

No. 49

July 23, 2002

S. 2720 – Legislative Branch Appropriations Fiscal Year 2003

Calendar No. 492

Reported unanimously by the Committee on Appropriations as an original bill, July 11, 2002.
Senate Report No. 107-209.

NOTEWORTHY

- The Committee recommends \$2,417,108,000 in budget authority for fiscal year 2003 (exclusive of the provisions funding the House of Representatives, pursuant to the normal protocol). That amount is about \$8.5 million above the budget estimate and about \$163.8 million above the appropriated level for the current fiscal year. [See the summary chart on page 2 of this Notice.]
- The House passed its version, H.R. 5121, by a vote of 365-49 on July 18. With the House-approved amount of \$960.4 million provided for that chamber's operations, the Legislative Branch spending will total about \$3.38 billion.
- The Committee recommends \$672,593,000 in budget authority for the Senate, an increase of \$31.2 million above this year's appropriated amount. Details of this increase are shown on page 3 of this Notice.
- S. 2720 includes a 9.1-percent pay increase for Capitol Police (including a 4.1-percent cost of living increase) to keep officers from leaving for higher-paying jobs. The bill also recommends merging the Capitol Police force with the Library of Congress force.
- Largely due to funding additional security-related projects, the Architect of the Capitol is appropriated \$349.9 million, an amount which is \$32.7 million above the request.

**BILL
PROVISIONS**

The major funding decisions of the Committee are summarized in the following chart:

SUMMARY OF S. 2720
(in thousands of dollars)

<u>Department or Agency</u>	TOTAL	2002 <u>Appropriation</u>	2,253,310	<u>Senate Bill Compared With:</u>	
				454,802	
				10,000	
TITLE I -					6,083
Congressional Operations.					409,968
				967,137	38,121
Senate		641,385	<u>2003</u>		32,302
Joint Items		14,914	<u>Estimates</u>	2,408,616	454,534
Capitol Police		157,190			13,000
Office of Compliance		2,059			
Congressional Budget Office		30,780			
Architect of the Capitol		273,587			
Congressional Research Service		81,454	683,300		956,108
Congressional printing/binding		81,000	15,993	Committee	
U.S. Historical Society Grant		1,000	212,626	<u>Recommendatio</u>	2,417,108
			2,224	<u>n</u>	
Subtotal		1,283,369	32,390		
			317,157		
TITLE II - Other Agencies			87,646		
			90,143		
			672,593	
Botanic Garden		5,646		17,046	
Library of Congress (not CRS)		400,209	1,441,479	209,803	
Architect of the Capitol (other)		93,003		2,224	
GPO(not Cong. printing/binding)		33,639		32,390	
General Accounting Office		429,444		349,849	
Center for Russian Leadership		8,000		86,952	
Development			5,661	90,143	
			424,088	
Subtotal			40,284		
		969,941	32,302	1,461,000	

2002 <u>Appropriation</u>	2003 Budget <u>Estimates</u>
+31,208	-10,707
+2,132	+1,053
+52,613	-2,823
+165
+1,610
+76,262	+32,692
+5,498	-694
+9,143
-1,000
+177,631	+19,521
+437	+422
+9,759	-14,120
-54,882	-2,163
-1,337
+25,090	-268
+5,000	+3,000
-14,036	-11,232
+163,798	+8,492

Title I, Senate Operations. Among the new costs of the Senate's congressional operations for fiscal year 2003 are the following:

- An additional \$14.4 million for salaries (including an additional \$5.8 million for agency contributions) for Senate officers and employees;
- An additional \$21.5 million for expenses of the Sergeant at Arms largely for security-related needs such as new mail and package handling costs and the new Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness.
- An additional \$24.5 million for personnel costs, office expenses, and agency contributions in Senators' personal offices.

