

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN  
COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN  
THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

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APRILL 28, 1997.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 129]

The Committee on House Oversight, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 129) providing amounts for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Fifth Congress, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the resolution be agreed to.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to the One Hundred Fifth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in that subsection.

(b) **COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.**—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,656,162; Committee on Banking and Financial Services, \$8,901,617; Committee on the Budget, \$9,940,000; Committee on Commerce, \$14,535,406; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$10,125,113; Committee on House Oversight, \$6,050,349; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$4,815,526; Committee on International Relations, \$10,368,358; Committee on the Judiciary, \$10,604,041; Committee on National Security, \$9,721,745; Committee on Resources, \$9,876,550; Committee on Rules, \$4,649,102; Committee on Science, \$8,677,830; Committee on Small Business, \$3,906,941; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$2,456,300; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$12,184,459; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$4,344,160; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$11,036,907.

**SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 1997, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 1998.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$3,791,039; Committee on Banking and Financial Services, \$4,363,817; Committee on the Budget, \$4,970,000; Committee on Commerce, \$7,122,959; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$5,002,127; Committee on House Oversight, \$3,042,603; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$2,358,040; Committee on International Relations, \$5,145,358; Committee on the Judiciary, \$5,054,800; Committee on National Security, \$4,719,454; Committee on Resources, \$4,800,014; Committee on Rules, \$2,306,407; Committee on Science, \$4,263,672; Committee on Small Business, \$1,936,471; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,276,300; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$5,992,229; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,084,368; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$5,366,700.

**SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 1998, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 1999.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$3,865,123; Committee on Banking and Financial Services, \$4,537,800; Committee on the Budget, \$4,970,000; Committee on Commerce, \$7,412,447; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$5,122,986; Committee on House Oversight, \$3,007,746; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$2,457,486; Committee on International Relations, \$5,223,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$5,549,241; Committee on National Security, \$5,002,291; Committee on Resources, \$5,076,536; Committee on Rules, \$2,342,695; Committee on Science, \$4,414,158; Committee on Small Business, \$1,970,470; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,180,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$6,192,230; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,259,792; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$5,670,207.

**SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.**

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Oversight.

**SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight.

**SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.**

The Committee on House Oversight shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On April 24, 1997, by voice vote, a quorum being present, the Committee agreed to an amendment in the nature of a substitute and agreed to a motion to report the resolution favorably to the House, as amended.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT ON BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

The resolution does not provide new budget authority, new spending authority, new credit authority, or an increase or de-

crease in revenues or tax expenditures, and a statement under clause 2(1)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is not required.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states, with respect to the resolution, that the Director of the Congressional Budget Office did not submit a cost estimate and comparison under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### OVERSIGHT FINDINGS OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The Committee states, with respect to clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight did not submit findings or recommendations based on investigations under clause 4(c)(2) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### ROLLCALL VOTES

In relation to clause 2(1)(2)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that there were no rollcall votes with respect to the resolution.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

H. Res. 129, as amended, authorizes \$149,850,566 for committee salaries and expenses for 17 standing committees of the House of Representatives (excluding the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight) and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Boehner and passed by the Committee, was the only amendment offered to the resolution. The minority offered no amendments to the funding resolution.

In a separate Committee action, the Chairman announced his intent to request a change in House Rule XI, clause 5(f)(3) which currently allows committees, to receive 9 per centum (or such lesser per centum as may be determined by the Committee on House Oversight) of the total annualized amount made available under expense resolutions for such committee in the preceding session of Congress \* \* \* for the period beginning at noon on January 3 and ending at midnight on March 31 in each odd-numbered year. The requested change would reduce the 9 per centum to 8 per centum. Thus, interim funding for committees would be at 96% of the annual funding of the previous session until an expense resolution is passed by the House.

On March 21, 1997, the House considered and passed H. Res. 91 which funded the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight at \$11,702,573 in 1997 and \$8,317,999 in 1998 as well as a total of \$7,900,000 for the Reserve Fund for the entire 105th Congress.

Additionally, H. Res. 91, section 7, requires an offset within other legislative branch activities for any increase in 105th Congress Committee expenses if they exceed the funds appropriated for the

104th Congress. The offset terms of the Resolution affect the funding expenses of the committees funded in H. Res. 91 as well as those funded in H. Res. 129.

By Committee resolution, approved on March 12, 1997, the Committee on House Oversight established franked mail allocations for all committees and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

#### *Committee Funding in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress*

Significant changes were enacted at the beginning of the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress which affected the structure and jurisdiction of Committees. In the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, three standing committees and 32 subcommittees were abolished. Committee staff was reduced by 33% from the 103<sup>d</sup> Congress levels and committee funding authorization was reduced by a total of 30%, \$67,003,290. Additionally, committees became directly responsible and accountable for costs previously paid from funds not specifically authorized through a committee funding resolution. These costs included, scanning and graphics, local telephone line charges, long-distance telephone call charges, office supplies and franked mail. Prior to the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, these costs were paid from other House funds, separate from the investigative and statutory funding procedures. The 30% reduction in funding was achieved even after mandating full accountability by committees for these costs.

The 104<sup>th</sup> Congress was one of the most prolific and substantive Congresses in history. According to statistics compiled by the Committee on Rules, the House spent 2,445 hours in session deliberating on and passing 333 bills into law, including landmark legislation such as welfare reform, a balanced budget and health care reform. This was accomplished with fewer committee staff and significantly fewer financial resources than was authorized in the prior Congress.

