

APPROPRIATIONS BILL TRACKING: DEVELOPMENT OF LETTERS AND STATEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Introduction

The Budget Review Branch (BRB) of OMB has lead responsibility for coordinating OMB's activities related to monitoring congressional action on appropriations bills. The work proceeds along two parallel tracks: (1) developing letters and Statements of Administration Policy that convey the Administration's views on key funding and language issues of a pending bill in an effort to influence congressional action; and, (2) fulfilling requirements of the Budget Enforcement Act (BEA) involving estimating and reporting on the budget impact of spending bills.

In executing its responsibilities for appropriations bill tracking, BRB works closely with the Resource Management Offices (RMOs) of OMB. The RMOs, in turn, work closely with the agencies represented in a given bill to obtain their views and, as appropriate, incorporate agency views into letters and SAPs. Close consultation between the RMOs and agencies is crucial to the development of the Administration's position on issues and should occur throughout the appropriations bill tracking process. Likewise, close consultation between the RMOs and BRB is essential for the efficient development of letters and SAPs as well as for the scoring of appropriations bills.

This paper outlines procedures OMB follows for the preparation of letters and SAPs on appropriations bills and standards for agency involvement in this process.

Stages of Action on Appropriations Bills

For each stage of congressional action on appropriations bills, there is, potentially, a product for providing the Administration's views. Listed below are the stages of congressional action and corresponding Administration product:

House Appropriations Committee	Letter
House Rules Committee	SAP
House Floor	SAP
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee	Letter (evaluating House-passed bill)
Senate Appropriations Committee	Letter
Senate Floor	SAP
Conference Committee	Letter
Enrolled Bill	Enrolled bill memorandum; draft signing statement/ veto message

Substantively, there is no difference between a letter and a SAP, and, all other things being equal, there should be no difference in agency involvement in the development of each. With respect to form, the letter is signed by the Director and is addressed to a somewhat limited audience (Chairman and Ranking Member, Subcommittee and Full Committee of the House/Senate Appropriations Committees). The letter is sent prior to Subcommittee or Full Committee action and is, therefore, the first formal communication that the appropriators receive concerning the Administration's views on a pending bill. Implicitly, this may attach an added value to the letter in the sense of the desirability of making the Administration's position on a given issue known as early on as possible in House and Senate consideration, i.e., before the bill reaches the floor.

Once transmitted, the letter normally serves as the basis for development of the subsequent SAP. The SAP, while approved by the Director, is not signed by the Director and is provided to a wider group

of people: the Congressional Leadership, the Members of the House and/or Senate Appropriations Committees and Budget Committees, the House Rules Committee, and selected other Members, depending on the pending bill. In practice, Members of Congress and others frequently refer to all of the Administration's formal correspondence on appropriations bills as SAPs.

OMB/Agency Consultation

Agencies are encouraged to provide RMOs their views on the central appropriations issues both formally and informally to ensure that RMOs are fully aware of the agency's perspective on a given appropriations bill and that the agency's views are considered fully in the development of letters and SAPs. OMB/Agency consultation should begin during the development of the President's budget and continue through subsequent congressional hearing and appropriations action. Agencies will often have better information about their Subcommittee's intentions than the RMOs. Therefore, agencies are encouraged to provide their RMO contacts informational memoranda or other materials expressing their views and concerns, without waiting for a formal request from their RMO. Such information can also be provided informally, through phone conversation or E-mail. To facilitate this consultation, RMOs should provide feedback to their agencies regarding OMB reaction to agency views and concerns.

Criteria for Evaluating Appropriations Bills

The following criteria are used in evaluating appropriation actions:

- Comparison with the President's Request. Does the bill adequately fund the priority programs contained in the President's budget, as modified by subsequent budget amendments and other Administration agreements (e.g., the recent Bipartisan Budget Agreement between the President and the Leadership of Congress)?
- Objectionable Funding Provisions. Does the bill contain congressional add-ons, and how objectionable are they to the Administration? Has the Subcommittee or Committee chosen to provide funding for lower priority programs while sharply decreasing funding for the President's priorities? Are there instances of wasteful spending?
- Objectionable Language Provisions. Does the bill contain objectionable legislative riders that would undermine the President's policy objectives, otherwise limit the authority of the President, or interfere with the operation of the Executive Branch of government (e.g., Chada-type provisions), or impair the operation of sound fiscal government (e.g., waivers of the Anti-Deficiency Act).
- Compliance with the BEA. The BEA requires that OMB use the economic and technical assumptions underlying the President's budget in scoring the appropriations bills (e.g., outlay spendout rates and estimates of outlays from prior-year obligations used in developing the budget must be used in scoring appropriations bills). Likewise, funding levels for programs cited in OMB letters and SAPs must comply with the BEA standards. At each stage of congressional action, OMB develops a comparison of Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring of the bill to OMB's scoring. An explanatory CBO-to-OMB scoring bridge table is also included in the "five-day-after" report OMB is required to prepare under the BEA. This report provides OMB's official scoring of the legislation.
- Compliance with Sound Budgeting and Policy Practices. Does the bill include excessive congressional micro-management of programs, earmarking of funds instead of peer review or cost-benefit analysis, use of incremental funding instead of full, up-front funding, or similar "bad practice" provisions?

