

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2005 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2004 amount, the 2005 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2005 follow:

[In thousands of dollars]	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2004	\$479,817,978
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2005	496,434,577
House bill, fiscal year 2005	496,665,511
Senate bill, fiscal year 2005	499,489,511
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2005	497,552,511
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2004	+17,734,533
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2005	+1,117,934
House bill, fiscal year 2005	+887,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 2005	-1,937,000

DIVISION G—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2005

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH WIDE MATTERS

The conferees recognize the provisions of H.R. 4755 and the accompanying House Report 108–577, and S. 2666 and the accompanying Senate Report 108–307, and any instructions and detail included in such reports are to be adhered to, unless amended or restated herein.

Many items in both House and Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations bills are identical and are included in the conference agreement without change. The conferees have endorsed statements of policy contained in the House and Senate reports accompanying the appropriations bills, unless amended or restated herein. With respect to those items in the conference agreement that differ between House and Senate bills, the conferees have agreed to the following with the appropriate section numbers, punctuation, and other technical corrections.

The conferees are very concerned with the responsiveness and working relationships between the Committees and the Chief Financial Officers of the agencies of the Legislative Branch. In order for the Committees to review, analyze, evaluate, and provide the budgetary resources to the agencies of the Legislative Branch it is imperative that solid working relationships exist between the Committees and each CFO, and that they provide the highest level of timeliness, accuracy, and confidentiality. The conferees believe that in order for the budgetary cycle to accomplish the appropriate outcome the collaborative arrangements are essential, however, emphasize to the heads of the agencies, that the Committees will proceed with the budgetary process with or without these cooperative and confidential relationships.

It has also come to the attention of the conferees that agencies of the Legislative Branch are using varying assumptions and operating processes at times when the Government is operating under a continuing resolution. The conferees direct the members of Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council to work together to assure that all agencies are operating within the rules, regulations,

and accounting procedures required by a continuing resolution and report its findings to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate by January 31, 2005.

The conferees emphasize to the Legislative Branch agencies that the large budgetary increases requested in the fiscal year 2005 budget submissions cannot be sustained. The conferees encourage the agencies to submit more reasonable budget requests for fiscal year 2006, and thereafter.

TITLE I

SENATE

Appropriates \$726,067,000 for Senate operations. Inasmuch as these items relate solely to the Senate, and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the House, at the request of the managers on the part of the Senate, have receded to the amendments of the Senate.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Appropriates \$1,048,581,000 for House operations. Inasmuch as these items relate solely to the House, and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the Senate, at the request of the managers on the part of the House, have receded to the amendments of the House.

JOINT ITEMS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Appropriates \$4,139,000 as proposed by the House and the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Appropriates \$8,433,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$8,476,000 as proposed by the Senate.

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

Appropriates \$2,528,000 as proposed by the House and the Senate.

CAPITOL GUIDE SERVICE AND SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Appropriates \$3,844,000 for the Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office as proposed by the House and the Senate.

STATEMENTS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriates \$30,000 as proposed by the House and the Senate.

CAPITOL POLICE

The conferees are very concerned that the Chief of the Capitol Police has made operational decisions, which necessitated levels of spending in excess of funds appropriated, without consultation with the Committees. The conferees direct that the Chief abide by the Antideficiency Act and that the Department will operate within its appropriations for the fiscal year. The Chief of Police should not expect supplemental funding if he exceeds the appropriation. In the future, all permanent security improvements are to be funded within existing appropriations not the Emergency Response Fund. If a long-term security need exists, the conferees expect the Chief to propose funding solutions, and await approval from the Capitol Police Board and the appropriate committees of Congress for a permanent solution.

The conferees direct that the Chief of Police make every effort to keep the Committees informed of all issues impacting appropriations in a more timely manner. The Chief of Police is directed to report quarterly, by approved line item, on obligations to date compared to the original budgeted items, beginning with the first quarter of fiscal year 2005, ending December 31, 2004.

