

S. 2137, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS, 1999  
SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL—  
Continued

[Fiscal year 1999, in millions of dollars]

	De- fense	Non- de- fense	Crime	Man- datory	Total
Outlays .....		2,209		92	2,301
President's request					
Budget authority .....		2,472		94	2,566
Outlays .....		2,411		94	2,505
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority .....		2,330		94	2,424
Outlays .....		2,302		94	2,396
SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO					
Senate 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority .....		-38			-38
Outlays .....					
1998 level:					
Budget authority .....		104		2	106
Outlays .....		119		2	121
President's request					
Budget authority .....		-111			-111
Outlays .....		-83			-83
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority .....		31			31
Outlays .....		26			26

Note.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with current scorekeeping conventions.

RECESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 4 p.m. this afternoon.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:22 p.m., recessed until 4:03 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. STEVENS).

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The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 3225

(Purpose: To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site)

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), for himself, and Mr. COATS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KERREY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. ROBB, proposes an amendment numbered 3225.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CRS WEB SITE INFORMATION.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, all information that—

(A) is available through the Congressional Research Service web site;

(B) is described in paragraph (2); and

(C) is not confidential as determined by—

(i) the Director; or

(ii) the head of a Federal department or agency that provided the information to the Congressional Research Service.

(2) INFORMATION.—The information referred to in paragraph (1)(B) is as follows:

(A) All Congressional Research Service Issue Briefs.

(B) All Congressional Research Service Reports that are available to Members of Congress through the Congressional Research Service web site.

(C) All Congressional Research Service Authorization of Appropriations Products or Appropriations Products.

(3) REMOVAL OF INFORMATION; CHANGES AND UPDATES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Director of the Congressional Research Service may—

(A) remove from the information required to be made available on the Internet under this section the name of, phone number of, and information regarding, an employee of the Congressional Research Service;

(B) remove from the information required to be made available on the Internet under this section, any material the Director determines may infringe the copyright of a work protected under title 17, United States Code; and

(C) make any changes or updates in the information required to be made available on the Internet under this section that the Director determines are necessary to ensure that the information is accurate.

(b) TIME.—The information shall be so made available not earlier than 30 days after the first day the information is available to Members of Congress through the Congressional Research Service web site.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make the information available in a manner that the Director determines—

(1) is practical and reasonable; and

(2) does not permit the submission of comments from the public.

(d) METHOD OF PUBLIC ACCESS.—The public shall have access to the web page containing Congressional Research Service information that is available to the public only through the Library of Congress' THOMAS web page (<http://thomas.loc.gov>). The Director of Congressional Research Service shall work with the Librarian of Congress to establish an appropriate Internet link to carry out this subsection. The Director of Congressional Research Service shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the web page containing Congressional Research Service products. The Director of Congressional Research Service shall have sole discretion to edit the web page based on the criteria established by this Act. The Librarian of Congress shall have the responsibility of working with the Director of Congressional Research Service only to the extent necessary to establish the link from the THOMAS web page to the public access Congressional Research Service web page. Nothing in this Act may be construed to interfere with the Librarian's normal duties concerning THOMAS.

(e) FURTHER APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding the first proviso under the subheading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" under the subheading "CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE" under the heading "LIBRARY OF CONGRESS" under title I of this Act (relating to prior approval of certain publications), the Director shall make information available in accordance with this section without the prior approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate or the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, this amendment to HR 4112 would direct the Director of the Congressional Research Service to post "CRS Reports to Congress" and "CRS Issue Briefs" on the Internet. My intention for offering this amendment would be to establish a web site for the public to access CRS products only through the THOMAS web site. This amendment is co-sponsored by Senators COATS, LEAHY, FAIRCLOTH, ASHCROFT, KERREY, ROBB, FEINGOLD, ABRAHAM, ENZI, and WYDEN.

I believe that it is important that the public be able to use this CRS information. For FY 1999, the American taxpayers will pay \$67.9 million to fund CRS' operations. CRS is well-known for being composed of expert specialists who write reports on the important policy issues of the day that are both factual and unbiased—a rarity for Washington. The public has a right to see that its money is being well-spent and has the right to see the product of their labors.

The CRS products can play an important role in educating the American public. Public access to these documents will mark an important milestone in opening up the federal government. Our constituents will be able to see the research documents that influenced our decisions and understand the trade-offs and factors that we consider before a vote. This will give the public an accurate view of Congress, instead of the current cynical view that sometimes prevails.

Also, constituents can learn a lot from these products. They can receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues before Congress. As elected representatives, we should do what we can to promote an informed, educated public. The educated voter is best able to make decisions and petition us to do the right things here.

I would also like to make my colleagues aware that in many cases these products are already out on the Internet. "Black market" private vendors can charge \$47 for a single report. Other web sites have outdated CRS products on them. It is not fair for the American people to have to pay a third party for out-of-date products that they have already footed the bill for.

I know that my colleagues in the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration have proposed that Senators and Committee chairman be allowed to post CRS products as they see fit on the Internet. I appreciate that gesture, and believe that it is a first step. However, I am proposing this amendment as a way to take this process to the next logical step—a centralized web site.

A centralized web site will make it much easier for the public to find CRS information. The public can just go to a web site and look up those products that interest them. That would be much easier than having them go through all of our web sites to find CRS reports. This web site will be attached to the Congressionally mandated THOMAS web site, so that our