



H.R. 2250—Fiscal Year 2016 Legislative Branch Appropriations (Graves, R-GA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: H.R. 2250 IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MAY 19, 2015, UNDER A [STRUCTURED RULE](#). THE RULE MAKES IN ORDER THREE AMENDMENTS (SUMMARIZED BELOW). THE RULE DID NOT MAKE IN ORDER SEVERAL GERMAN AMENDMENTS.

IN ADDITION TO H.R. 2250, THE RULE ALSO PROVIDES FOR A STRUCTURED RULE FOR H.R. 1806, THE AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015, AND A CLOSED RULE FOR H.R. 2353, THE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015.

TOPLINE SUMMARY

In thousands of dollars

	FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level
Net Total Base Discretionary	3,325,891	3,341,401	3,513,692	3,341,401

Net Total Base Discretionary Budget Authority is:

- \$172 million below the president’s budget request.
- Equal to the enacted FY 2015 level.
- \$15.5 million above the level proposed by the Appropriations Committee for FY 2015.

The bill provides a net total of \$3.341 billion in FY 2016 base discretionary budget authority (excluding Senate-only items).

Note: Consistent with past precedent, this legislation does not include funding for Senate items.

The committee report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No
- **Encroach** into State or Local Authority?: No
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No

- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No, according to the committee report.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER:

1. [Ratcliff \(R-TX\)](#): Would eliminate funding for the [Open World Leadership Center](#). The bill would provide \$5.7 million for the Open World Leadership Center, a level \$2 million below the president’s budget request and equal to the FY 2015 enacted level.

The Open World Leadership Center is a legislative branch program meant to promote democracy in Russia and other Eurasian countries. The subcommittee-passed bill only provides \$1 million for the Open World Center’s ordered shutdown in FY 2016. However, an amendment at the full committee was passed to bring funding for the program up to \$5.7 million. The original committee report stated that “given our current fiscal environment, and in light of both the lack of quantifiable results from the Open World Leadership Center and its duplication of programs more appropriately offered by the State Department, the program has long outlived its short-term intent.”

2. [Flores \(R-TX\)](#): The amendment would prohibit any funds for delivering printed copies of the [Congressional Pictorial Directory](#) in the House. The language of the amendment mirrors several riders already in the bill that would prohibit funds for the delivery of printed copies of bills, resolutions, the Congressional Record, the Statements of Disbursements, and the Daily Calendar.

The most recent edition cost more than \$200,000 dollars to print and distribute. However, this book is no longer necessary to print in hardcopy. Pictures of Members of Congress are readily available for free online and outside private organizations make similar directories. Further, the GPO is very slow about producing the directory, and has not released the edition for the 114th Congress almost 6 months into the session.

3. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would reduce the amounts provided in the bill by one percent, with the exception of the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and the Sergeant at Arms.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

House of Representatives

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
1,180,735	1,180,735	1,180,735	1,180,735	0	0	0

The bill would provide \$1.81 billion for the House of Representatives, a level equal to the president’s budget request and the FY 2015 enacted level. This represents the third year in a row without an increase in funding for the House. According to the [Appropriations Committee](#), funding for the House has been reduced by 14 percent since Republicans gained control in January 2011.

House Leadership Offices: The bill would provide \$22 million for the House Leadership Offices, a level equal to the president’s budget request and the FY 2015 enacted level.

Members Representational Allowances (MRAs): The bill would provide \$555 million for the House MRAs, a level equal to the president’s budget request and the FY 2015 enacted level.

House Committees: The bill would provide \$147 million for the House MRAs, a level equal to the president’s budget request and the FY 2015 enacted level.

House Officers and Employees: The bill would provide \$176 million for the House Officers and Employees, a level \$2 million below the president’s budget request and \$4 million above the FY 2015 enacted level. This account provides funding for salaries for the Office of the Clerk, Office of the Sergeant at Arms, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the parliamentarian, Office of the legislative Counsel, and other employees of the House.

Allowances and Expenses: The bill would provide \$281 million for the House Allowances and Expenses, a level \$2 million above the president’s budget request and \$4 million below the FY 2015 enacted level. This account provides for supplies, administrative expenses, employee benefits, and costs of official mail for the Committees, leadership, and administrative offices.

Joint Items

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
18,965	19,056	19,767	19,469	+ 504	+ 413	- 298

The bill would provide \$19 million for the Joint House and Senate Items, a level \$298,000 below the president’s budget request and \$504,000 above the FY 2015 enacted level. This includes funding for the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Office of the Attending Physician.

Capitol Police

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
347,959	347,959	378,900	369,000	21,041	21,041	-9,900

The bill would provide \$369 million for the Capitol Police, a level \$10 million below the president’s budget request and \$21 million above the FY 2015 enacted level. This funding level will support 1,775 sworn officers and 370 civilians.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
45,700	45,700	47,270	47,270	1,570	1,570	0

The bill provides \$47 million for the CBO, a level equal to the president’s budget request and \$1.6 million above the FY 2015 enacted level.

