



# Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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## FISCAL YEAR 2005 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS BILL Conference Report

### SUMMARY

On 6 October 2004, the conference report accompanying the District of Columbia appropriations bill (H.R. 4850; H.Rept. 108-610) passed the House by a vote of 377-36, and cleared the Senate by Unanimous Consent. The agreement provides new budget authority of \$560 million for fiscal year 2005, equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the District of Columbia subcommittee.

Even though this conference agreement does not exceed the 302(b) suballocation, it violates the Congressional Budget Act because it further breaches the overall 302(a) allocation

to the Committee on Appropriations that exists under the current continuing resolution [CR]. The CR is funding most government programs that receive annual discretionary appropriations.

Under authority granted in Article I of the United States Constitution (section 8, clause 17), the District of Columbia measure appropriates Federal payments to the District for certain activities, and also approves the District's entire budget, including the expenditure of local funds. This *Appropriations Update* reflects only the Federal payments.

### COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As noted, the conference report provides \$560 million in new budget authority [BA] and \$541 million in outlays for 2005 – an increase of \$18 million in BA and \$25 million in outlays from fiscal year 2004 (see Table 1 below). Budget

authority provided in the conference agreement is the same as the President's request. The measure does not contain emergency-designated new BA, advance appropriations, or rescissions of previously enacted budget authority.

**Table 1: District of Columbia Appropriations Bill**  
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2004 Spending	Administration 2005	302 (b) for 2005	Bill
Budget Authority	542	560	560	560
Outlays	516	534	554	541

### COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The conference agreement does not comply with section 302(f) of the Budget Act, but does comply with section 311(a) of that Act. The first of these prohibits consideration of bills in excess of either the 302(a) allocation of new BA to the Appropriations Committee, or the 302(b) suballocation of new BA for the subcommittee responsible for the programs in that appropriations bill. The second,

section 311(a), prohibits consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of BA and outlays established in the budget resolution.

The \$560 million in new discretionary BA provided by the bill is equal to the 302(b) suballocation to the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia; outlays are \$13 million below

(continued on reverse side)

the allocation. Nevertheless, because the current continuing resolution (Public Law 108-309) results in \$841 billion in BA – exceeding the \$822 billion BA provided by the budget resolution – the section 302(f) point of order for exceeding the 302(a) allocation would still lie against the measure. (The CR exceeds the allocation because it assumes that supplemental appropriations passed in 2004 – which were intended as one-time spending measures – are re-appropriated every year.)

Because the budget resolution included in its totals \$50 billion in budget authority for fighting the Iraq war, and that BA has not yet been provided legislatively, there is still ample room under the budget’s BA ceiling, and the bill does not violate section 311(a). The rule providing for consideration of the conference report waived all points of order against it and its consideration, so the section 302(f) violation did not prevent the conference report from being cleared for the President.

**Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill**  
(in millions of dollars)

	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Courts	199	197	230	227	31	30
Court Services and Offender Supervision	167	150	180	163	13	13
Tuition Assistance	17	17	26	26	9	9
Security Planning	11	11	15	15	4	4
Other Payments	148	141	109	110	-39	-31
<b>Total</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>

**DISCUSSION**

The conference report is \$18 million in BA above spending levels in the comparable measure for fiscal year 2004. As Table 2 above shows, increases are provided for courts (\$31 million); court services and offender supervision (\$13 million); District of Columbia resident tuition support (\$9 million); and security and emergency planning (\$4 million). These increases are partly offset by a \$39-million reduction in economic development and management reform funds.

Net budget authority in the bill equals the President’s request, but the distribution is somewhat different. The bill provides \$38 million more than requested for economic development and management reforms, and \$9 million more for the District of Columbia resident tuition support program. These increases are offset by reductions in courts (\$40 million), and court services and offender supervision (\$7 million).

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