



## Legislative Bulletin.....March 19, 2013

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**H.Res. 115—Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress**

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### **H.Res. 115 — Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress (Miller, R-MI)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, under a closed rule ([H.Res. 122](#)). The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration and one motion to recommit without instructions.

**Summary:** H.Res. 115 authorizes the aggregate funding amounts for the House of Representatives' standing and select committees for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (except for the Committee on Appropriations).<sup>1</sup> It also requires each Committee to review its use of funds at the beginning of the second session of this Congress in order to expend funds after March 15, 2014. The resolution also establishes a reserve fund to address any committee unanticipated expenses this Congress and authorizes the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration to make any adjustments in authorized amounts to comply with a sequestration order or conform to any changes in appropriated amounts.

According to Committee Report #[113-20](#), House Rule X, clause 7, authorizes House committees to continue operations for the first three months of each new Congress at their previous session's funding authorization to allow committees to organize and seek spending authority through the adoption of a primary expense resolution by the House of Representatives. H. Res. 115 is the primary expense resolution reported by the Committee on House Administration for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. The expense resolution authorizes funding already provided (or to be provided) in appropriation acts, so there is no requirement for Senate or Presidential approval.

H.Res. 115 authorizes a total of \$240,798,362 for standing and select committee expenses for both sessions of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress according to the following committee allocations illustrated in Committee Report #113-20. *This amount represents about an 11 percent decrease from last year's authorized amount and approximately 13 percent less compared to the revised two-year authorization last Congress (\$276,189,937).*

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Appropriations is funded through the Legislative Branch appropriations measure.

All committees would receive a reduction ranging from 8.2 percent to 11.8 percent.

<u>Committees</u>	<u>1st session</u>	<u>2nd session</u>	<u>Total</u>
Agriculture	5,036,187	5,036,187	10,072,374
Armed Services	6,563,535	6,563,535	13,127,070
Budget	5,138,824	5,138,824	10,277,648
Education and the Workforce	6,952,763	6,952,763	13,905,526
Energy and Commerce	9,520,516	9,520,516	19,041,032
Ethics	3,020,459	3,020,459	6,040,918
Financial Services	7,394,482	7,394,482	14,788,964
Foreign Affairs	7,388,112	7,388,112	14,776,224
Homeland Security	7,033,588	7,033,588	14,067,176
House Administration	4,600,560	4,600,560	9,201,120
Select Committee on Intelligence	4,389,758	4,389,758	8,779,516
Judiciary	7,077,016	7,077,016	14,154,032
Natural Resources	6,555,829	6,555,829	13,111,658
Oversight and Government Reform	8,940,437	8,940,437	17,880,874
Rules	2,857,408	2,857,408	5,714,816
Science, Space, and Technology	5,282,755	5,282,755	10,565,510
Small Business	2,992,688	2,992,688	5,985,376
Transportation and Infrastructure	8,182,307	8,182,307	16,364,614
Veterans' Affairs	3,048,546	3,048,546	6,097,092
Ways and Means	8,423,411	8,423,411	16,846,822

**Committee Action:** Committee on House Administration Chairman Candice Miller (R-MI) introduced H.Res. 115 on March 13, 2013. The Committee held oversight hearings to review all standing and select committee budgets except for the Committee on Appropriations on March 5-6, 2013. On March 14, 2013, the Committee reported out H.Res. 115 favorably by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate for H.Res. 115 has been released.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** The expense resolution reduces committee budgets by 11 percent compared to last year's expenses. Note—this is the third consecutive expense resolution that reduces committee budgets. H.Res. 147, which passed the House on March 17, 2011, by voice vote, represented a 5 percent decrease of funding levels compared to the previous year. H.R. 496, which passed the House on February 1, 2012, by voice vote, represented a 6.4 percent decrease.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution authorizes the House to determine the rules of its own proceedings. H.Res. 115 is in accord with Rule X of the 113<sup>th</sup> House Rules.

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