SALARIES

Appropriates \$203,440,000 for salaries of officers, members, and employees of the Capitol Police as proposed by the House instead of \$198,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The fiscal year 2002 conference report (H. Rpt. 107-259) accompanying the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill outlined reprogramming guidelines for the Legislative Branch. The conferees are very concerned that the Capitol Police have not followed the prescribed guidelines outlined in the fiscal year 2002 conference report. The conferees direct the Government Accountability Office to audit the budgetary execution of the Capitol Police, beginning with fiscal year 2002, to determine if the established reprogramming guidelines are being followed. The GAO is to report its findings to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate within 90 days of enactment of this Act. The conferees further direct that the GAO continue to monitor the Capitol Police budget, in terms of reprogramming actions, and report all reprogramming actions in its regular semi-annual reports regarding the Capitol Police administrative operations.

The conferees are concerned with the broad interpretation by the Capitol Police regarding the obligation and expenditure of funds under the auspice of a declared emergency situation. The conferees direct the Government Accountability Office to review the policies, procedures, notification criteria, and approval processes of the Capitol Police to obtain the appropriate approvals by the Capitol Police Board and the Committees on Appropriations when funding is required during an emergency situation. The GAO is directed to report its findings to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate no later than January 31, 2005.

The USCP has recently presented to the Committees on Appropriations another new plan for reorganizing the Department. The conferees acknowledge that changes to the USCP organization will

be necessary to effectively address strategic objectives, performance measures, recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, and changing conditions reflected in regular updates of the threat assessment. However, organizational changes proposed by the USCP, to date, fail to link specifically desired outcomes to a clearly defined set of strategic objectives emanating from an approved strategic plan. Reorganization proposals do not adequately reflect recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office to establish a clear link between organization structure, strategic objectives, and staffing requirements. Therefore, the conferees do not approve any changes in organizational structure at this time. The department has experienced a considerable amount of growth over the past few years in both mission and resources. The conferees believe that it is important for the USCP to develop a reorganization plan that is clear, transparent, and supports the efficient and effective use of current and requested resources. The plan should clearly demonstrate how the proposed organizational realignment is tied to the strategic objectives in an approved strategic plan which is founded on the following criteria: results of an up-to-date threat assessment; well-defined policies; and new or reformed practices designed to transform and modernize the force in response to post-9/11 security requirements. The conferees believe that an independent review of a proposed USCP reorganization plan, including the application of best practices, where applicable, would be helpful in this regard and directs the Government Accountability Office to undertake such a review. The GAO will report its findings and make recommendations that will assist the Chief and the Capitol Police Board in the development of a reorganization plan. The GAO should report the results of its review to the Committees and the Capitol Police Board by February 28, 2005.

The conferees direct that 10 additional civilian administrative FTEs be allocated within existing "Salaries" resources as follows: three accountants for FMS start-up and operations, a budget analyst for budget execution, a manpower analyst, a facilities administrator, a vehicle maintenance administrator, an assets manager, and two human resources specialists. In addition, the conferees direct that from within existing "General Expenses" resources, the Capitol Police contract for the staffing resources to cover the requirements for wireless technicians, currently estimated at four FTEs, and for radio installation repair technicians and security control operators, currently estimated at 11 FTEs. The conferees believe that these positions will permit the USCP to properly address growing issues with financial management, human resources management, workforce planning and budget, as well as technical requirements. The conferees expect that a portion of these resources will be used by the USCP to assist in the analysis and evaluation of mission requirements as related to organization structure and overall staffing needs. The conferees also expect that prior to any future requests for additional FTEs, the Capitol Police Board will present to the Committees a workforce plan that clearly communicates the relationship between a revised organizational structure and an approved strategic plan that is based on the following criteria: an up-to-date threat assessment; security policies and procedures approved by the Capitol Police Board; best prac-

tices that are consistent with similar institutions; and human resources policies and practices designed to maximize the effective and efficient use of FTEs.

The conferees further direct that the Capitol Police review all existing operations and general expenses to determine if any outsourcing opportunities exist and report those findings to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate by March 1, 2005.

