



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 and Agricultural Disaster Assistance and Western States Emergency Unfinished Business Appropriations Act, 2007

SUMMARY

The House proposal would split the bill vetoed by the president into two pieces.

1. A bill that includes the defense spending and other domestic spending from the vetoed bill. The bill fences \$52.8 billion of the \$95.5 billion provided to the Department of Defense until:
 - a. **Reports:** on or before July 13th, the President must submit to Congress reports on the progress the Iraqi government has made in meeting certain benchmarks and goals.
 - b. **Votes:** within 7 legislative days of receiving the reports, the Congress must vote on releasing the fenced off funds. There will be 2 votes – an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to use the fenced funds to redeploy troops from Iraq, and a vote on releasing the funds to the Pentagon.
2. A bill that includes funding for the agricultural disasters package, wildfire suppression, Secure Rural Schools and Pacific Salmon as provided in the vetoed bill.

EXPLANATION

Bill #1

HR 2206 – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007

Key Defense Language

- The bill fences \$52.8 billion of the \$95.5 billion provided to the Department of Defense until released by subsequent legislation:
 - **REPORT:** The bill includes benchmarks similar to those proposed by the President and included in the vetoed bill, and requires the President to report to Congress by July 13 on progress in meeting those benchmarks.

- Giving United States Armed Forces and Iraqi Security Forces the authority to pursue all extremists, including Sunni insurgents and Shiite militias;
 - delivering necessary Iraqi Security Forces for Baghdad and protecting such Forces from political interference;
 - intensifying efforts to build balanced security forces throughout Iraq that provide even-handed security for all Iraqis;
 - ensuring that Iraq's political authorities are not undermining or making false accusations against members of the Iraqi Security Forces;
 - eliminating militia control of local security;
 - establishing a strong militia disarmament program;
 - ensuring fair and just enforcement of laws;
 - establishing political, media, economic, and service committees in support of the Baghdad Security Plan;
 - eradicating safe havens;
 - reducing the level of sectarian violence in Iraq;
 - and ensuring the rights of minority political parties in the Iraqi Parliament are protected.
 - Enacting a broadly accepted hydro-carbon law that equitably shares oil revenues among all Iraqis;
 - adopting legislation necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections, taking steps to implement such legislation, and setting a schedule to conduct provincial and local elections;
 - reforming current laws governing the de-Baathification process to allow for more equitable treatment of individuals affected by such laws;
 - amending the Constitution of Iraq consistent with the principles contained in Article 137 of such constitution;
 - and allocating and beginning expenditure of \$10 billion in Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects, including delivery of essential services, on an equitable basis
- **VOTE:** After receiving the reports in July, both the House and Senate would **vote** on whether to release the remaining Defense funds. Expedited procedures are written into this bill to ensure that the subsequent vote takes place in both Houses by the end of July. These expedited procedures would be considered on the House floor in July in conjunction with the FY 2008 Defense appropriations bill.
- Those procedures would also guarantee a vote in the House on an **amendment** to provide that defense funding related to Iraq could only be used to plan and execute the redeployment of troops within 180 days of enactment. The only exceptions to this troop redeployment would be for troops protecting American diplomatic facilities and American citizens, including members of the U.S. armed forces; serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions; engaging in targeted special actions limited in duration and scope to killing or capturing

members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations with global reach; or training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

Other Defense Provisions

- Requires the President to submit a monthly report accounting for the number of Iraqi security battalions at each level of combat proficiency
- Includes a sense of Congress provision that as battalions of the security forces of Iraq achieve the appropriate combat proficiency sufficient to conduct independent combat operations without support from Coalition forces in Iraq, units of the United States should be withdrawn.
- Also includes:
 - A prohibition on establishment of permanent bases in Iraq;
 - A prohibition on torture; and
 - Murtha troop readiness provisions.

The bill also includes other priorities from the vetoed bill, including:

- \$6.2 billion for international assistance (including food aid) for Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and others;
- \$1.7 billion for military construction related to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- \$1.8 billion for veterans' medical care;
- \$3.1 billion to fully fund Base Realignment and Closure;
- \$2.25 billion to improve homeland security;
- \$6.8 billion for Hurricane Katrina recovery;
- \$663 million for pandemic flu;
- \$400 million for LIHEAP;
- \$396 million to fund the short-term SCHIP fix;
- Minimum wage and associated tax relief provisions; and
- Restrictions on the closure of Walter Reed.

Bill #2

HR 2207 – Agricultural Disaster Assistance and Western States Emergency Unfinished Business Appropriations Act, 2007

This bill includes:

- \$3.5 billion for agricultural disaster relief;
- \$500 million for wildfire suppression;
- \$425 million for Secure Rural Schools; and
- \$60 million for Pacific Salmon.