#### *Committee funding process*

The 105<sup>th</sup> Congress is the second funding cycle under the biennial funding process instituted in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress. At the beginning of the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress House Rules were revised, changing the Committee funding process to a biennial cycle and abolishing the bifurcation of funding under statutory and investigative accounts.

Committee Chairmen in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress achieved the ambitious goals established by the new Republican majority, including those of fiscal conservatism and legislative proclivity. The biennial committee funding process has proven successful in at least two respects. First, every House committee chairman was a new chairman, and was asked to present a two-year budget and to predict the needs and the legislative goals of the committees over which they had only recently taken control. 104<sup>th</sup> Congress Chairmen did plan realistic budgets which funded the needs of their committees, simultaneously reducing budgets by an average of 30% from their predecessors. Second, a two-year budget cycle saves time and resources for all committees because the process is undertaken only once per Congress, rather than twice as was done previously. The biennial funding process facilitates long term planning and cuts in

half the time and resources dedicated to making, defending and approving budget requests.

At the outset of the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on House Oversight adopted a regulation which required committees to reimburse legislative and executive branch agencies or departments for any detailees working for the committee. The regulation has been revised for the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress. Committees must continue to reimburse for detailees from the Government Printing Office. Committees will not, however, be required by the Committee on House Oversight to reimburse other agencies for details, so long as the number of details at any one committee does not exceed 10% of their staff ceiling. Agencies must be reimbursed for details above this 10% limit. While details often provide special expertise not available on committee staff, or expertise not required on a permanent basis, this policy is intended to continue to ensure prudent use of other agencies' resources and to continue a full-accountability model for committee funding.

#### *H. Res. 129*

The sum total of the budget requests for the committees funded in this Resolution was \$160,108,743. The amount authorized for the operations of the 17 standing committees and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in this Resolution is \$149,850,566. The authorization for the operations of the effected committees is reduced by \$10,258,177, -6%, from the requested amounts. The funding for the effected committees in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress is an average 2% increase over two years above the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress levels.

The amount authorized in this Resolution is \$46,892,058, 24%, less than the funding for like committees in the 103<sup>d</sup> Congress.

Committee	105th request	H. Res. 129	1997	1998
Agriculture .....	\$7,792,162	\$7,656,162	\$3,791,039	\$3,865,123
Banking .....	9,414,785	8,901,617	4,363,817	4,537,800
Budget .....	9,940,000	9,940,000	4,970,000	4,970,000
Commerce .....	15,191,538	14,535,406	7,122,959	7,412,447
Education .....	10,569,157	10,125,113	5,002,127	5,122,986
House Oversight .....	6,160,946	6,050,349	3,042,603	3,007,746
Intelligence .....	5,040,526	4,815,526	2,358,040	2,457,486
International Relations .....	11,143,892	10,368,358	5,145,358	5,223,000
Judiciary .....	12,037,046	10,604,041	5,054,800	5,549,241
National Security .....	10,668,640	9,721,745	4,719,454	5,002,291
Resources .....	10,418,537	9,876,550	4,800,014	5,076,536
Rules .....	4,649,102	4,649,102	2,306,407	2,342,695
Science .....	9,128,727	8,677,830	4,263,672	4,414,158
Small Business .....	4,339,817	3,906,941	1,936,471	1,970,470
Standards <sup>1</sup> .....	2,439,300	2,456,300	1,276,300	1,180,000
Transportation .....	14,096,282	12,184,459	5,992,229	6,192,230
Veterans' Affairs .....	5,744,757	4,344,160	2,084,368	2,259,792
Ways and Means .....	11,333,529	11,036,907	5,366,700	5,670,207
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>160,108,743</b>	<b>149,850,566</b>	<b>73,596,358</b>	<b>76,254,208</b>

<sup>1</sup> H. Res. 129 includes \$60,000 for Ethics Reform Task Force expenses.

#### *Minority resources*

The majority is proud of the progress that has been made by its committees towards the goal of allocating one-third of each commit-

tee's resources to the minority. We remain committed to this goal. In 1990, the Democratic Majority, pursuant to Democratic Caucus Rule 34(F), adopted a policy that the committee caucuses shall not be required to provide for more than 20 percent of the total funding for minority investigative staff for the full committee and each subcommittee of the committee. In 1994, at the end of the 103d Congress, only four committees (exclusive of those that share bipartisan and nonpartisan staff) allowed one-third of their resources, staff and funds, to the minority party.

When the new majority assumed control in the 104th Congress, the number of committee staff allocated to the minority party significantly improved:

	102d		103d		104th	105th
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 & 1996	1997 & 1998
Percent of Committees providing 33% of staff slots <sup>1</sup> to the minority	6	13	0	6	44	47
Number of Committees providing:						
33% or more .....	1	2	0	1	7	7
25% to 32% .....	3	2	5	5	6	7
20% to 24% .....	5	1	3	2	3	1
Less than 20% .....	7	11	8	8	0	0

<sup>1</sup> For the 102d and 103d Congress the calculation is from the investigative staff.

For the 105th Congress, there has been no erosion of the resources provided to the minority party, and additional progress has been made. Of those seventeen committees that have partisan staff, nine committees have achieved the goal of one-third allocation of the total budget or staff salaries to the minority. Of the eight remaining committees, three have increased their allocation to the minority party for the 105th Congress. The situation has improved significantly and progress will be monitored and encouraged.

The minority did not submit views to this report.

