



Staff Contact: Russ Vought, x68581

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Policy Brief.....FY 2005 District of Columbia Appropriations

BY THE NUMBERS:

Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars

	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 House	FY05 Senate	Conference Report
Federal Funds	542	560	560	560	560
DC Funds	7,461	8,244	8,244	8,244	8,300*

*It is unclear whether this seemingly higher amount is due to rounding.

For Federal Funds, the bill is:

- \$18 million or 3.3 above last year; and
- Equal to the request.

NOTE: A CBO score is not yet available. However, if consistent with funding levels in the joint explanatory statement of the conference committee, the bill would be within the 302(b) allocation of the District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee and thus complies with the Budget Act.

Note: Congress has authority over the local revenues collected by the District of Columbia. As a result, each year the DC appropriations bill provides both the local revenues and an additional federal allotment. During House floor consideration, only amendments regarding the federal portion are in order.

Restrictions on Use of Funds:

Domestic Partner Benefits: Maintains provision that prohibits federal funds, but NOT District funds from being used to provide employment, health, or governmental benefits to unmarried (whether heterosexual or homosexual) domestic partners.

Abortion: Maintains the prohibition on the use of Federal or District funds for abortions (except for the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest).

Self-Determination: Maintains the prohibition on the use of federal or District funds to seek voting representation in Congress. Prohibits the use of federal funds for salaries, expenses, and other costs associated with the offices of U.S. Senator or Representative.

Needle Exchange: Maintains prohibition on the use of federal or District Funds for the operation of needle exchange programs.

Medical Marijuana: Maintains the prohibition on the use of federal or District Funds to implement any medical marijuana program.

Lawyer Fees for IDEA Cases: Prohibits federal or District funds from being used to pay the fees of an attorney who represents any party in an action against the DC Public Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) in excess of \$4,000 for that action. The language also prohibits the paying of fees of an attorney or firm whom the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia determines to have a pecuniary interest, either through an attorney, officer or employee of the firm, in any special education diagnostic services, schools, or other special education service providers.

Language of Note:

Anacostia Waterfront Initiative: The bill provides \$3 million for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Last year, \$4.9 million was provided for the project. According to the Appropriations Committee, the initiative is a multi-year project to revitalize the communities along the Anacostia River by designing and constructing a pedestrian and bike path from the Potomac River to the Maryland border.

Asian Carp in the Great Lakes: The bill provides \$6.8 million for a project for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier (IL). According to the Appropriations Committee staff, this is to help keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.