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
488,565	505,948	577,010	492,171	3,606	-13,777	-84,839

The bill would provide \$492 million for the AOC (excluding Senate-only items), a level \$85 million below the president's budget request and \$14 million below the FY 2015 enacted level.

Botanic Garden: The bill would provide \$12 million for the Botanic Garden, a level \$221,000 below the president's budget request and \$4 million below the FY 2015 enacted level.

Library of Congress (LOC)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
594,952	590,921	624,502	591,431	-3,521	510	-33,071

The bill would provide \$591 million for the LOC, a level \$33 million below the president's budget request and \$510,000 above the FY 2015 enacted level.

Copyright Office: The bill would provide \$21 million for the Copyright Office, a level \$2 million below the president's budget request and \$3 million above the FY 2015 enacted level. When appropriated funds are combined with offsetting collections, the Copyright Office will have authority to spend \$57 million.

Congressional Research Service (CRS): The bill would provide \$107 million for the CRS, a level \$5 million below the president's budget request and equal to the FY 2015 enacted level.

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
122,584	119,993	120,000	110,236	-12,348	-9,757	-9,764

The bill would provide \$110 million for the GPO, a level \$10 million below the president's budget request and \$10 million below the FY 2015 enacted level.

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
519,622	522,000	553,058	522,000	2,378	0	-31,058

The bill would provide \$522 million for the GAO, a level \$31 million below the president's budget request and equal to the FY 2015 enacted level. The GAO works for Congress by providing oversight and investigations of federal programs.

Open World Leadership Center

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
3,420	5,700	8,000	5,700	2,280	0	-2,300

The bill would provide \$5.7 million for the Open World Leadership Center, a level \$2 million below the president's budget request and equal to the FY 2015 enacted level.

The [Open World Leadership Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to promote democracy in Russia and other Eurasian countries. The subcommittee-passed bill only provided \$1 million for the Open World Center to complete an ordered shutdown FY 2016. However, an amendment at the full committee was passed to bring funding for the program up to \$5.7 million. The original committee report stated that "given our current fiscal environment, and in light of both the lack of quantifiable results from the Open World Leadership Center and its duplication of programs more appropriately offered by the State Department, the program has long outlived its short-term intent."

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY15 House Level	FY15 Enacted	FY16 President Request	FY16 House Level	FY16 vs 15 House	FY16 vs 15 Enacted	FY16 vs President
430	430	430	430	0	0	0

The bill provides \$430,000 for the Stennis Center, a level equal to the president's budget request and equal to the FY 2015 enacted level.

The [Stennis Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to "attract young people to careers in public service." [Senator Stennis](#) (D-MS) served from 1947 until 1989. The bill provides \$430,000 for the Center, despite the fact that it has access to other sources of funding. The center was created by Congress in 1988 with an initial funding of \$7.5 million in Special Issue Treasury securities and the center has the ability to draw funding from the interest on these securities. Additionally, the committee report states that "the Center should continually work to raise private sector funds in order to be self-sustaining should the need arise." The [FY12 Legislative Branch Appropriations](#) bill passed by the House would have eliminated this program.

Members Pay Increases: The bill would prohibit a cost of living increase for members during FY 2016.

Unspent MRAs: The bill would provide that unspent MRA funds be used for deficit reduction.

Payment to Widow of Rep. Alan Nunnelee: The bill would include \$174,000 (equal to the one-year's salary for a member) to be paid to the widow of former Representative Alan Nunnelee. According to [CRS](#), this has been the typical practice of the House.

Zero-Base Budgeting: The bill would direct all agencies funded by the bill to utilize zero-base budgeting, which does not assume increases from year to year. The [RSC Budget](#) called for this fiscally-responsible budgeting to be used government-wide.

Staff-Led Tours: The bill would prohibit funds from being used to eliminate or restrict staff and intern-led tours of the Capitol, other than temporary suspensions by order of the Capitol Police Board.

Prohibition on Bonus to Contractors Behind Schedule or Over Budget: The bill would prohibit the payment of bonuses to contractors that are behind schedule or over budget.

Limitation on Leased Vehicles: The bill would limit spending on leased vehicles using MRA funds to no more than \$1,000 per month.

Prohibition on Scrim: The bill would prohibit funds for scrim (cloth building facade showing a picture of the building during construction).

Prohibiting Delivery of Certain Printed Items: The bill would prohibit funds for the delivery of printed copies of bills, resolutions, the Congressional Record, the Statements of Disbursements, and the Daily Calendar.

Limitation of Print Copies of the U.S. Code: The bill would limit the total number of printed copies of the U.S. Code to no more than 50 copies for the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE ACTION: The House Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 2250 on [April 30, 2015](#), and approved the bill by a voice vote. The committee additionally held a number of [oversight hearings](#).

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: A statement of administration policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States..." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use."

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