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No. 12

June 30, 2005

H.R. 2985 – Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006

Calendar No. 138

On June 24, the Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 2985, with amendments, by a vote of 28-0; S. Report 109-89.

Noteworthy

- H.R. 2985 provides \$3.83 billion in new budget authority for the Legislative Branch, which is nearly \$194.4 million below the request and \$228.7 million above the FY05 enacted level.
- Following a long tradition of comity between the Houses on matters pertaining to one House, the Committee concurs with the House of Representatives' allowance for itself. The House-passed bill, H.R. 2985, provides \$1.09 billion for its operations. H.R. 2985 passed the House June 22 by a vote of 330-82.
- H.R. 2985, as reported to the Senate provides \$785.5 million for Senate operations, compared to \$720.2 million in FY05.
- H.R. 2985 provides \$44.2 million for the Capitol Visitor Center, which is nearly \$28 million below the request. The Senate Report notes that the opening will be delayed.
- H.R. 2985 provides \$484.4 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$17.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.
- The bill provides \$264.6 million for the U.S. Capitol Police, which is \$23.1 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Bill Provisions

Title I – Legislative Branch Appropriations, Senate

Senate Operations: Provides \$785.5 million for the Senate’s operations, which is \$37.5 million below the estimate, but \$65.4 million above the FY05 enacted level. Included within these funds is \$350.0 million for **Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts**, which is nearly \$29.3 million above the FY05 enacted level. The **Inquiries and Investigations** account, which provides funding for most of the Senate committees, was provided \$119.6 million, which is nearly \$10 million above the FY05 enacted level.

House Operations: Provides \$1.09 billion for House operations, which is \$35.4 million below the estimate, but \$52.2 million above the FY05 enacted level. The Senate Committee Report notes, “In keeping with the longstanding tradition of comity between the Houses on matters pertaining solely to one House, the Committee concurs with the House allowance . . . for the House of Representatives.”

Capitol Police: Provides \$264.6 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$25.5 million below the request, but \$23.1 million above the FY05 enacted level. The Senate bill does not include House-passed language to transfer the **five-horse mounted patrol** to the U.S. Park Police.

Office of Compliance: Provides \$3.1 million for the Office of Compliance, which is \$470,000 above the request and \$710,000 above the FY05 enacted level.

Congressional Budget Office: Provides \$35.9 million for the Congressional Budget Office, which is equal to the request and \$1.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Architect of the Capitol: Provides \$427.2 million for the Architect of the Capitol (not including House office buildings, which are included in the House bill), which is \$79.3 million below the request, but \$65.0 million above the FY05 enacted level. The bill provides \$44.2 million for the **Capitol Visitor Center**. The Report notes that the opening of the Center “is likely to be delayed well beyond the timeframe on which the budget estimate for operations was predicated.”

Library of Congress: Provides \$579.6 million for the Library of Congress, which is \$11.2 million below the request, but \$34.2 million above the FY05 enacted level. Within these funds is \$101.8 million for the **Congressional Research Service (CRS)**, which is \$5.6 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Government Printing Office: Provides \$126.9 million for the Government Printing Office, which is \$4.2 million below the request, but \$7.1 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Government Accountability Office: Provides \$484.4 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$2.0 million below the request, but \$17.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Open World Leadership Center: Provides \$14.0 million for the Open World Leadership Center, which is equal to the request, but \$608,000 above the FY05 enacted level.

Stennis Center for Public Service: Provides \$430,000 for the Stennis Center for Public Service.

Title II – General Provisions

Included are several routine general provisions carried annually in the bill. For example, Section 204 bans the use of funds for contracts unless such contracts are matters of public record and are available for public inspection.

Title III – Continuity of Representation

The Committee does not recommend the inclusion of Title III of the House-passed bill, H.R. 2985, which deals with the continuity of representation. Title III of the House-passed bill incorporates H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005, which passed the House on March 3, 2005, by a vote of 329-68. On March 19, H.R. 841 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar as Calendar Number 61.

Administration Position

The Administration does not issue Statements of Administration Policy for Legislative Branch Appropriations bills.

Cost

H.R. 2985 would result in the following outlays:

FY 2006	\$3,313 million ¹
FY 2007	\$424 million
FY 2008	\$120 million
FY 2009	\$32 million
FY 2010 (and future years)	\$20 million

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority. In addition to the budget authority included in these outlays, the bill provides \$118 million for mandatory spending for Senate employee benefits.

Possible Amendments

During the markup, Senator Byrd's amendment to strike Title III of the House-passed bill, which concerns the continuity of representation for the House of Representatives, was accepted by voice vote.