Content of OMB Letters and SAPs

Given the number of Executive Branch organizations and interests represented in a particular appropriations bill, it is frequently difficult to satisfy everyone's views concerning what items should be

discussed in an Administration letter or SAP as well as the priority given to write-ups that are included. Ultimately, this is a judgment made by OMB policy officials and the White House.

As a general rule, only items of significant funding or policy importance are included in OMB letters and SAPs. From one perspective, complaining about a large number of minor items would tend to dilute the arguments put forward for major items of importance to the Administration. In addition, the short time frames that the Administration and the Appropriations Committees customarily operate under when a bill is moving preclude compilation or consideration of exhaustive laundry lists of minor items. At each stage in the development and clearance process, OMB letters and SAPs are reviewed to ensure that they include items of significant funding or policy importance and that the write-ups for these items accurately represent the Administration's position.

Unlike certain SAPs on substantive legislation -- prepared by OMB's Legislative Reference Division following procedures contained in OMB Circular No. A-19 -- letters and SAPs on appropriations bills do not contain so-called "below the line" information, i.e., explanatory comments, alternative viewpoints, statements of minor issues, and the like. The content of the SAP that gets transmitted to the House or Senate, whether expressed briefly or in considerable detail, is all that there is.

Administration Positions Expressed in Letters and SAPs

In the majority of cases, Administration positions expressed in letters and SAPs on appropriations bills refer very specifically to particular provisions of the bill. By design, there is not a standard set of overall positions from which to draw, such as "the Administration supports the bill" or "the Administration opposes the bill." Even when a veto threat is involved, the veto threat usually involves a particular, objectionable provision, such as the proposed termination of a program that is a Presidential priority or the inclusion of a language provision that is directly counter to the Administration's program. Letters and SAPs may contain various positions on specific funding and language issues, ranging from expressions of support to expressions of opposition. Usually, the emphasis is on seeking additional funding for Presidential or agency priorities, reducing spending for lower priority programs or for items of more regional rather than national significance, or eliminating objectionable language provisions.

Agencies should alert their RMO contacts as quickly as possible and with as much detailed information as possible when the situation arises where the Secretary or agency head would recommend a veto of the bill because of a particular provision or provisions. Normally, agency views are developed and provided to OMB informally as congressional action proceeds. Formal views, in the form of a letter from the Secretary or agency head, may be sought in certain situations and are frequently required for bills that are veto candidates at the time when the enrolled bill memorandum is being developed.

Development and Coordination of OMB Letters and SAPs

OMB letters and SAPs providing the Administration's views on appropriations bills are developed in anticipation of and in response to congressional action. Thus, the schedule that the Congress sets for action on bills significantly affects the procedures OMB follows in developing letters and SAPs. Irrespective of the particular timing constraints, it is OMB's position that the consultation between RMOs and agencies must be preserved to the maximum extent possible in order to ensure a fully coordinated, agency/OMB development of the Administration's position.

Development and coordination of input to OMB letters and SAPs takes place within a few days on a very fast, forward-moving, one-cycle track. Lengthy coordination involving a series of draft versions and gradual refinement is impossible. Typically, one draft is produced based on RMO input, and the time available for review of that draft is very constrained -- sometimes only a few hours. In some instances, the letter or SAP goes directly into final form and RMO review occurs concurrently with policy clearance.

While the circumstances of timing and other factors surrounding the preparation of a particular letter or SAP may vary, the following notes provide an outline of the procedural steps typically

involved.