The conferees are concerned over the inflated estimates for the "Salaries" appropriations submitted by the Chief of Police. This situation has resulted in excess unobligated balances of \$19.6 million, or 11.2% in fiscal year 2003 and \$11.2 million, or 5.7% in fiscal year 2004. This practice is inexcusable, especially in consideration of the budget restraints under which the Congress is operating.

GENERAL EXPENSES

Appropriates \$28,888,000 for general expenses of the Capitol Police, instead of \$28,925,000, as proposed by the Senate.

As directed in the fiscal year 2005 House Report (108-577), the Chief of Police is to report on the economics of continuing the use of the Capitol Police command vehicle due to the requested maintenance cost of \$200,000 for 2005. The conferees are concerned that, since November 2003, the USCP have been aware of major mechanical structural problems with the vehicle and did not inform the Committees. The study, which was to be submitted to the Committees on September 1, 2004, was not received until November 5, 2004. It was then reported that the command vehicle is "mechanically and structurally unsound for service," and had been removed from service on November 1, 2004. The conferees note that \$1.6 million was invested in the command vehicle and direct that no further funding be obligated or expended for this vehicle until all options are explored on its continued use and reported to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate by February 1, 2005.

The conferees direct the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study of the equestrian unit of the USCP. The study is to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, cost benefits, risk analysis, and overall operations of the unit. The study is to be provided to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate by March 15, 2005.

The conferees direct that the Chief of Police provide the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate a quarterly report of all travel of the command staff of the Capitol Police. This report should provide the names of the travelers, the dates and purpose of the travel, and all costs including any training or registration fees associated with the travel. These reports should begin with the first quarter ending December 31, 2004.

The conferees urge the Capitol Police to deploy wherever appropriate first applied sorbent treatment for use by the Hazardous Materials Response Team in chemical decontamination efforts.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conferees have included an administrative provision allowing for the transfer of funds upon the approval of the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate.

In addition, the conferees have included an administrative provision relating to hiring authority of the Capitol Police. The conferees also included authorization for the Capitol Police to carry a specifically authorized weapon during periods when the officer or member is not on duty that is different from the weapon furnished by the Department. The conferees have provided authority for setting pay with the Capitol Police Board or the Chief of the Capitol Police. The conferees have provided authority for the acceptance of donations of animals for the canine unit. The conferees have also provided authority to the Chief of the Capitol Police to settle Federal tort claims, in accordance with Title 31 of the United States Code, with reporting requirements to the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The conferees have included a provision related to the protection of information that is sensitive to the policing, protection, physical security, counter terrorism, emergency response, and preparedness of the Congress and the Capitol buildings and grounds. Language has also been included regarding the General Counsel that is not intended to effect changes to the current organizational structure. The conferees have also included a provision relating to deployment of the Capitol Police outside of their jurisdiction.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriates \$2,421,000 as proposed by the House and the Senate. The conferees have agreed to strike the student loan repayment provision. The conferees remind the Office of Compliance that funding provided for cost-of-living increases is not to be used for any other purpose without the prior approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriates \$34,919,000 instead of \$34,790,000 as proposed by the House and Senate. The additional amount of \$129,000 is provided to cover the increased agency cost for the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Appropriates \$80,347,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for general administration, instead of \$79,581,000 as proposed by the House and \$74,063,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount appropriated, \$2,220,000 shall remain available until September

30, 2009, instead of \$1,500,000 as proposed by the House and \$720,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees are concerned that little has been accomplished through the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) function, which the Congress created in fiscal year 2003. This function was intended to improve management, streamline day-to-day Architect of the Capitol (AOC) operations, and effectuate team building.

Specifically, Public Law 108-7 required that the COO prepare an action plan describing “the policies, procedures, and actions” to be implemented “and timeframes for carrying out the responsibilities under this section”. The conferees note that the action plan submitted to Congress by the COO did not adequately describe how the COO would carry out the assigned responsibilities detailed in the legislation. Because the submitted action plan is outlined at such a general level, it fails to convey how the listed items link together to move the agency forward and address the Agency’s long-standing and well known weaknesses, the reason the COO position was created. In addition, the plan lacks details of the steps necessary for completing the listed items, nor does it explain how individual items will be measured in order to monitor AOC’s performance. Further, the plan does not specify how the items listed in the action plan relate to and link with the AOC’s strategic plan, released on December 15, 2003, even though the legislation required that the action plan be “developed concurrently and consistent with the development of a strategic plan.”

