



No. 2

January 15, 2003

H.J.Res. 2 – Omnibus Appropriations Bill, FY 2003: Government of the District of Columbia and Other Activities Appropriations

Calendar No. 1

H.J.Res. 2 was passed by the House on January 8, 2003, and is now pending on the Senate Calendar. This bill is slated to serve as the vehicle for all 11 of the yet-unsigned FY 2003 appropriations bills.

NOTEWORTHY

Note: The funding bills are before the Senate with no written reports. All information contained in this Notice comes from the Appropriations Committee as conveyed to us on or before 1/14/03.

- The District of Columbia (D.C.) Government funding bill language will be introduced as part of a substitute (to include language for the other 10 yet-to-be-signed FY03 funding bills) to H.J.Res. 2 when the Senate turns to that bill. The bill will be amendable, but it is hoped that a unanimous consent agreement limiting amendments will be reached.
- On July 26, 2002, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 2809, the FY 2003 D.C. Government Appropriations Bill by a unanimous vote, but the bill did not come before the full Senate prior to adjournment sine die. The House also did not pass a FY03 D.C. appropriations bill. Since October 1, 2002, D.C. Government programs have been funded under continuing resolutions, the most recent of which is set to expire on January 31, 2003.
- The 11 remaining FY03 appropriations bills (only Defense and Military Construction were signed) will come before the Senate with smaller funding levels than were in the bills as reported by the Appropriations Committee last year. This is to comport with the total FY03 federal discretionary spending level of \$750.5 billion agreed to by President Bush and appropriators last year. (Defense and MilCon bills amount to \$365.3 billion of the total.)
- The FY 2003 bill provides \$512 million in federal funds for the District of Columbia. The President's request was \$378.8 million, and the enacted FY02 appropriation was \$608 million, which included \$200 million in emergency supplemental funding related to recovery from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Last year's reported amount for FY03 was \$517 million.

Note: The funding bills are before the Senate with no written reports. All information contained in this Notice comes from the Appropriations Committee as conveyed to us on or before 1/14/03.

– BILL HIGHLIGHTS –

- The bill includes \$10 million for hospital bioterrorism preparedness in the District. This is a new appropriation, and is intended to prepare District hospitals for a possible attack with biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear weapons, or with high explosives. The appropriation is intended to be used for construction of decontamination and quarantine facilities at Children’s Hospital and the Washington Hospital Center.
- The appropriation includes the federal payment for D.C. corrections trustee operations, for D.C. courts, and for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.
- The appropriation also provides a payment of \$15 million to be used for certain emergency planning and security costs related to the presence of the federal government in the District.
- The appropriation continues restrictions on use of federal funds seen in prior years on abortion and on lobbying for congressional voting rights.
- The bill includes a new appropriation of \$20 million for District of Columbia charter school facilities. These funds will support a credit enhancement fund to assist charter schools in securing financing, a direct loan program for facilities, and a per-pupil facilities allocation.
- District of Columbia Courts are provided \$166 million, \$31.2 million of which will support the Family Court of the D.C. Superior Court. The Family Court was established in 2001 by re-designating the Superior Court’s Family Division in order to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges, and to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges and in the consideration of actions and proceedings. The FY02 bill provided \$136.2 million, of which \$24 million was for the Family Courts.
- A total of \$55 million is provided for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to prevent further deterioration of the river, begin the process of restoring the river to health, rebuild water and sewer infrastructure, and invest in waterfront development.
- The bill provides \$17 million for D.C. resident tuition support, allowing residents to attend state schools around the United States at in-state tuition rates. The same amount was provided in FY02.

- The bill provides \$15 million for emergency planning and security costs in the District related to the presence of the federal government.
- In addition, \$2 billion is available to federal grants for a total of \$2.5 billion in federal funds.
- The bill includes a recommendation of \$7.4 billion in funds for the District's local budget.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) was available at press time, but one was anticipated. (Once available, the SAP will be posted on the OMB's website.)

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the DC bill language were known at press time.

Staff Contact: Rich Douglas, 224-2946