Title I, Capitol Police. The bill provides an additional \$52.6 million for the salaries and expenses of the Capitol Police Officers. This significant increase is needed to increase the size of the force by 269 positions, increase pay, improve training, and fund new programs aimed at recruitment and retention. Among the new positions recommended, the Committee added new authority for the Capitol Police force to cover the Botanic Garden, which would require an additional 29 FTE (full-time equivalent). The pay raise of 9.1 percent includes the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (4.1 percent) and comparability pay adjustment (5 percent). Section 108 of the bill is an administrative provision that proposes a merger, within three years, of the U.S. Capitol Police with the Library of Congress police force. During those three years, the Chief of Police would develop and implement a plan to address merger issues. (According to press reports the Capitol Police force is about 1,200 officers and the Library's is 122 officers.)

Title I, Other Congressional Operations. The Congressional Budget Office gets a budget boost of \$1.6 million; the Architect of the Capitol gets an additional \$57.3 million for general administration, salaries and expenses; the Capitol Power Plant gets an additional \$91.1 million, primarily for three major capital projects (of which \$81.8 million is for expansion of the west refrigeration plant); the Congressional Research Service gets an additional \$5.5 million; and for congressional printing and binding, the Government Printing Office (GPO) gets an additional \$9.1 million. With regard to GPO, the Committee includes report language (p. 41) to strongly oppose OMB Directive (M-02-07) of May 3, 2002 that would "ignore the statutory requirement that the printing and publishing of government publications must be conducted through the Government Printing Office."

Title II, Other Agencies. The Library of Congress is provided an increase of \$9.8 million. The Committee recommends numerous changes from the budget request, including the addition of \$1.5 million for the Joining Hands Across America program, and \$6.8 million for furniture and furnishings. The General Accounting Office gets a boost of \$25 million. The Committee recommends \$13 million for the Center for Russian Leadership Development. The mission of the Center is to "enable emerging political leaders of Russia and Newly Independent States at all levels of government to gain significant, first-hand exposure to the American free market economic system and the operation of American democratic institutions through visits to . . . the United States. Up to 70 percent of the funds may be available for the Russian Component of the program."

Miscellaneous Provisions.

Section 310 of the bill **provides funds for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission** in the amount of \$1.8 million. This Commission was established in October, 2000 to monitor, investigate and report to Congress on the national security implications of the bilateral economic relationship with the Peoples Republic of China. The Committee desires that the Commission focus on priority areas in its work during 2002-2003, including proliferation practices; economic reforms; U.S. Capital markets; corporate reporting; regional economic impacts; U.S.-China bilateral programs; and World Trade Organization compliance (page 52 of the Committee Report).

Section 311 of the bill **provides funds for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development** in the amount of \$300,000.

For the **Architect of the Capitol**, report language is included on page 33 of the report regarding personnel support system, financial management, worker safety and alternate computing facility, as follows:

- Personnel Support System. The Committee supports provides over \$1 million for a new personnel system within the total increase of \$2.8 million for information resources.

- Financial Management. To continue progress of its new financial management system, the Committee provides \$250,000 to support this effort.

- Worker Safety. The Committee expects the AOC to continue its effort to improve worker safety. The Committee is recommending up to \$50 million for a back-up computing facility for the House, Senate and other Legislative Branch entities. “The AOC is directed to present to the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and House a strategy that outlines the planning, design, and implementation milestones of the project.”

Among the funding for the AOC is \$2.4 million to develop prototypes for window replacements that would be blast-and bullet-resistant. The requested amount had been for \$11.4 million for the replacement project, but the Committee recommends an incremental approach.

Both bill and report language provide \$1 million for dissemination of audio reports for the **blind and physically handicapped** through a toll-free number.

The Committee includes report language:

- Noting that it will evaluate a pilot **student-loan repayment program** that was begun in last year’s bill; and
- Encouraging implementation of a pilot program for **real-time closed captioning of Senate hearings**.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

At press time, we were unaware of any amendments that would require roll call votes. The committee was aware of

some noncontroversial amendments that likely would be approved by voice vote, including a Durbin/Bennett amendment to make technical corrections to Capitol Police provisions and to provide additional recruitment/retention incentives for Capitol Police; and a Durbin/Bennett/Cochran amendment to fund the Congressional Arts Awards program. Also possible is a Landrieu amendment to fund the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission. (The subcommittee says the above amendments would be offset).

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