



June 7, 2006

Amendments to H.R. 5521, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2007

The following contains information on the seven amendments made in order under the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 5521.

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1. Brown-Waite (R-FL). Decreases by \$2.2 million (from \$8.5 million to \$6.3 million), funds made available for the Capitol Guide Service. According to the sponsor's office, "Last year, Congress appropriated \$43.7 million to complete the project [Capitol Visitor Center]. However, cost overruns and unenforceable deadlines have left us, once again, with an incomplete project. GAO projections show that the Visitor Center may be able to open partially in May of 2007 and completely in September of 2007, but that depends on a number of factors. Yet the Appropriations Committee has recommended doubling the Capitol Guide Service budget to add 85 full-time employees for the anticipated opening of the Visitor Center. [My amendment will] reduce the increase in funding for the Capitol Tour Guide Service by half. ... As costs continue to grow and deadlines extend for the Visitor Center's completion, we would be unwise to double the Guide Service budget with these details up in the air. If the Visitor Center does in fact fully open in September of 2007, the Appropriations Committee can determine the need for additional FTEs in the FY08 Appropriations bill based on the workload."

2. Davis, Susan (D-CA). Decreases by \$1 million (from \$8.5 million to \$7.5 million), funds made available for the Capitol Guide Service, and increases by \$1 million (from \$53.9 million to \$54.9 million), funds available for the National Library Service (NLS) for the Salaries and Expenses account of the Books for Blind and Physically Handicapped. According to the sponsor's office, "the NLS requested an increase of \$1.79 million for FY07 to provide audio and Braille services to the blind and those with other disabilities to about 750,000 Americans who need the service. H.R. 5521 gives only a slight increase over FY06 at \$69,000 for the NLS. The Amendment would meet the NLS's budget request half way." According to a resolution the House passed earlier this year (H.R. 2872) rapid technological advances in the 20th Century have greatly aided the blind in many ways by speeding access to information, and each advance has seen a

commensurate drop in the teaching of Braille, to the point that only about 10 percent of blind students today are taught the system.

3. McCaul (R-TX). Would decrease the GPO Congressional Printing and Binding funds by \$3 million (from \$95.2 million to \$92.2 million), and increase the Capitol Police general expenses funds (for security equipment, weapons, etc.) by \$3 million (from \$222.6 million to 225.6 million). The sponsor intends to address the excess and unsolicited copies of bills, resolutions and amendments that GPO prints and distributes to each sponsor and original co-sponsor, and direct GPO to trim these printing costs.

In the 108th Congress: 5,431 bills, 875 resolutions, 115 joint resolutions, and 532 concurrent resolutions were introduced in the House, for a total of 6,953. According to GPO, three copies each of every introduced text are printed and delivered to each sponsor and original co-sponsor. Calculating just the three copies for the sponsor, GPO distributed at least 20,859 copies in the 108th Congress -- this does not include the copies printed and distributed to original co-sponsors, which multiplies the number of copies exponentially. All of these documents are also available online. To learn more about potential savings at GPO, please view this RSC document: http://www.house.gov/pence/rsc/doc/congressional_record.pdf.

4. Baird (D-WA). Increases by \$2.4 million (from \$38.5 million to \$40.9 million), funds for the Capitol Police, and decreases by \$2.4 million (from \$95.2 million to \$92.8 million), funds for GPO Congressional Printing and Binding. According to the sponsor's office, the addition funding for the Capitol Police is to be used for an electronic mapping of the Capitol complex, including the Capitol itself, the House and Senate office buildings, tunnels, parking facilities, and other areas identified by the Capitol Police.

5. Hefley (R-CO). Reduces funding in the Act by \$30.3 million. This amount is equal to one percent of the total amount of discretionary funding in the bill.

6. Cleaver (D-MO). Provides that none of the funds can be used from the Members' Representational Allowances account to provide an individual with a vehicle unless it is an alternative fuel vehicle. According to the sponsor's office, "Supporting this amendment will show the American people that their Congress is serious about the use of alternative forms of energy."

7. Meehan (D-MA). Prohibits available funds for the Architect of the Capitol from being used to establish or operate a smoking area in any building. According to the Architect's office, there is currently a designated smoking area in the Rayburn Cafeteria and also a smoking area on the 2nd floor of the Rayburn building. The underlying bill text has includes language that prohibits a smoking area in the Rayburn Cafeteria, but this amendment would extent that prohibition to all House buildings (Cannon, Longworth, Rayburn, and Ford). According to the sponsor's office, this amendment would not affect smoking policies in individual member offices, nor would it apply to the Capitol.