- RMOs review bills and reports to identify objectionable language and funding provisions and provide their programmatic comments (incorporating, as appropriate, any agency comments they may have received) to the appropriations "bill tracker" in BRB. RMO input is usually in the form of paragraphs provided to the bill tracker by means of a WordPerfect file attached to an E-mail message.
- Working with paragraphs provided by the RMOs and any other relevant information, the bill tracker consolidates the salient issues into a letter or SAP. The SAP or letter is typically two to four pages in length and includes narratives on the most significant issues. On occasion, an enclosure to the letter or attachment to the SAP may be developed in order to provide the appropriators the Administration's views on issues that, although important, do not rise to a level of significance to warrant inclusion in the body of the letter or SAP. Enclosures and attachments may also include a more detailed discussion of items mentioned briefly in the body of the letter or SAP.
- Time permitting, the draft document is provided to the appropriate RMOs for comment by means of a WordPerfect file attached to an E-mail. Concurrently, a hard-copy version of the draft is provided to Old Executive Office Building (OEOB) policy officials. Comments are provided back to the BRB bill tracker. The time available for review is very constrained, typically no more than half a day and frequently only a couple of hours.
- The bill tracker incorporates comments, and BRB edits the document to ensure appropriate stylistic consistency, tone, and grammatical correctness. Last minute adjustments are made per RMO request or at the request of OMB's Office of Legislative Affairs.
- The bill tracker hand carries the finished product to the OEOB to obtain policy-level clearance -- from the political leadership of the RMOs involved, OMB's General Counsel, the Deputy Director, and others. When the letter or SAP goes to the OEOB for clearance, an electronic copy is E-mailed to the cognizant RMO Program Deputy Associate Directors and branch chiefs, who are located in the New Executive Office Building.
- As needed, the document is adjusted for OEOB policy-level changes. When all policy-level clearances have been obtained, OMB Legislative Affairs provides an electronic copy of the document to the West Wing for clearance. Following incorporation of West Wing comments, the document is provided to the OMB Deputy Director for review and then to the OMB Director for signature.
- Signed letters are delivered by messenger to the Congress. Approved SAPs are faxed to the Congress by OMB Legislative Affairs. (Examples of a signed letter and approved SAP are included at Attachments A and B, respectively.)
- Copies of signed letters and approved SAPs are faxed by BRB to RMOs and two designated agency contacts: one budget office person and one legislative affairs person.
- Copies of enrolled bill memoranda are not provided to agencies, since these are considered pre-decisional documents, advisory in nature, between the Director of OMB and the President.

Agency Involvement in the Preparation of OMB Letters and SAPs

- As noted above, it is OMB's position that consultation between RMOs and agencies during the development of letters and SAPs on appropriations bills must be preserved to the maximum extent possible in order to ensure a fully coordinated, agency/OMB statement of the Administration's position.
- Agency input to the development of letters and SAPs on appropriations bills is through their OMB

contacts in the RMOs. BRB does not accept comments directly from agencies.

- Agencies should use their normal channels in obtaining copies of bills and reports.
- Agencies should alert their OMB contacts to those issues related to funding or language provisions of the bill that are of most concern to the agency. Such discussion should take place, if possible, before a given stage of congressional action -- or as soon as possible after the congressional action has occurred.
- Prior to a given stage of congressional action, agencies should consult with their OMB contacts to ascertain the time available for developing possible narratives for a letter or SAP. It should be emphasized that only brief (one or two paragraphs) write-ups can be considered. Additional explanatory materials cannot be incorporated into OMB letters and SAPs or attached to them, although such materials may be useful as background information for the RMO.
- Time permitting, RMOs may share draft letters/SAPs with agencies for comment.
- OMB letters and SAPs cannot be delayed for receipt of comments from an agency. It is better that a letter or SAP be sent with available comments on time than that a comprehensive letter or SAP be sent too late to influence congressional action.
- Comments received too late to be incorporated into an OMB letter or SAP will be considered by the RMO for inclusion at the next stage of the process.
- Agencies should contact their RMOs with questions regarding items included or excluded from OMB letter and SAPs.
- RMOs may share draft signing statements or veto messages with agencies and request agency comments.

Agency Letters Commenting on Appropriations Action

- All agency letters to the Congress commenting on appropriations action must be cleared by the cognizant RMO(s) prior to transmittal to the Congress.
- RMOs will review agency letters to ensure that they are in accord with Administration policy, as expressed in the President's budget, OMB letters, SAPs, and other documents, as well as in accord with the Budget Enforcement Act.
- RMOs will advise or consult with OMB Legislative Affairs on any issues contained in agency letters that are not directly covered by OMB letters or SAPs.
- Agencies will provide RMOs with copies of signed agency letters upon transmittal to the Congress.