In addition, the action plan was to be submitted not later than 90 days after the appointment of the Chief Operating Officer on July 28, 2003, but the plan was not received until December 22, 2003, almost 2 months late and with no evidence of having benefited from additional work over that period. The conferees note that the action plan was delivered without briefing or discussion, which could have provided the relevant Committees with better understanding regarding the details of the implementation of the plan.

Based on ongoing monitoring efforts conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), it appears that there have been no substantive improvements made to overall AOC operations by the new COO. In fact, the conferees are concerned that efforts by the COO to direct changes without the context of strategic objectives and a transparent, well-organized change management process are having a negative impact on morale, productivity, and effectiveness of the AOC as an institution. It is apparent that the COO has not seriously addressed the intended results of this law and that he has either misunderstood or intentionally ignored the purpose for which the position was created. Therefore, the conferees have eliminated funding of \$171,000 for the salary and benefit costs of the incumbent of the Chief Operating Officer position. The conferees further direct that Architect of the Capitol enters into a contract with an executive employment search organization to perform a nation-wide recruitment for a new Chief Operating Officer. The conferees further direct that a panel comprised of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Public Printer of the United States, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, a designee from the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and a designee from the office of the Architect of the Capitol review the

applications, interview the top applicants, and forward a recommendation, including not less than three applicants, to the Architect of the Capitol for his review and final selection within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

The conferees have agreed to defer the transfer of FTEs and associated costs as proposed by the Senate until an organizational structure is approved for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

The conferees are concerned that the AOC has ignored previous directives to improve the quality of the FTE data analysis submitted in the annual budget, particularly related to ongoing and new projects, and therefore, direct that these very important FTE projection and tracking issues be readdressed by the Architect. The conferees found the previous recommendations by the AOC to remedy the FTE analysis difficulties to be questionable, including the AOC proposals to completely remove the FTE caps, or to increase the caps to significantly higher levels without justification. It is understood that the FTE situation in the AOC is complex due to the multi-faceted responsibilities of the Architect, including ongoing operations, annual and multi-year projects; a variety of funding sources; and the various types of positions that are required to accomplish these responsibilities. However, it is due to these varying and complex factors that more systemic processes and greater controls are required for FTE estimates, projections and tracking. The AOC needs to provide comprehensive, meaningful, realistic, and transparent FTE data.

The conferees have agreed to defer the establishment of a separate FTE cap for the Construction Management Division (CMD), as proposed by the House. The AOC has been provided relief from the FTE caps for project work for the past two years. The conferees agree that a less cumbersome, yet accurate, approach for managing FTE data is required. Therefore, the conferees direct the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Accountability Office to work together to prepare a report with recommendations that will address and improve the AOC's ability to estimate, track, and report on all FTEs. The report is to include recommendations for improvements that address FTE data by appropriation and organizational levels, including permanent and temporary FTEs required for each of the following categories: all jurisdiction operations, including those in general administration; ongoing and new projects performed by the superintendents; and ongoing and new projects performed by the CMD. The recommendations will take into account that data should be derived from a zero-base for all temporary employees, including non-project and support temporary positions as well as temporary project positions for both superintendent jurisdictions and CMD projects.

Further, the report will address future personnel requirements by contracting out functions to free up FTEs for functions that are inherently governmental. The conferees further direct that the caps established in FY 2004 will continue in FY 2005. The report with recommendations is to be delivered to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act.

