



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

FISCAL YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Chairman's Mark: October 18, 2021

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2022 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill provides \$5.924 billion in discretionary budget authority to conduct oversight, accountability and transparency of federal spending and programs; improve copyright protections; and support the security, safety, and daily operations of the United States Congress and the Library of Congress. Total funding is \$624 million more than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, and \$161 million less than the fiscal year 2022 budget request.

The bill provides critical funding for the operations of the United States Senate, Government Accountability Office, the United States Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of the Attending Physician.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Chair of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, said:

“This bill is essential to keeping our democracy and the legislative branch of government functioning, safe, and accessible to all Americans. Since the January 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, the Capitol Police have been under an intense workload, and this bill ensures they have the resources and staffing to safeguard the Capitol complex. It also helps upgrade the legislative branch’s physical security and cyber defenses while strengthening the capacity of important agencies, such as the non-partisan watchdog Government Accountability Office, which helps enhance transparency and accountability throughout the federal government. And it makes needed investments to modernize Library of Congress operations and technology and make its collection more accessible. Democrats worked hard to make this bill bipartisan and hope that Senate Republicans will take ‘yes’ for an answer.”

Key Points & Highlights – The bill makes the following key investments:

United States Senate. In order for the Senate to do its job serving the American people, the bill invests \$1.1 billion in Senate salaries and operations. Report language establishes a Senate

Diversity and Inclusion Working Group to identify, develop, and recommend options for improving the recruitment and retention of a diverse Senate workforce.

U.S. Capitol Police. The U.S. Capitol Police Department ensures the safety, protection and security of the Capitol complex and those who travel to and work within it, including staff, visitors, and Members of Congress. The bill builds on the resources included in the January 6th attack emergency supplemental by providing \$606.6 million for the Department, which is \$91 million more than fiscal year 2021. This covers the full request for salaries, including to hire up to 212 sworn officers – bringing the force to 2,112 – and adding 44 mission critical civilian support personnel. The bill also provides officers with overtime and retention benefits, such as tuition credits and wellness and trauma support. The bill also makes considerable investments in life-cycle replacements for needed security, safety and communications equipment, as well as in intelligence and investigation analytics, and upgraded Civil Disturbance Unit gear, and increases in dignitary protection travel and intelligence analysis. The bill continues \$2 million to provide off-campus security for Members in response to evolving and growing threats, which have increased by 107 percent compared to last year.

Business Continuity Disaster Recovery Fund. The bill provides \$25 million to establish the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SAA) Business Continuity Disaster Recovery (BCDR) fund. The BCDR fund will allow the Senate to develop and maintain continuity capabilities and quickly meet unanticipated needs, including covering the cost of IT disaster recovery planning and operations, business continuity planning and operations, emergency communications, and general contingency planning. This will allow the SAA to better position the Senate to respond quickly to emergencies and unanticipated requirements.

Senate Intern Pay. The bill provides \$7 million for Senate intern pay, an increase of \$1 million more than fiscal year 2021, with an average of \$70,000 to each Senator’s office for the sole purpose of compensating interns. In its third year, this program will continue to ensure that internships in the Senate are accessible to the broadest pool of qualified, interested candidates, including those who cannot independently afford to work without pay. Financial compensation allows more students to explore careers in public service, while allowing them to gain professional experience and serve their country.

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is an internationally renowned institution that preserves and shares priceless collections, including primary sources and historical and cultural records. The bill provides \$550.6 million, which is \$27 million more than fiscal year 2021, for Library operations. This includes \$10 million for the fourth and final installment for the Visitor Experience, a public-private partnership to bring more of the Library’s collections and historic artifacts out from the vaults and into exhibition spaces for public display, enabling better public access to the Reading Room, and enhancing basic services to better accommodate visitors. This brings total federal investment provided for the project to \$40 million. The bill also provides resources to modernize the handling of the Library’s collections, and to ensure the safety and security of the Library’s collections and workforce.

U.S. Copyright Office. The Copyright Office protects the ownership of creative content, supporting both small and large businesses in the arts, information, entertainment, and

technology sectors. The bill provides \$98 million, an increase of \$4.6 million more than fiscal year 2021. This includes \$53 million in direct appropriations. Funding will allow the Copyright Office to continue year four of a five-year, long-awaited effort to create electronic systems for copyright registration and recordation, support the digitization of historic copyright records dating back to 1870, and assist in implementing the Music Modernization Act.

Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS provides expert, non-partisan policy and legal analysis to Congress. The bill provides \$129 million, which is \$3.6 million more than fiscal year 2021 enacted, for the continuing modernization of CRS mission-specific information systems, and further building its capacity to provide research on legislative issues related to science and technology to better meet the growing need of Congress for policy analysis of issues related to rapidly changing technologies.

Architect of the Capitol (AOC). The AOC maintains all of the buildings within the Capitol complex to ensure the safety of constituents, visitors, staff, and Members of Congress. The bill provides \$578 million, which is \$42 million than fiscal year 2021 enacted (this total excludes House items, which as is custom are left to the sole consideration of the House). This funding provides for needed upgrades to project management systems, supports the day-to-day operations of each jurisdiction, and allows for the most critical capital improvements across the Capitol campus. The bill backfills \$43.5 million for the construction of additional permanent collections storage space at the Library’s Fort Meade campus. Congress funded this project in fiscal year 2021, but diverted those funds to cover urgent Capitol campus security needs following the January 6th attack and did not backfill them in the security emergency supplemental act. Resources provided in this bill will also help alleviate part of the deferred maintenance backlog identified by the AOC across the Capitol campus, including critical infrastructure such as security barrier and kiosk repairs and replacement, and fire prevention, detection and suppression needs in the Capitol Building and the Library.

Government Accountability Office (GAO). As Congress’ independent and nonpartisan “watchdog,” the GAO audits and evaluates federal agencies to root out waste, fraud, and abuse while improving government efficiency and effectiveness. The bill provides \$717.5 million for GAO, an increase of \$56 million more than fiscal year 2021. This increase will allow GAO to maintain current staff, and builds on a multi-year effort to restore GAO staffing to its optimal level. The bill also includes additional resources for the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics team, which continues to grow and adapt to calls from Members of Congress and legislative staff for technology assessments, technical assistance, and reports in the areas of oversight of federal technology and science programs.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO). CBO provides Congress with objective, timely, and non-partisan analyses to inform budgetary and economic deliberations essential to the legislative process. The bill provides \$60 million, which is \$3 million more than fiscal year 2021 enacted, to support CBO’s current and planned efforts for improving and promoting transparency and responsiveness, including making IT investments, and maintaining the agency’s professional independence.

Coronavirus Response. The bill provides \$5 million for the Office of the Attending Physician for the continuing response to COVID-19, including testing, vaccine handling and boosters, in the Capitol Complex.

Member Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The bill includes a provision to prevent the automatic increase in the COLA for Members of Congress in fiscal year 2022.

Employment of DACA Recipients. The bill includes language permitting legislative branch agencies to employ “Dreamers” – young residents of the United States brought to this country as children without proper immigration status – who hold employment authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

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