

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

MARCH 11, 2011.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H. Res. 147]

The Committee on House Administration, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 147) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 6, the Committee on House Administration (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) reports an omnibus, biennial “primary expense resolution” to cover the expenses of each standing and select committee of the House, except the Committee on Appropriations. H. Res. 147 is the primary expense resolution reported by the Committee on House Administration for the 112th Congress.

On March 9, 2011, by voice vote, the Committee agreed to a motion to report H. Res. 147 favorably to the House without amendment. The resolution ensures that the aggregate amount of funding for standing and select committees will not exceed 95% of the funding for last Congress, and also includes a provision to require a review of the use of committee funds at the beginning of the second session of the 112th Congress.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Background and Need for Legislation

During the first three months of each new Congress, House Rule X, clause 7, authorizes House committees to continue operations based on their funding authorizations from the preceding session. This continuing authorization allows committees to organize, adopt legislative and oversight agendas, and seek spending authority through the adoption of a primary expense resolution by the House.

The funding process begins after a House standing or select committee determines its biennial funding needs, and introduces a House resolution seeking those funds. Under House Rule X, clause 6, all funding resolutions, which are referred to as primary expense resolutions, are referred to the Committee on House Administration. After all committee expense resolutions have been introduced, the Committee combines the resolutions into a single, omnibus primary expense resolution. Since this funding process merely authorizes the expenditure of funds already provided (or to be provided) in appropriations acts, the funding measure takes the form of a simple House resolution, thus freeing it from the requirement of Senate or presidential approval. Working with whatever funds are or will be made available through appropriations acts, and after requesting and reviewing committee budget submissions, the Committee recommends an appropriate allocation of the available funds.

112th Congress Proceedings

To gather the information necessary to create the omnibus primary expense resolution, the Committee required the standing and select committees to submit estimates for their expected expenses for both sessions of the 112th Congress. The Committee asked that committees provide line item estimates for the following expenses: personnel compensation (including salaries and lump sum payments), overtime, transit benefits, travel, communications, and printing and reproduction costs. The Committee also requested that the standing and select committees estimate their expenses for other services, including consultant contracts, detailees from executive and other agencies, training, representational expenses, specialized training, and miscellaneous expenses. Finally, the Committee requested budget estimates for the costs of supplies, materials, and equipment.

In addition to requiring the above information, the Committee asked that the standing and select committee budget requests conform to H. Res. 22, a previously passed resolution that, *inter alia*, mandated the aggregate amount of funding for committees not exceed 95% of the funding for the 111th Congress. In submitting their budget requests, every standing and select committee met this goal.

To further gather the information necessary to create the omnibus primary expense resolution, the Committee convened a hearing to provide the Chairs and Ranking Members of the standing and select committees an opportunity to present and share their views on their respective budget requests for the 112th Congress.

During the hearing, Members of the Committee asked the Chairs and Ranking Members if these smaller budget requests would im-

fact their ability to conduct effective oversight or pursue their legislative goals. Chairs and Ranking Members uniformly assured the Committee that they will be able to meet their legislative and oversight responsibilities with the requested level of funding. However, some Chairs and Ranking Members did state that their ability to provide oversight over the Executive Branch agencies in their jurisdiction would be impaired if further cuts were undertaken.

Members of the Committee also asked the Chairs and Ranking Members how they were managing and will manage their resources with equity and prudence. Since the 104th Congress, House majority leadership and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee have encouraged the Chairs of the standing and select committees to provide the minority with one-third of committee staff and/or resources authorized in the primary expense resolutions. During the hearings, the Committee sought to ensure that the minority in each committee was treated equitably in the funding process. Each Ranking Member was asked if he or she was allocated the traditional one-third share of committee staff positions and/or committee resources, as determined by each committee. These exchanges indicated that all of the committees appear to be in compliance with the traditional “two-thirds/one-third” distribution of funds among the majority and minority.

After the hearing, the Committee used the budget submissions and Member testimony to create an omnibus expense resolution, introduced by Chairman Lungren, to authorize funding for all of the committees. The resolution includes a provision to require the Chairs and Ranking Members to return to the Committee after one year for an additional oversight hearing to review the use of funds from the first session. These proceedings will be open to the public, and will provide an opportunity to discover how effectively and efficiently funding allocations are being used. The provision is intended to promote accountability, transparency, and oversight of each committee’s resources.

In reporting out this resolution, the committee is recommending to the House an authorization to expend approximately \$141,336,128 in the first session, and \$143,492,530 in the second session. This amount constitutes a five percent reduction for each committee as compared to the amounts each committee received in the 111th Congress.

