



October 6, 2004

## **Highlights of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 4850, the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for FY 2005**

*The Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4850, H. Rept. 108-734, was filed on October 5, 2004.*

### **Noteworthy**

- The Conference Report provides \$560 million in discretionary budget authority, which is nearly equal to the Administration's request, and \$18.2 million above the FY04 enacted level.
- The Conference Report includes the District of Columbia's local budget of \$8.3 billion, as passed by the D.C. Council and signed by the Mayor. This includes \$7.2 billion in operating expenses and \$1.1 billion in capital outlay funds.
- The Conference Report provides \$40 million for School Improvement in the District of Columbia, an amount which fully funds the Administration's request.
- The Conference Report makes no change to the current-law provisions concerning: abortion services, attorney's fees, Boy Scouts, domestic partner health benefits, lobbying, needle exchange, and medical marijuana.
- The House passed the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4850 this afternoon by a vote of 377-26. The Senate is expected to take up the Conference Report and pass it by voice vote before the week is over.

## Bill Provisions

The Conference Report includes the following Federal payments:

### District of Columbia Resident Tuition Support:

**Conference Report:** Provides \$25.6 million in Federal funds for the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Program.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$21.2 million, which is \$4.2 million above the Administration's request, and \$4.3 million above the FY04 enacted level.

### District of Columbia Courts:

**Conference Report:** Provides \$190.8 million in Federal funds for the District of Columbia Courts.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$195 million, which is \$33 million below the Administration's request, but \$28.2 million above the FY04 enacted level.

### Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts:

**Conference Report:** Provides \$38.5 million for Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$34.5 million, which is \$7 million below the Administration's request, but \$2.7 million above the FY04 enacted level.

### Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia:

**Conference Report:** Provides \$180 million for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$182.5 million, which is \$5 million below the Administration's request, but \$15 million above the FY04 enacted level.

### Water and Sewer Authority:

**Conference Report:** Provides \$4.8 million (to be matched 100 percent with local funds) for the Water and Sewer Authority.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$10 million (to be matched 100 percent with local funds), which is equal to the Administration's request, but \$19.8 million below the FY04 enacted level.

**Anacostia Waterfront Initiative:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$3 million for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$3 million, which is equal to the Administration's request, but nearly \$2 million below the FY04 enacted level.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$1.3 million for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$1.3 million, which is equal to the Administration's request and the FY04 enacted level.

**United Communications Center:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$6 million for United Communications Center.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$7 million, which is equal to the Administration's request, but \$1.1 million below the FY04 enacted level.

**Transportation Assistance:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$2.5 million for Transportation Assistance in the District of Columbia.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$5 million, which is \$5 million above the Administration's request, and \$1.5 million above the FY04 enacted level.

**Foster Care Improvement:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$5 million for Foster Care Improvement.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$5 million, which is \$5 million above the Administration's request, but \$8.9 million below the FY04 enacted level.

**Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$32.5 million for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$32.5 million, which is \$341,000 above the FY04 enacted level.

### **School Improvement in the District of Columbia:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$40 million for School Improvement in the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup>

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$40 million, which is equal to the Administration's request, and \$236,000 above the FY04 enacted level.

### **Bioterrorism and Forensics Lab:**

**Conference Report:** Provides \$8 million for architectural design and planning costs associated with the construction of a new Bioterrorism and Forensics Lab.

**Senate-Passed Bill:** Provided \$8 million.

### **General Provisions**

The Conference Report retains the current-law provisions as they are in the FY04 appropriations bill for the District on the following general provisions:

- **Abortion services:** Prohibits the use of Federal and local funds for abortion services, except in the case of rape, incest, or to preserve the mother's life.
- **Attorney's Fees:** Caps the amount paid to attorneys at \$4,000 per case in suits against the District of Columbia Public Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- **Boy Scouts:** Prohibits the use of Federal and local funds to support the D.C. Human Rights Commission case against the Boy Scouts of America for discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.
- **Domestic Partner Health Benefits:** Prohibits the use of Federal funds, but allows local funds, to implement the D.C. law offering health benefits to partners of city employees.
- **Lobbying:** Prohibits the use of Federal and local funds for all lobbying purposes, including lobbying for voting representation and statehood.
- **Medical Marijuana:** Prohibits the use of Federal and local funds to implement a 1998 D.C. initiative in support of the medical use of marijuana.
- **Needle Exchange:** Prohibits the use of Federal and local funds to support any program which distributes hypodermic needles for the purpose of reducing disease transmission.

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<sup>1</sup> Included within these funds is: \$13 million to provide a scholarship program for low-income children in underperforming schools; \$13 million for development of public charter schools; \$13 million aimed at increasing student achievement at District of Columbia Public Schools in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act; and \$1 million is for administrative expenses.