The conferees note that there have been complaints regarding the responsiveness of the Architect of the Capitol to the needs of

clients. The conferees remind the Architect that the organization must reflect a posture that is timely, professional, and responsive.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$277,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the General Administration appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$77,467,000
Project Budget:	
1. Emergency Defibrillators	660,000
2. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment	720,000
Legislative Call System	(120,000)
Telecommunications infrastructure	(350,000)
ACF Emergency Vehicle Storage Facility	(250,000)
3. CATV System Upgrade Design	1,500,000
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Total, General Administration	80,347,000

CAPITOL BUILDING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriates \$28,857,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for maintenance, care, and operation of the Capitol building, instead of \$18,185,000 as proposed by the House and \$24,784,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount appropriated, \$14,500,000 shall remain available until expended, instead of \$4,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$8,770,000 as proposed by the Senate to remain available until September 30, 2009.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$72,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Capitol Building appropriation.

The conferees have agreed to include authority for the transfer of up to \$10,600,000 to the Capitol Visitor Center project. The conferees are distressed with the Architect's ongoing inability to provide the Committees with accurate cost estimates and delivery schedules on this very important and high profile project. Since the commencement of the project, the Committees have made every effort to work with the Architect and staff through these issues, and yet, continue to receive notifications of schedule delays, unforeseen requirements, and escalating costs of the Capitol Visitor Center.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$14,814,000
Project Budget:	
1. Replacement of Minton Tile	473,000
2. Computer, Telecom, and Electrical Support	300,000
3. Restore Shutters & Upgrade Window Lighting	400,000
4. CVC Facility Maintenance	6,000,000
5. Install Emergency Exit Signs & Lighting	1,000,000
6. CVC Start-up Operations	3,270,000
7. Minor Construction	2,500,000
8. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment:	
Subway Terminal Water Infiltration	100,000
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Total, Capitol Building	28,857,000

CAPITOL GROUNDS

Appropriates \$6,974,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for the care and improvements of the grounds surrounding the Capitol, House and Senate office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, instead of \$7,033,000, of which \$527,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009, as proposed by the House and \$6,940,000, as proposed by the Senate.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$34,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Capitol Grounds appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$6,509,000
Project Budget:	
1. Restore Decorative Vases & Lights, W. Terrace	78,000
2. Inaugural Support	10,000
3. Renovate Former D.C. Street Lights	177,000
4. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment: Restoration of the Summerhouse	100,000
5. Wayfinding and ADA Compliant Signage	100,000
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Total, Capitol Grounds	6,974,000

SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Appropriates \$62,083,000, of which \$9,070,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009, to the Architect of the Capitol for the maintenance, care, and operation of the Senate office buildings. Inasmuch as this item relates solely to the Senate, and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the House, at the request of the managers on the part of the Senate, have receded to the Senate.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$219,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Senate Office Buildings appropriation.

Operating Budget	\$52,112,000
Project Budget:	
1. Refinish Historic Woodwork	285,000
2. Repair Marble Floors & Clean Architectural Surfaces	510,000
3. Roof Maintenance	300,000
4. Seal Fire Wall Penetrations, HSOB, DSOB	300,000
5. Ramp Repair, HSOB Garage	200,000
6. Replace Suite Counters, Sinks & Faucets, HSOB	100,000
7. General Painting	150,000
8. Workman Vehicle	25,000
9. Man-Lift (Masonry Shop)	19,000
10. General Purpose Utility Vehicle	12,000
11. Replace Modular Furniture, HSOB	3,700,000
12. Renovate Restrooms, ADA, HOB	1,300,000
13. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment	2,350,000
Study/Design, Existing Fire Alarm System Upgrade	(750,000)
Design, Replace Roof and Skylights, HOB	(600,000)
Design, Renovate North Server	(300,000)
Study, Reclaim Parking under Senate Office Buildings and Space Utilization	(250,000)

Study, Waterproofing/Code Compliant Upgrades, Old Senate Tunnel	(100,000)
Design, Fire Alarm System ADA Upgrade, DSOB	(75,000)
Assessment, Penetrations of Fire Resistant Rated Walls, RSOB	(70,000)
Design, Sprinkler Protection for Legislative Garage	(65,000)
Design, Renovation of South Buffet	(50,000)
Assessment and Design, Taft Memorial	(50,000)
Design, Pre-action Sprinkler System, Russell Library	(40,000)
14. HVAC: Elevator Machine Room Modernization	420,000
15. Furniture, Special Allowance	300,000
Total, Senate Office Buildings	62,083,000

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Appropriates \$65,353,000, of which \$27,103,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009, to the Architect of the Capitol for the maintenance, care, and operation of the House office buildings. Inasmuch as this item relates solely to the House, and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the Senate, at the request of the managers on the part of the House, have receded to the House.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$223,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the House Office Buildings appropriation.

