



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

Summary: Financial Services and General Government Appropriations *Conference Report*

Funding: Overall, the conference agreement provides \$21.526 billion in discretionary funding for FY2012. This is consistent with the conference allocation based on the Budget Control Act. The conference agreement funding is \$222 million (1%) less than the FY2011 Full-Year CR enacted level of \$21.75 billion.

Conference Agreement Summary

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund: The conference agreement provides \$221 million, a decrease of \$5.5 million (2.4%) below the FY2011 enacted level of \$226.5 million. The conference agreement will continue critical seed funding that generates private investor confidence to support community development projects in our nation's underserved communities, including affordable housing developments, retail developments, small business loans, and community facilities such as day care centers. The conference agreement also specifies \$21 million for an initiative to support financing of healthy food projects.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): The conference agreement provides an overall total of \$11.817 billion, a decrease of \$305 million (2.5%) below the FY2011 enacted level. While this amount is less than the FY2011 enacted level, the conference funding designated for tax law enforcement and taxpayer services represents an increase of \$154 million above the Senate committee funding level and \$301 million above the House committee funding level. The conference agreement funds the IRS Business Systems Modernization account, the IRS's top priority for FY2012, at \$330.2 million, an increase of \$67 million (25%) above the FY2011 enacted level. These funds will support completion for the 2012 tax filing season of the migration from obsolete legacy systems to a state-of-the-art data system with capacity for daily posting, expedited refund processing, and enhanced customer service.

Treasury, Other: The conference agreement provides \$1.125 million for other Treasury programs including terrorism and financial intelligence programs, tax and economic policy analysis, the Special Inspector General for TARP, and administration of federal disbursements such as Social Security payments. The recommended level is \$21 million below the FY2011 enacted level due to identified efficiency savings.

Office of National Drug Control Policy (part of the Executive Office of the President): The conference agreement provides \$355.7 million, which is \$49 million (13.7%) below the FY2011 enacted level. \$238.5 million is provided for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, the same as the FY2011 enacted level. \$92 million is provided for the Drug-Free Communities Program, \$2.8 million (3%) below the FY2011 enacted level. Due to funding constraints and mixed reviews, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is eliminated (funded at \$35 million in FY2011).

The Judiciary: The conference agreement provides \$6.97 billion in mandatory and discretionary funding for the Federal Courts, an increase of \$63 million or 0.9% above the FY2011 enacted level. At this funding level, the Courts will continue at current operations and be able to acquire court security systems and equipment requested by the U.S. Marshals Service to provide adequate protection for the courts.

District of Columbia: The conference agreement provides \$665.6 million in Federal payments for designated purposes. Of the recommended Federal payments, \$538 million (81%) is for the salaries and expenses of the local courts, defender services, and pre-trial and post-conviction offender supervision, all of which are fully dependent on Federal funds for their operations and independent of local government. The amount designated for the District government is \$127.5 million, of which \$90 million (71%) is for education-related functions (school improvement and D.C. Tuition Assistance Grants for post-secondary education). The conference agreement provides a \$5 million Federal payment to the District of Columbia, as requested by the President, to support initiatives for the treatment and testing of persons with HIV/AIDS.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC): The conference agreement provides \$114.5 million, a decrease of \$0.3 million or 0.3% below the FY2011 enacted level, to monitor the safety of consumer products. The conference agreement does not eliminate the Consumer Product Safety Commission database and does not require a GAO cost-benefit study of Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. The conferees support efforts to address hazards from button cell batteries and window blinds.

Election Assistance Commission (EAC): The conference agreement provides \$11.5 million, a decrease of almost \$5 million, or 41%, below the FY2011 level.

General Services Administration (GSA): The conference agreement provides \$50 million for construction and acquisition and \$280 million for repair of federal buildings and courthouses. Funding in the amount of \$4.6 million for policy and operations is rescinded for that.

Office of Special Counsel (OSC): The conference bill provides \$18.97 million, an increase of \$514,000 (2.7%) over the FY2011 enacted level, to help address staffing needs to meet expanded responsibilities to protect the reemployment rights of veterans returning from active duty.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC): The Senate bill provides \$1.321 billion, an increase of \$136 million (11%) above the FY2011 enacted level (which was a 7% increase above FY2010 funding). This funding supports increased legal and investigative staffing for oversight and enforcement responsibilities to protect investors, facilitate capital formation, and maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets. It will support SEC efforts to meet significant new mandates under the Wall Street reform law, as well as substantial investments in IT upgrades.

Small Business Administration (SBA): The conference agreement provides \$918.8 million for SBA, an increase of \$189 million (6%) above the FY2011 enacted level. The conference agreement ensures that small business lending remains at maximum levels and supports technical assistance for entrepreneurs seeking to start or grow a small business. The bill provides \$112.5 million for Small Business Development Centers and \$20 million for technical assistance grants to Microloan intermediaries.

United States Postal Service: The conference agreement extends until August 1, 2012 the deadline for the Postal Service to make the \$5.5 billion payment due on September 30, 2011 to pre-fund retiree health benefits.

Eliminated Troublesome Policy Riders included in House Committee Bill: The conference agreement does **not** include troublesome policy riders included in the FY2012 House bill that would have:

- Barred the IRS's use of funds to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Tightened restrictions on family travel and remittances to Cuba. Cuban Americans will continue to have the freedom to visit family members in Cuba and provide monetary support without constraint.
- Eliminated the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP)
- Blocked the Federal Communications Commission from implementing Net Neutrality rules
- Eliminated the Presidential Election Campaign Fund
- Eliminated the Consumer Product Safety Commission database
- Required a GAO cost-benefit study of Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008
- Subjected the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the annual appropriations process and cut the funding transferred from the Federal Reserve by 40% in FY2012
- Banned District of Columbia's use of Federal funds for needle exchange to combat HIV/AIDS epidemic

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