



The Money Monitor

...keeping track of how Washington wants to spend your money

Week of May 10-14, 2004

Net five-year cost of House authorizations passed by the House *this week*:
-\$17,000,000.00

H.R. 4280	Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2004	-\$72.0 million*
H.R. 4281	Small Business Health Fairness Act	\$55.0 million
TOTAL FIVE-YEAR COST OF THIS WEEK'S AUTHORIZATIONS		-\$17.0 million

Year-to-date total of net five-year costs of House-passed authorizations:
\$205,245,630,000.00**

*The negative value of this figure represents savings to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Federal spending for active workers participating in the FEHBP is included in the appropriations for federal agencies and therefore is discretionary (i.e. considered an authorization).

This figure does not include the authorizations contained in the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act (H.R. 3873**), which passed the House on March 24, 2004. When CBO completes its estimate of these authorizations, the RSC will update The Money Monitor accordingly.

Net five-year change in House-passed mandatory spending *this week*:
-\$4,412,000,000.00

H.R. 4280	Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2004	-\$4,380.0 million
H.R. 4281	Small Business Health Fairness Act	-\$32.0 million

THIS WEEK'S NET FIVE-YEAR CHANGE IN MANDATORY SPENDING - \$4,412.0 million

Year-to-date net five-year change in House-passed mandatory spending:
-\$3,938,000,000.00

Net one-year cost of appropriations passed by the House *this week*:

Fiscal Year 2004: \$0.00

Fiscal Year 2005: \$0.00

Year-to-date total of net one-year costs of appropriations passed during the
2nd Session of the 108th Congress:

Fiscal Year 2004: \$0.00

Fiscal Year 2005: \$0.00

Net five-year revenue change by House bills passed *this week*:

-\$23,512,000,000.00

H.R. 4279	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements	-\$2,576.0 million
H.R. 4280	Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2004	\$955.0 million
H.R. 4281	Small Business Health Fairness Act	-\$80.0 million
H.R. 4275	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket	-\$21,811.0 million

THIS WEEK'S NET FIVE-YEAR CHANGE IN REVENUE - \$23,512.0 million

Year-to-date net five-year revenue change by House-passed bills:

-\$67,428,500,000.00

An authorization (otherwise known as “discretionary spending”) explicitly allows funding for a certain program and / or directs a federal agency to take a certain action. Authorizations express the House's *intent* to spend, however, actual funding is provided through the annual appropriations process. **Authorizations with no net cost, bills that would result in no significant net change in mandatory spending or federal revenue, and private-sector costs from federal mandates are not reported here.**

Mandatory spending directly establishes an appropriation. No subsequent action is required for the money to be spent. The figures for revenue changes are from “**static**” estimates by the Joint Committee on Taxation or the Congressional Budget Office. That is, they do not take into account the stimulative effects that tax cuts and certain other revenue reductions have on the national economy.

Five-year scores are calculated starting with the first fiscal year in which a bill has a reasonable chance of becoming law. All numbers in “The Money Monitor” are positive unless otherwise indicated.

Neither the costs of conference reports nor the costs of bills that have already been recorded under substantively similar House-passed legislation are recorded here. “The Money Monitor” only accounts for the costs of bills as they first pass the House (with the exception of bills that contain major cost-related changes upon subsequent House passage—yet BEFORE Senate passage). **In short, “The Money Monitor” tracks the House’s original monetary intent.**

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