The conferees direct the Architect of the Capitol to administer fire code regulations in the House office buildings under the same protocols used for administration of fire codes in the Capitol building.

Operating Budget	\$37,900,000
Project Budget:	
1. Egress Door Improvements	200,000
2. Replace Chilled Water Coils, FHOB	150,000
3. Minor Construction	5,000,000
4. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment	1,955,000
Design, RHOB Egress	(500,000)
Design, FHOB Egress	(80,000)
Study, Upgrade Room 1100, RHOB	(400,000)
Design, Repairs to Garage Floor, RHOB	(975,000)
5. CAO Project Support	4,894,000
6. Replace Windows, FHOB	4,900,000
7. Exterior Waterproofing, Underground Garages	2,954,000
8. Extend Sprinkler Systems	3,300,000
9. Fire Alarm System Upgrade, HOB (Less RHOB)	1,100,000
10. Staff Fitness Facility	3,000,000
Total, House Office Buildings	65,353,000

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

In addition to \$4,400,000 made available from receipts credited as reimbursements to this appropriation, appropriates \$56,834,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for maintenance, care, and operation of the Capitol Power Plant, instead of \$56,139,000 as proposed by the House and \$60,928,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount appropriated, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009, instead of \$630,000 as proposed by the House and \$2,190,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$63,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Capitol Power Plant appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget (net)	\$53,015,000
Project Budget:	
1. Implement Shoring and Repairs to Tunnels	100,000
2. Replace Expansion Joints	1,342,000
3. Retube Condensers, West Refrigeration Plant.	866,000
4. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment	1,000,000
Design, In-Plant Power Generation	(750,000)
Design, Upgrade Environmental Control Equipment	(250,000)
5. Remove Tar Paper/Reinsulate Violet Tunnel	261,000
6. Repair/Maintenance Chiller Motors 6A & 5	250,000
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Total, Capitol Power Plant (net)	56,834,000

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Appropriates \$40,097,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for structural and mechanical care of the Library buildings and grounds instead of \$34,783,000 as proposed by the House and \$65,145,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount appropriated, \$21,506,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009 instead of \$18,110,000 as proposed by the House and \$47,114,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$78,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Library Buildings and Grounds appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$17,516,000
Project Budget:	
1. Repair Life Safety Deficiencies	400,000
2. Replace Partitions Supports, JMMB	250,000
3. Painting, TJB Arches and Ft. Meade Module 1	245,000
4. Replace Sidewalks, JAB & TJB	100,000
5. Preservation Environmental Monitoring	80,000
6. Minor Construction	1,300,000
7. Collections Security	860,000
8. Sprinkler System Upgrades, TJB	6,754,000
9. Smoke Detector Upgrades, TJB	3,850,000
10. ADA Bathroom Renovations, JAB	3,700,000
11. Sprinkler System Upgrades, JAB	2,400,000
12. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment, Infrastructure Maintenance	842,000
Design, Replace Rain Leaders	300,000
Design, Repair/Replace Copper Roof	(215,000)
Design, Roof Repairs, TJB	(200,000)
Study, Coil Deterioration, TJB & JAB	(75,000)
Design, Conservation of Murals	(52,000)
13. Design, LOC Egress Improvements	1,800,000
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Total, Library Buildings and Grounds	40,097,000

CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Appropriates \$5,853,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for the maintenance, care, and operation of buildings and grounds of the