Robert E. Barker

07/08/97 11:33:32 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Rosalyn J. Rettman/OMB/EOP@EOP, Charles E. Kieffer/OMB/EOP@EOP
Subject: Justice Views on Pending Bills/Chadha Provisions

This is yet another addendum to guidance on incorporating Justice views. Roz has suggested, at the urging of Bob Damus, that we make explicit the following guidance:

The presumption is that bill trackers will incorporate the Justice views into the letter or SAP. If for some reason there is objection to the Justice views being included (e.g., the program division does not think the issue warrants discussion, Chuck Kieffer says to drop it), the bill tracker is to inform Roz immediately: Roz will then decide whether to take the issue up with the objecting party, withdraw the requirement to include the Justice views, or schedule an arm wrestling contest.

Please also keep me in the loop as such developments unfold.

Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Robert E. Barker/OMB/EOP on 07/08/97 11:22 AM -----

Robert E. Barker

07/03/97 03:21:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Rosalyn J. Rettman/OMB/EOP, Charles E. Kieffer/OMB/EOP
Subject: Justice Views on Pending Bills/Chadha Provisions

This is an addendum to the E-mail that I sent you last week on the process for incorporating Justice views into our bill tracking letters and SAPs.

We need to ensure that the bill tracker lets Roz Rettman know the disposition of the Justice comments that she has provided. For example, has a paragraph been added to the letter or SAP? Or, is it the RMO's judgment that the Justice views do not warrant being mentioned in the letter or SAP? In cases where the RMO believes that incorporation of Justice views is not appropriate, Roz may want to discuss this with the RMO.

Let me know if you have questions about this procedure.

Robert E. Barker

06/26/97 09:51:22 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Charles E. Kieffer/OMB/EOP@EOP, Rosalyn J. Rettman/OMB/EOP@EOP
Subject: Justice Views on Pending Bills/Chadha Provisions

When we receive Subcommittee and Full Committee bills and reports, as well as conference reports, Rowe immediately contacts the Department of Justice so that they can send a courier to pick up a copy of the bill and report for Justice's Office of Legal Counsel. We have a standardized form that accompanies the bill and report on which I indicate the time by which Justice must provide any comments on the bill to Roz Rettman of our Office of General Counsel. Rowe FAXes Roz a copy of the form so that she knows what she should be expecting.

If she receives any Justice comments, Roz will call the bill tracker to discuss and will also FAX over a copy of the Justice Legal Counsel views. Frequently these are difficult to decipher, being written in legalese (although Jason and I now know what "precatory" means). Roz will assist the bill tracker in developing an understanding of the Justice comments and give an indication of how serious the issues involved appear to be. If there are any Justice comments that appear to warrant mention in the letter or SAP, the bill tracker should first bring them to my attention. We will then decide what if any of the RMOs need to be involved in assessing whether or not to include a paragraph in the letter or SAP.

In its review, Justice focus principally on provisions of the bill that may have constitutional implications, including those involving powers of the Presidency and institutional relationships between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. Most typical are provisions commonly known as "Chadha"-type provisions, named after a case that resulted in a Supreme Court ruling. Such provisions require some sort of congressional approval (frequently approval of the Appropriations Committees) before the Executive Branch may take some action. When such provisions crop up, we typically mention Administration opposition to them in the letter or SAP. A standard paragraph providing the Administration's views on Chadha-type provisions follows:

Legislative Riders

Infringement on Executive Authority. There are several provisions in the House-passed bill that purport to require congressional approval before Executive Branch execution of aspects of the bill. The Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in INS vs. Chadha.

PLEASE SAVE THIS PARAGRAPH IN A COMPUTER FILE SO YOU WILL HAVE IT IF NEEDED.

If you have questions on any of this, please let me know.

Message Sent To:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR FINAL PREPARATION AND CLEARANCE OF BILL TRACKING PACKAGES

General:

- It is BRB's responsibility to ensure that letters/SAPs are prepared and cleared properly. This includes incorporating changes made across the street during the clearance process.
- Chuck Kieffer may provide guidance concerning timing, further changes anticipated, and the like during the clearance process. Such guidance is appropriate and is to be followed.
- If questions arise while clearing the packages across the street, bill trackers should call Art, Diann or Bob, and/or check with Chuck Kieffer.

