

301, 401-407, 602-606, 609, 612, 705, 707, 712, 721, 1234, 1351-1352, 1704, and 1811 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. POMBO, Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. RAHALL.

Provided that Mr. KIND is appointed in lieu of Mr. RAHALL for consideration of Title IV of Division C of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference.

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of sections 11009, 11025, 12301-12312, 14001-14007, 14009-14015, 14029, 15021-15024, 15031-15034, 15041, 15045, Division B, section 30301, Division E, and Division F of the House bill and sections 501-507, 509, 513-516, 770-772, 807-809, 814-816, 824, 832, 1001-1022, Title XI, Title XII, Title XIII, Title XIV, sections 1502, 1504-1505, Title XVI, and sections 1801-1805 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. HALL.

Provided that Mr. COSTELLO is appointed in lieu of Mr. HALL for consideration of Division E of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference.

Provided that Mr. LAMPSON is appointed in lieu of Mr. HALL for consideration of section 21708 and Division F of the House bill, and sections 824 and 1223 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 11001-11004, 11006, 11009-11011, 12001-12012, 12014, 12401, 12403, 13001, 13201, 13202, 15021-15024, 15031-15034, 15041, 15043, 15051, 16012, 16021, 16022, 16023, 16031, 16081, 16082, 16092, 23001-23004, 30407, 30410, and 30901 of the House bill and sections 102, 201, 205, 301, 701-783, 812, 814, 816, 823, 911-916, 918-920, 949, 1214, 1261-1262, and 1351-1352 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Alaska, PETRI and OBERSTAR.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of Division D of the House bill and Division H and I of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. THOMAS, MCCRERY and RANGEL.

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FREYLINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2765, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday,

July 25, 2003, and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2765.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2765) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, July 25, 2003, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FREYLINGHUYSEN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FREYLINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FREYLINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the fiscal year 2004 District of Columbia Appropriations bill totals \$7.9 billion. Included in this total are \$466 million for Federal payments to various District programs and projects, which I will describe shortly; \$1.8 billion in Federal grants to District agencies; and \$5.6 billion in local funds for operating expenses and capital outlays of the District government.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, is a product of the hard work of every member of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. It is the culmination of several weeks of hearings, visits to local schools and other city institutions, and meetings with elected city officials and numerous others who have a keen interest in helping the District. I want to thank each of them for their interest in the District and their input into this bill. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), my ranking member, for his advice, counsel and support. He has been a pleasure to work with.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this bill reflects Congress' commitment to helping our Nation's capital. This is where we all work and many of us live, our home away from home. So we have special reasons to help our capital city.

How grateful I am to so many of my colleagues for their ongoing efforts, prior to my chairmanship, to assist the citizens of this great city, especially its school children to have better lives, and many thanks, as well, to a number of my colleagues who now seek support for a number of new projects to further help the citizens in this budget.

When I became chairman, I wanted to get to better know this city. I did this by listening and learning, visiting chil-

dren in their schools and touring the many neighborhoods that make up the city. I want to thank Mayor Anthony Williams, Council Chairman Linda Cropp, and School Board President Peggy Cooper Cafritz for the support and advice they have given me.

The Constitution, Mr. Chairman, gives Congress exclusive legislative authority over the affairs of the District, and I take this mandate seriously. The District is in a stronger financial position today than a few years ago. Much of this is due to Mayor Williams and the city council, but we cannot overlook the role Congress has played in the financial recovery as well.

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The District still has a long way to go to resolve many personnel and management problems, but I believe that progress is being made. I stand ready to help in any way I can.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has carefully reviewed the District's budget request and, as reflected in the bill, has given the Mayor and City Council's priorities the highest consideration when putting this bill together.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill totals \$7.9 billion of which \$466 million are Federal payments to various programs and projects. This is \$43 million below last year's allocation and equates to an 8.4 percent reduction.

Seventy-seven percent of these funds, or \$359 million, is to continue funding of the D.C. courts, the Public Defender Service, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, CSSOSA. These are District functions that the Federal Government assumed financial responsibility for in the National Capital Revitalization and Self-government Improvement Act of 1997.

The remaining 23 percent, or \$107 million, are for programs and projects that directly benefit the District. These include: \$17 million for the tuition assistance program for the District for college-bound District students; \$15 million to reimburse the District for added emergency planning and security costs related to the presence of the Federal Government in the District; \$10 million for a D.C. scholarship program; \$42.7 million for capital development projects in the District; dollars for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative; and dollars for public school facility improvements.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I am well aware that the President's request for a school choice program in the District of Columbia, which would provide D.C. school scholarships, has stirred up considerable controversy. Personally, I have supported such scholarships for the District since they were first proposed in 1995 by Members of Congress.

There is excitement that surrounds the very successful charter movement in this city. There are 37 charter schools and 11 more on the drawing boards, more than any other city in the Nation. We have charter schools in this city.