



Senate Amendment to H.R. 2250: Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016 (Sen. McConnell, R-KY)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE:

The Senate amendment to H.R. 2250 is expected to be considered on December 11, 2015, under a [rule](#).

The rule also provides for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[The Senate amendment to H.R. 2250](#) would continue appropriations at current levels through December 16, 2015.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time.

The Continuing Resolution (CR) provides appropriations at the base Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 spending level, an annual rate of \$1.017 trillion. Annualized base Defense spending would be \$520.4 billion and annualized base Non-Defense spending would be \$496.2 billion.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Under [current law](#), discretionary appropriations will lapse on December 11, 2015. The bill would extend appropriations until December 16, 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The House Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 2250, the [Fiscal Year 2016 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act](#), on [April 30, 2015](#), and approved the bill by a voice vote. The House passed the bill on May 19, 2015, by a [357 – 67](#) vote.

The Senate amended H.R. 2250 with the text of the 5 day CR and passed the bill by voice vote on December 10, 2015.

Previous Action on Appropriations Measures:

The House passed six of the 12 appropriations bills for FY 2016:

- H.R. 2578, the [Commerce, Justice, and Science](#) bill passed the House on June 3, 2015, by a [242 – 183](#) vote.
- H.R. 2685, the [Defense](#) bill passed the House on June 9, 2015, by a [278 – 149](#) vote.
- H.R. 2028, the [Energy and Water](#) bill passed the House on May 1, 2015, by a [240 – 177](#) vote.
- H.R. 2250, the [Legislative Branch](#) bill passed the House on May 19, 2015, by a [357 – 67](#) vote.
- H.R. 2029, the [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](#) bill passed the House on April 30, 2015, by a [255 – 163](#) vote.
- H.R. 2577, the [Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development](#) bill passed the House on June 9, 2015, by a [216 – 210](#) vote.

H.R. 2822, the [Interior and Environment](#) bill was also considered in the House, but a vote on passage was not held.

In contrast, the Senate did not pass a single appropriations bill before the start of the fiscal year. In July, [Senate Democrats vowed to filibuster all appropriations](#) measures in order to push for more spending, a strategy that was ultimately successful.

Appropriations were extended through December 11, 2015, by [H.R. 719, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016](#), which passed the House on September 30, 2015, by a [277 – 151](#) vote.

The discretionary spending caps agreed to in 2011 under the Budget Control Act were increased by [H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015](#), which passed the House on October 28, 2015, by a [266 – 167](#) vote.

The Senate was able to pass H.R. 2029, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill on November 11, 2015, by a [93 – 0](#) vote. This was the first appropriations bill passed by the Senate in 5 years.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“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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