



# COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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## SUMMARY: 2008 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE 6/22/07

The Legislative Branch bill demonstrates a commitment to increased oversight, accountability and fiscal responsibility.

Oversight efforts began with the 14 hearings the Subcommittee held to guide decisions in the bill. They continued with key investments for things like a new Inspector General for the Architect of the Capitol to help bring order to that office's management practices and budget, and staff increases for the Government Accountability Office to help Congress fulfill its oversight duties.

Other increases targeted meeting critical health and safety needs – funding important security upgrades, addressing health hazards, and providing incentive for agencies to meet health and safety requirements as set by the Congressional Accountability Act.

Finally, the bill provides the initial funding for efforts to Green the Capitol by switching to 100% renewable wind energy for the House's electricity needs, increasing the use of cleaner fuels and helping to make Congressional offices more energy efficient.

### Bill Total

<b>2007 Enacted:</b>	<b>\$ 2.981 billion</b>
<b>Request:</b>	<b>\$ 3.379 billion</b>
<b>Committee Mark:</b>	<b>\$ 3.101 billion</b>

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## KEY INVESTMENTS

**Special Needs for 2008:** Funding for the Legislative Branch is always at its highest in years of Presidential elections. Roughly \$30 million of the total increase for the bill is due to costs associated with the 2008 Elections. This includes \$3.6 million for construction of inaugural facilities for the new President's swearing in and \$5 million for security costs incurred by the Capitol Police.

**Capitol Police:** \$286 million, \$30.4 million above 2007 and \$13 million below the request, for 10 new Library Police Officers, new employees to improve financial and administrative management, and \$5 million for a new radio system.

**Architect of the Capitol:** \$348 million, \$15.7 million above 2007 and \$46 million below the request with a special emphasis on funding health, safety and security improvements. This includes:

- **Inspector General:** Creates a much needed Inspector General with 7 full time staff, to oversee the Architect of the Capitol to improve financial and management practices.
- **Green the Capitol Initiative:** \$3.9 million for new initiatives for the House including: \$2.7 million to shift from coal to cleaner burning natural gas for heating needs, \$520,000 to switch to 100% renewable wind power for electrical needs, \$500,000 for an ethanol gas station for House automobiles, and \$100,000 for energy efficient compact florescent light bulbs.
- **Security Enhancements for Additional Office Space:** \$16 million for security enhancements to the FDA building to allow required improvements to historic House Office Buildings.

**House of Representatives:** \$1.2 billion, \$61 million above 2007 and \$36.5 million below the request including:

- **Members Representation Allowance:** \$581 million, \$26 million above 2007, for the annual budgets for Members Offices.
- **House Child Care Center:** \$1 million, to expand the center to meet growing demand.
- **Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:** \$2 million for the new panel as part of the Congress's commitment to address global climate change.

**Library of Congress:** \$572.5 million, \$64 million above 2007 and \$89 million below the request.

- **National Digital Information Infrastructure Program (NDIIP):** \$6.5 million to preserve digital maps, movies, sound recordings and data for future generations.
- **Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped:** \$68 million to provide services to 500,000 blind and physically handicapped patrons including the production and distribution of books and magazines in Braille and electronic media. This includes \$12.5 million for conversion to new digital talking books.

**Office of Compliance:** \$3.8 million, \$700,000 above 2007 and \$300,000 below the request, allowing them to conduct oversight of efforts to improve utility tunnel health and safety issues and to carry out the initial health and safety inspection of the Capitol Visitors Center.

- Includes a provision requiring agencies to reimburse the Treasury for any awards or settlements paid out for failure to comply with health and safety standards.
- Includes a provision allowing the Office to email congressional employees on their rights and responsibilities.

**Congressional Budget Office:** \$37.8 million, \$2.6 million above 2007, including funding to increase CBO's ability to analyze health care spending trends.

**Government Printing Office:** \$123 million, \$530 thousand above 2007 and \$59 million below the request for elevator repairs, fire alarm systems, and workforce retraining.

**Government Accountability Office:** \$503 million, \$22.5 million above 2007 and \$20 million below the request to help rebuild the agency's personnel levels and allow GAO to provide better support for Congressional oversight efforts.

**Open World:** \$6 million and directs that the program be transferred to the Department of State. An additional \$6 million is provided through the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

## **SIGNIFICANT CUTS**

**Joint Items:** \$21.1 million, \$3 million below 2007 and \$6.5 million below the request, for the Office of the Attending Physician, the Joint Economic Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Capitol Guide Service - cut as delays in opening the Capitol Visitor Center mean additional staffing will not be required.

**Capitol Visitors Center:** \$27.5 million, \$16.2 million below 2007 for ongoing construction and operations.

**House of Representatives:** \$3.8 million is cut from 4 House administrative accounts.