



APPROPRIATIONS ANALYSIS

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FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 2771)

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SUMMARY

As reported, the fiscal year 2008 Legislative Branch appropriations bill (excluding Senate items) provides budget authority that is \$122 million, or 4.1 percent, above the regular 2007 enacted level. But it is \$276 million, or 8.2 percent, below the level transmitted with the President’s 2008 budget. It is the fifth of 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2008, and complies with its subcommittee spending allocation.

By tradition, the President does not directly request funding for Congress or its support agencies – such as the Architect of the Capitol and the Congressional Budget Office – but simply passes through the amounts *as requested* by the various legislative agencies. The House bill does not include appropriations for the Senate, because each chamber determines its funding requirements independently.

COST AND BUDGET COMPLIANCE

Overall, the bill provides \$3.1 billion in discretionary budget authority [BA] and \$3.3 billion in discretionary outlays. The bill also provides \$126 million in mandatory budgetary authority and an equivalent amount of mandatory outlays. The bill does not contain advance appropriations, cap adjustments or emergency designated spending. The bill contains no rescissions or changes to existing mandatory programs.

In total, H.R. 2771 is \$920 million in BA and \$737 million in outlays under its 302(b) allocation because it does not include funding for Senate items. The bill does not violate the Budget Act and does not cause a breach of the budget resolution levels for BA or outlays.

Table 1: Legislative Branch Appropriations
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2007 Level ^a	President 2008	302(b) for 2008	H.R. 2771
Budget Authority	3,774	4,362	4,024	3,104 ^a
Outlays	3,950	4,298	4,036	3,299 ^a

^a Excludes Senate funding and emergency-designated appropriations.

DISCUSSION

Noteworthy items funded in the bill include the following:

- \$1.2 billion for salaries and expenses to cover the operations of the House of Representatives, including House leadership offices, Member’s representational allowances, and committee salaries. The total includes \$130 million for standing committees and \$30 million for the Appropriations Committee. The figure is an overall increase of \$54 million, or 5 percent, excluding emergencies.

- \$581 million for Member’s representational allowances for official expenses, \$26.3 million above the regular 2007 level but \$30 million below the request level.

- \$348 million for the Architect of the Capitol [AOC] (excluding the Senate), including \$82 million for General Administration, \$25 million for the Capitol Building, and \$83 million for the Capitol Power Plant. In particular, the bill would establish a statutory Inspector General for the AOC given the ongoing management problems.