Capitol Police instead of \$4,883,000 as proposed by the House and \$7,090,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount appropriated, \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2009, instead of no multi-year funding as proposed by the House and \$1,500,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$3,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Capitol Police Buildings and Grounds appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the House and Senate conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$4,853,000
Project Budget:	
1. USCP Furniture Replacement	500,000
2. Study, Design, and Condition Assessment	500,000
Annual Update to USCP Facilities Master Plan	(100,000)
Study, Replacement of 67 K Street Facility	(200,000)
Two Decontamination Support Stations	(200,000)
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Total, Capitol Police Buildings and Grounds	5,853,000

BOTANIC GARDEN

Appropriates \$6,326,000, to the Architect of the Capitol for the Botanic Garden, instead of \$5,932,000 as proposed by the House and \$6,294,000 as proposed by the Senate. The increase includes \$62,000 for one new FTE.

Included in the operating budget is an additional \$32,000 to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System for employees paid through the Botanic Garden appropriation.

With respect to operations and projects the conferees have agreed to the following:

Operating Budget	\$5,783,000
Project Budget:	
1. D.C. Village Facility, Roof Replacement	243,000
2. Partnership Support	300,000
	<hr/>
Total, Botanic Garden	6,326,000

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conference agreement includes an administrative provision that requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study to analyze the cost, cost effectiveness, benefits, and feasibility of the Architect of the Capitol entering into a contract with a private entity for the management and operation of the Capitol Power Plant.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Provides \$384,671,000 for salaries and expenses, Library of Congress instead of \$373,225,000 as proposed by the House and \$379,648,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of this amount, \$6,350,000 is made available from receipts collected by the Library of Congress and shall remain available until expended; and \$12,481,000 shall remain available until expended for acquisition of books, periodicals, newspapers, and other library materials as pro-

posed by the House instead of \$11,981,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees have provided 2 FTEs and \$256,000 for the Office of the Inspector General to address information technology security audits. The conferees have agreed to a base reduction of 3 FTEs and \$300,000 in accordance with Public Law 106-57, Section 208.

The conferees expect the Librarian of Congress to work with the established educational consortium to draft future budgets for the Adventure of the American Mind program and to submit them to Congress. The conferees further direct that the Library of Congress and the educational consortium establish a program in Georgia to be funded within existing resources.

An amount of \$616,000 is included to cover anticipated increased agency contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System.

With respect to program allowances the conferees have agreed to the following:

1. Adventures of the American Mind	\$2,250,000
2. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission	500,000
3. Middle Eastern Text Initiative	500,000
4. National Film Preservation Board and National Film Preservation Foundation	500,000
5. NAVCC—Culpeper Project	19,538,000
6. Department of State Capital Security Cost-Sharing Program.	1,200,000
7. Veterans History Project	1,035,000
8. Security Equipment Maintenance	930,000
9. Information Technology System Maintenance	1,000,000
10. Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training	100,000
11. Cooperative Preservation and Conservation Project	300,000

COPYRIGHT OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Provides \$53,611,000, including \$33,477,000 made available from receipts, for salaries and expenses, Copyright Office, instead of \$53,518,000 as proposed by the House and Senate. The \$93,000 increase provides for the increased cost of FERS.

The conferees are encouraged by the Copyright Office's recent efforts to reengineer its processes, creating an electronic Copyright Office where applications and copies of copyright works can be submitted, processed and stored in digital form. An electronic system will provide the public with better access to copyrights and better enable the protection of copyrights and other intellectual property. The conferees also recognize that for any electronic system to be complete and useful to the public, it must also include all previous copyright records not currently in electronic form. The conferees are pleased that the office has initiated a study which will assess the costs and feasibility, as well as technical approaches, of converting its historical records so that there will be electronic access to all records from 1790 to the present. The conferees understand that there will be costs associated with such an effort, and will be interested to hear the office's proposal to begin to transition the historical records into electronic and searchable format.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriates \$96,893,000 for salaries and expenses, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, instead of \$96,385,000 as proposed by the House and \$96,678,000 as proposed by the Senate. The increase over the House allowance provides \$293,000 for mandatory pay reallocations and \$215,000 for the increased cost of FERS.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriates \$54,412,000 for Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, salaries and expenses, instead of \$60,187,000 as proposed by the House and \$53,937,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the appropriated amount, \$16,235,000 shall remain available until expended instead of \$22,210,000 as proposed by the House and \$15,960,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement provides \$275,000 above the amount requested for the Digital Talking Book Project. The conference agreement also provides \$200,000 to remain available until expended to defray telecommunications costs for the National Federation of the Blind "NEWSLINE" audio daily newspaper service. This funding will complete the project that was begun in fiscal year 2003.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

