22

DISCUSSION

The bill is \$18 million above spending levels in the comparable measure for fiscal year 2004.

of \$56 million in economic development and management reform funds.

As shown in Table 2 above, increases are provided for courts (\$45 million), court services and offender supervision (\$16 million), District of Columbia resident tuition support (\$9 million), and security and emergency planning (\$4 million). These increases are partially offset by a reduction

Net BA in the bill equals the President’s request, including increases in economic development and management reforms (\$21 million), and DC resident tuition support (\$9 million), offset by reductions in courts (\$26 million), and court services and offender supervision (\$4 million).

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS TO DATE

Prior to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriations bill, the House has passed eight of 13 regular appropriations bills for the fiscal year beginning 1 October of this year. Of those eight bills, five have remained within the 302(b) suballocation after floor consideration. As shown in Table 3 below, three bills as passed have exceeded the 302(b) suballocation by relatively minor amounts.

for administration of commodity programs – were removed on the floor. This offset was included in the administration budget request.

Other than for the Energy and Water bill – which exceeded the suballocation by \$5 million due to a clerical error in the reported text – the breaches resulted from floor action.

The House-passed version of the Agriculture bill had an overall breach of \$69 million. Savings of \$88 million in the reported bill – from the rescission of unobligated balances in the Local Television Loan Guarantee Program – were eliminated through floor action; \$44 million of these savings were included in the reported bill at the request of the administration. The eliminated savings were partly offset by the adoption of several unrelated amendments, which provided budget authority offsets that net to \$19 million more than budget authority added to the bill.

In the Interior bill, savings of \$40 million in the reported bill – from the cancellation of mandatory budget authority

Table 3: Appropriations Bills Above 302(b) Suballocation
(Fiscal year 2005 budget authority in millions of dollars)

	302(b) Allocation	Reported to House	Passed by House	House-Passed less 302(b)
Energy and Water	27,988	27,988	27,993	5
Interior	19,999	19,999	20,039	40
Agriculture	16,772	16,772	16,841	69
Total	64,759	64,759	64,873	114

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