When consideration is taken for the supplemental funding provided to the Committee on the Judiciary for the impeachment proceedings in the 111th Congress, as well as the amount no longer required for the Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming (which was sunset at the end of the 111th Congress), the overall reduction in funding for the noted committees provides for a 6.65 percent decrease in authorization from last Congress.

The amounts for each committee contained in the primary expense resolution are as follows:

Committee	1st session	2nd session	112th total
Agriculture	\$6,189,494	\$6,045,553	\$12,235,047
Armed Services	7,525,264	7,525,264	15,050,528
Budget	6,033,185	6,033,185	12,066,370
Education and the Workforce	8,346,254	8,346,254	16,692,508
Energy and Commerce	10,980,940	11,428,642	22,409,582

Committee	1st session	2nd session	112th total
Ethics	2,824,535	3,043,776	5,868,311
Financial Services	8,441,264	8,958,018	17,399,282
Foreign Affairs	8,952,470	8,952,470	17,904,940
Homeland Security	8,443,724	8,443,724	16,887,448
House Administration	4,949,176	5,566,837	10,516,013
Judiciary	8,401,406	8,401,406	16,802,812
Natural Resources	7,869,766	7,869,766	15,739,532
Oversight and Government Reform	10,613,054	10,613,054	21,226,108
Rules	3,391,985	3,391,985	6,783,970
Science, Space, and Technology	6,685,637	6,660,637	13,346,273
Small Business	3,214,891	3,659,109	6,874,000
Transportation and Infrastructure	9,915,223	9,915,223	19,830,446
Veterans' Affairs	3,602,745	3,682,512	7,285,256
Ways and Means	9,801,365	9,801,366	19,602,731
Intelligence	5,153,750	5,153,750	10,307,500
Totals	\$141,336,128	\$143,492,530	\$284,828,658

HEARINGS

On March 1 and 2, 2011, the Committee convened a hearing to provide the Chairs and Ranking Members of the standing and select committees an opportunity to present and share their views on their respective budget requests.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On March 9, 2011, by voice vote, the Committee agreed to a motion to report H. Res. 147 favorably to the House without amendment.

COMMITTEE RECORD VOTES

In compliance with House Rule XIII, clause 3(b), with respect to each record vote on a motion to report the resolution and on any amendment offered to the resolution, the Committee states that there were no record votes on the motion to report the resolution.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In compliance with House Rule XXIII, clause 3(c)(1), the Committee states that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under House Rule X, clause 2(b)(1), are incorporated into the general discussion section of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

The resolution does not provide new budget authority, new spending authority, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures and a statement under House Rule XXIII, clause 3(c)(2), and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is not required.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with House Rule XXIII, clause 3(c)(3), the Committee states, with respect to H. Res. 147, that the Director of the Congressional Budget Office did not submit a cost estimate and comparison under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In compliance with House Rule XXIII, clause 3(c)(4), the Committee states that the general discussion section of this report includes a statement of the general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which H. Res. 147 authorizes funding.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

We have joined Chairman Lungren in supporting H. Res. 147, the Committee Funding Resolution, and urge our Democratic colleagues to do so as well.

There is virtually unanimous, bipartisan agreement that our government must find creative, ground-breaking ways to do more with fewer resources. The same challenge faces state and local governments and is being duplicated in American households across the country. Regrettably, these efforts often require painful decisions.

The total budget for the 20 Committees that come before the Committee on House Administration for funding is nearly \$285 million. These committees fulfill a vital, constitutional oversight role for a Federal Government that operates thousands of programs and employs more than 2.1 million civilian employees, excluding the U.S. Postal Service. While Committee Democrats understand why committee budgets were reduced by 5%, we also have great concern that budget cuts will negatively impact our ability to sufficiently conduct our oversight activities. We believe that any discussion or consideration of budget cuts must be done within the context of their impact on our constitutionally-mandated oversight roles and responsibilities.

Virtually across the board, Chairs and Ranking Members in their testimony before us outlined the potential negative impact that reduced funding will have on their ability to hire and retain top-notch talent. At a time when our Nation faces increasingly complicated domestic and international challenges, these potential staff deficiencies are extremely troubling.

We must acknowledge that resource reductions could have a far-reaching impact on the mission of this great institution and its ability to be a viable representative body for the American people. We strongly urge the Republican majority to give these concerns substantial weight when plotting a fiscal course forward.

ROBERT A. BRADY.

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CHARLES GONZALEZ.

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