

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

Minibus #1 Summary: The Fiscal Year 2019 Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report – Division B

*Legislation provides funding to maintain the security, safety, and operations of
the Capitol Complex*

The fiscal year 2019 Legislative Branch Appropriations portion of the minibus contains annual funding for the offices of Members of the House of Representatives, the support agencies of Congress, security and police forces, services for visitors, and Capitol operations and maintenance.

The total included for the House and joint operations, excluding Senate-only items, is \$3.8 billion. This is \$129 million above the fiscal year 2018 level. The total for both the House and Senate is \$4.836 billion, an increase of \$136 million over last year. The majority of the increase is for pressing infrastructure improvements to the Capitol Complex and increased security needs. The bill continues the pay freeze for Members of Congress, and maintains the 10% spending reduction for the House of Representatives that has been in place since fiscal year 2010.

It is essential that the Capitol is safe for all of those that work or visit the complex every day. This bill provides the funding to ensure this security, and also to maintain the necessary operations to keep the complex well-operating on behalf of the American people.

Bill Highlights:

House Operations – The bill contains \$1.2 billion to fund the operations of the House – an increase of \$32 million above fiscal year 2018. This account provides funding for Members' Representational Allowances (MRAs), leadership, committees, and officers of the House.

This additional funding will provide for IT and cybersecurity enhancements; continue mandatory workplace rights training and the Wellness Program; and provide funding for 25 additional fellowship positions to the Wounded Warrior Program, bringing the total to 110.

The bill also provides funding for the Office of Employee Advocacy created last year, which provides legal consultation, representation, and assistance on allegations, claims, and complaints under the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA).

For the first time, the legislation also dedicates up to \$20,000 per Member office for paid internship positions, which will help open the door to a broader pool of students and young people who have the ability and the interest, if not the means, to serve in a Congressional office.

Capitol Police – The bill funds the Capitol Police at \$456.3 million, an increase of \$29.8 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This will fund critical safety and enhanced security functions for all

Members, staff, and visitors of the Capitol Complex, and maintain public access to the Capitol and its office buildings. Increased funding is included to address garage security and prescreening.

Office of Compliance (OOC) – \$6.3 million is provided to ensure employees know and understand their rights and have access to a dispute resolution process that is fair and easy to navigate. Increased funding is provided to help with the anticipated implantation of CAA reform.

Architect of the Capitol (AoC) – The legislation provides \$733.7 million for the AoC (including the Senate), which is \$21.6 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. The increase in funds is directed to essential security and safety improvements to aging or damaged facilities to protect Members, staff, and visitors. This will allow the AoC to prioritize essential projects that promote the safety of those who visit and work in the Capitol Complex, and address deferred maintenance projects.

This includes \$62 million for the continuation of the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building, \$32.7 million for the final phase of the Rayburn House Office Building Garage Rehabilitation project, and \$10 million for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Fund.

Library of Congress – The legislation provides \$696 million for the Library of Congress, \$26 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This increase will provide for information technology modernization within the Library, the Copyright Office, and the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and additional full-time equivalents for Congressional Research Service to be more responsive to congressional requests.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) – The bill contains \$589.75 million in funding for the GAO, same as the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, to continue GAO’s critical oversight work providing Congress with accurate, nonpartisan reporting of federal programs and tracking of how taxpayer dollars are spent. Funding will allow for 130 additional full-time equivalents for issues relating to cybersecurity, science and technology, Department of Defense programs, and health care costs.

Government Publishing Office (GPO) – The legislation includes \$117 million for GPO, the same as the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) – The bill includes \$5.6 million for the OWLC, the same as the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

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