



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270
James T. Bates, *Chief of Staff* • www.budget.house.gov

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FISCAL YEAR 2006 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS BILL – H.R. 2985

SUMMARY

The Legislative appropriations bill reported to the House on 20 June 2005 (H.R.2985; H.Rept. 109-139) provides funding for the legislative branch of government, including the Congress and its support agencies. Consistent with a long-standing practice – under which each chamber of Congress determines its own housekeeping requirements, and the other concurs without change – appropriations for the Senate are not included in the bill reported to the House.

Overall, the measure provides new budget authority [BA] that is \$849 million less than the suballocation to the

Appropriations Committee for the Legislative branch (the bill does not include funds for the Senate). The bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 95), and hence complies with the applicable provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

This is the eighth of 11 appropriations bills for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2005. The measure reflects the reorganization of the Appropriations Committee under which the full committee writes this measure.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The bill provides a total of \$2.870 billion in new budget authority [BA], and \$3.089 billion in outlays for 2006.

The bill is below the President's budget request by \$270 million in BA, and by \$131 million in outlays (without Senate funding). By law, the President's budget reflects amounts requested by the originating agencies, such as the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the

House and Senate themselves. Hence this change is a reduction from what the agencies requested.

There is one \$16-million rescission in the bill. BA provided by the bill is \$849 million less than the 302(b) suballocation for legislative operations; outlays are less than the suballocation by \$715 million. The suballocation includes Senate funding, but the bill does not.

Table 1: Legislative
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2005 Spending ^a	Administration 2006	302 (b) for 2006	Bill ^b
Budget Authority	2,763	3,140	3,719	2,870
Outlays	3,020	3,108	3,804	3,089

^a Excludes emergency supplemental appropriations.

^b Excludes new BA and outlays flowing therefrom for Senate items..

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

As noted, the bill complies with provisions of the Congressional Budget Act because it is consistent with the

appropriate levels in the budget resolution. The bill contains no emergency-designated appropriations or advance

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appropriations, the use of which is governed by the budget resolution – and hence also complies with H.Con.Res. 95.

In providing \$2.865 billion in BA for non-Senate legislative operations, the measure falls well below the total suballocation of \$3.719 billion for overall legislative operations, established by the Appropriations Committee on 18 May 2005. That level, however, also assumed a lower figure of \$2.831 billion when the Senate was excluded.

Hence, although this measure complies with the relevant points of order under the Budget Act, it breaches the level internally set by the Appropriations Committee for non-Senate congressional spending. It is fully expected that, when the measure is reported from conference committee, the overall level of spending for all legislative operations, including House, Senate and support agencies, will be at or below the level set pursuant to 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

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

	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	2006 Budget Authority	2006 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
House of Representatives	1,041	1,061	1,092	1,085	51	24
Senate	720	705	--	112	-720	-593
Capitol Police	231	248	239	250	8	2
Congressional Budget Office	35	35	35	35	0	0
Architect of the Capitol	344	587	311	412	-33	-175
Library of Congress	545	518	543	545	-2	27
Government Printing Office	120	125	122	122	2	-3
Government Accountability Office	468	461	482	480	14	19
<u>Other</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	3,545	3,785	2,870	3,089	-675	-696
Total without Senate	2,763	3,020	2,870	2,977	107	-43

DISCUSSION

As noted, the bill provides \$2.9 billion in discretionary BA to the Legislature, an increase of \$107 million in BA from the 2005 enacted level without Senate funding (see Table 2 above). This amount is \$270 million below the administration request, which by law reflects amounts requested by the originating agencies. It should be noted that the Congressional agencies made their requests without oversight from Members of Congress. Among the principal issues in the bill are the following:

- *Capitol Police* - The bill provides \$239 in BA for the Capitol Police, and establishes an Inspector General for the agency. The bill also terminates the Capitol Police mounted horse unit.
- *Architect of the Capitol* - The bill provides the Architect of the Capitol \$311 million in BA, \$33 million less than 2005 and \$185 million below the President’s request.

Although the bill provides \$35 million to complete construction of the Capitol Visitor Center, it does not provide for operating expenses because it does not foresee the center being operational during 2006. The Architect also receives funds for the Capitol power plant (\$59 million), library buildings (\$31 million), and Capitol and House buildings (\$60 million).

- *Rescissions* - The bill includes a rescission of \$16 million in BA to the Library of Congress for the Copyright Reengineering Project.
- *The Continuity in Representation Act* - At the Speaker’s request, the bill includes the text of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005.

No mandatory savings are achieved through changes in legislative language.

Prepared by **Chauncey P. Goss, Edward J. Puccerella, Budget Analysts**
Daniel J. Kowalski, Director of Budget Review