Putting the package into Final:

- BRB support staff put the letter/SAP into final. E-mail copies of the final version are sent to the RMOs when the bill tracker takes the package across the street. Hard copies are made for Bob, Art and Diann, the bill tracker, and the bill tracking table outside Beth's office.

Clearance Procedures:

- The bill tracker takes the original and enough copies to cover each person listed on the abstract to the OEOB for clearance. A copy is dropped off for Chuck Kieffer before the clearance process begins. Clearance should then begin with Dick.
- If a person who needs to sign off is unavailable, drop off a copy, go to the next person, and come back later. Be sure to let the administrative assistant in a particular PADs office know that the document is time sensitive and should be reviewed by the PAD as soon as possible.
- The bill tracker should walk the package through the clearance process. This may involve some waiting so take along a good book.
- The bill tracker is responsible for obtaining OEOB clearances. If someone makes a change, those changes should be incorporated into the document before proceeding with further clearance.
- Frequently, Chuck Kieffer will handle final second-floor clearance (e.g. Deputy Director's and Director's offices). After obtaining all other OEOB clearances (e.g. Dick Emery, Bob Damus, PADs), the bill tracker should check with Chuck to determine next steps.

Support Staff Role in Clearance Process

- In instances when the clearance of a package is likely not to be completed by 5:30 PM, a decision will be made concerning the need for support staff assistance across the street for the purpose of making edits to the letter/SAP. An attempt will be made (e.g. through Bob talking with Chuck Kieffer) to determine as early as possible—and, hopefully, not later than 5:30 P.M.—whether post 5:30 P.M. help will be needed. If support staff help is required, the expectation is that a support staff will be available and will stick it out across the street until final copies of the signed/approved documents are cut. Diann will discuss specific arrangements as to who will be available for making changes.
- Frequently, the bill tracker may be able to handle making the changes to the letter/SAP. This should be worked out between Diann and the bill tracker.
- Bill trackers may use computer terminals in both Dick's office and Chuck's office to make changes to the letter/SAP. The bill tracker should check with the administrative assistants to determine the availability of these terminals. Remember, the bill tracker needs to be able to access BRD's I-drive to make changes, and only the terminals in Dick's office and Chuck's office can access the I-drive.

SAMPLE BILLS (FRONT PAGE COVERS)

Attached are samples of front page covers of the VA/HUD and Independent Agencies bill as it went through the different stages of legislative action described below (numbered in order). The information provided on the cover of each bill will tell you which stage of legislative action the bill is currently under consideration.

Sample #:

1. House Committee Print -- Bill (House Subcommittee Action)
 - Labeled "Full Committee Print" at top of page
 - No Bill Number
 - No Date
 - Labeled "In the House of Representatives" in the middle of the page

2. House Committee Print -- Report (House Subcommittee Action)
 - Identified as "House of Representatives" document at top of page
 - No Report Number
 - No Bill Number
 - No Date
 - Name of Subcommittee Chairman identified

3. House Committee Bill
 - Labeled "In the House of Representatives" in the middle of the page
 - Bill now has a number, "H.R. 2158", and Report Number. "105-175"
 - Date is reported

4. House Committee Report
 - Labeled "House of Representatives at top of page, with Report Number
 - Date of report is included
 - Labeled "Report" in the middle of the page and references the Bill Number
 - Has a Table of Contents

5. House Passed Bill (No Report)
 - Labeled with the Bill Number at top of page, "H.R. 2158"
 - Below Bill Number states "In the Senate of the United States"
 - Under date, states "received" and "read" by the Senate
 - No Senate action yet, no deletions or italicized additions yet

6. Senate Committee Print-- Bill (Senate Subcommittee Action)
 - Labeled "Committee Print", with Notice of Draft form for Committee use for mark-up
 - No Senate Bill Number or Report Number
 - Labeled "Bill"
 - States "In the Senate of the United States" in the middle of the page"
 - No date given

7. Senate Committee Print-- Report (Senate Subcommittee Action)
 - Still labeled "Committee Print"
 - Labeled "Senate"
 - Labeled "Report"
 - Still No Date
 - Still No Report Number

8. Senate Committee Bill
 - Bill now has a Senate Bill Number and Report Number, "S. 1034", "Report No. 105-53"
 - States " In the Senate of the United States"
 - Labeled "A Bill"
 - Date is reported

9. Senate Committee Report
 - Labeled "Senate" at top of page, with Report number
 - Labeled "Report" and "To accompany" the previous Senate bill number (S. 1034)
 - Date of Report is given