In addition to various technical corrections the conferees have agreed to a provision pertaining to the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The conferees have included an administrative provision that limits the amount of reimbursement to the Department of State for maintenance, upgrade, and construction.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING AND BINDING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriates \$88,800,000 as proposed by the House and the Senate.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriates \$31,953,000 for Office of the Superintendent of Documents, salaries and expenses instead of \$32,524,000 proposed by the House and \$31,935,000 proposed by the Senate. The \$18,000 above the Senate allowance covers the increased cost of FERS. The conferees have agreed to a FTE cap of 2,621 as proposed by the Senate instead of 2,889 as proposed by the House.

The conferees support public access to materials in the Federal Depository Library Program's legacy and electronic collections and

authorize the Superintendent of Documents to move forward with this program within available FTEs and funding.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conferees have agreed to the administrative provision proposed by the House and Senate authorizing the Superintendent of Documents to discount sales copies of GPO publications below the current limitation.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Provides \$478,392,000, of which \$7,419,000 is from offsetting collections, for salaries and expenses, Government Accountability Office instead of \$481,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$477,419,000 as proposed by the Senate. The increase of \$973,000 above the Senate allowance is to cover the increased cost of FERS.

The conferees have withdrawn the request made by the House for the Government Accountability Office to provide a report outlining the statutory responsibilities of the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Joint Committee on Taxation.

The conferees support the Senate report language (108–307) on technology assessments and mail screening technology.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conferees have agreed to an administrative provision proposed by the Senate which amends the Anti-Deficiency Act to require the heads of executive agencies and the Mayor of the District of Columbia to transmit to the Comptroller General copies of reports of violations of the Act at the same time violations are reported to the Congress.

PAYMENT TO THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

Appropriates \$13,500,000 for a payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund, as proposed by the Senate instead of \$6,750,000 as proposed by the House.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The conferees have agreed to a provision that expands the Open World Leadership countries upon submission of a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate; and to a provision that amends the language relating to the membership of the board.

TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

In Title II, General Provisions, section numbers have been changed to conform to the conference agreement and technical corrections have been made.

The conferees have included a provision that authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to maintain and improve landscape features of property located near the House office buildings.

The conferees have included a provision that prohibits funding in the Act, from being transferred except as provided in this Act.

The conferees have included a provision that agencies of the Legislative Branch shall not be required to use the eTravel Service established by the General Services Administration.

The conferees have included a provision that authorizes permanent separation incentive payments to employees of the Legislative Branch as was provided to all Executive branch agencies in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296.

The conferees have included a House provision that prohibits the use of funds to study, design, plan, or construct a fence around the Capitol Grounds.

The conferees have included the Senate provision that makes technical corrections to the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act; and a provision that transfers property near the Japanese American Patriotism Memorial to the Architect of the Capitol.

The conferees have included a provision relating to the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2005 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2004 amount, the 2005 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2005 follows:

[In thousands of dollars]	
New budget (obligational authority, fiscal year 2004	\$3,527,460
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2005	3,977,283
House bill, fiscal year 2005	2,750,522
Senate bill, fiscal year 2005	3,575,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2005	3,575,000
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2004	+47,540
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, Fiscal year 2005	-402,283
House bill, fiscal year 2005	+824,478
Senate bill, fiscal year 2005	—

DIVISION H—DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND TREASURY, INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

The conferees agree that Executive Branch propensities cannot substitute for Congress' own statements concerning the best evidence of Congressional intentions; that is, the official reports of the Congress. The committee of conference approves report language included by the House (House Report 108-671) or the Senate (Senate Report 108-342) that is not changed by the conference. The statement of the managers, while repeating some report language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.