10. Senate Passed Bill (Bill With Numbered Amendments)--No Report
 - Labeled with Bill Number as Reported by the House (H.R. 2158)
 - States "In the House of Representatives", with date given
 - Specifically states under the date, "Ordered to be printed with amendments of the Senate numbered".
 - Dollar and language differences with House passed bill are numbered, with House version lined through.
 - Labeled "An Act"

11. Conference Report (House Report)
 - Labeled "Conference Report"
 - Labeled "House of Representatives" with Report Number at the top of page
 - See Section K on "Conference Action" in the manual for more information

FILE COPY

[FULL COMMITTEE PRINT]

Union Calendar No.

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

[Report No. 105-]

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY , 1997

Mr. LEWIS, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bill; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 *That the following sums are appropriated, out of any*

[FULL COMMITTEE PRINT]

105TH CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
105-

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998

JULY , 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. LEWIS, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R.]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in
explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the
Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Develop-
ment, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions,
corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30,
1998, and for other purposes.

INDEX TO BILL AND REPORT

	Page number	
	Bill	Report
Title I—Department of Veterans Affairs	2	4
Title II—Department of Housing and Urban Development	16	24
Title III—Independent Agencies	40	44
American Battle Monuments Commission	40	44
Community Development Financial Institutions	41	45
Consumer Product Safety Commission	42	46
Corporation for National and Community Service	43	47
Court of Veterans Appeals	45	48
Cemeterial Expenses, Army	46	49
Environmental Protection Agency	46	49
Office of Science and Technology Policy	52	72
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	53	73
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	53	73
Federal Emergency Management Agency	54	74

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Union Calendar No. 107

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2158

[Report No. 105-175]

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bill; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the following sums are appropriated, out of any
- 4 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the

FILE COPY

**DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998**

JULY 11, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. LEWIS of California, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2158]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in
explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the
Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Develop-
ment, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions,
corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30,
1998, and for other purposes.

INDEX TO BILL AND REPORT

	Page number	
	Bill	Report
Title I—Department of Veterans Affairs	2	5
Title II—Department of Housing and Urban Development	16	25
Title III—Independent Agencies	41	46
American Battle Monuments Commission	41	46
Community Development Financial Institutions	42	47
Consumer Product Safety Commission	43	48
Corporation for National and Community Service	43	48
Court of Veterans Appeals	46	50
Cemeterial Expenses, Army	46	50
Environmental Protection Agency	47	51
Office of Science and Technology Policy	53	76

4

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II

Calendar No. 119

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2158

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 1997

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

5

FILE COPY

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

NOTICE: This bill is a draft for use of the Committee and its Staff only, in preparation for markup.

Calendar No.

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.

[Report No. 105-]

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY , 1997

Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

FILE COPY

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

NOTICE: This is a draft for use of the Committee and its staff only, in preparation for markup.

Calendar No. 000

105TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
105-000

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGEN-
CIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998

JULY 00, 1997.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 0000]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 0000) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Amount of new budget (obligational) authority

Amount of bill as reported to Senate	\$90,901,535,000
Amount of appropriations to date, 1997	82,063,403,442
Amount of budget estimates, 1998	90,972,438,000
Under estimates for 1998	70,903,000
Above appropriations for 1997	8,917,820,560

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1034

[Report No. 105-53]

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 1997

Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 *That the following sums are appropriated, out of any*
- 4 *money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the*
- 5 *Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban*

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGEN-
CIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998

JULY 17, 1997.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1034]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 1034) mak-
ing appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and
Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent
agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fis-
cal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, re-
ports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Amount of new budget (obligational) authority

Amount of bill as reported to Senate	\$90,901,535,000
Amount of appropriations to date, 1997	82,063,403,442
Amount of budget estimates, 1998	90,972,438,000
Under estimates for 1998	70,903,000
Above appropriations for 1997	8,917,820,560

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105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2158

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 1997

Ordered to be printed with the amendments of the Senate numbered

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 (1) That the following sums are appropriated, out of any
4 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the
5 Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban
6 Development, and for sundry independent agencies, com-
7 missions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year end-
8 ing September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, namely:

(10)

FILE COPY

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND FOR SUNDRY INDEPENDENT AGENCIES,
COMMISSIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND OFFICES FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1998, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

OCTOBER 6, 1997.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. LEWIS of California, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

(To accompany H.R. 2158)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2158) "making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, namely:

11