FROM THE NEWSROOM OF:



# HOUSE COMMITTEE on APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIR ROSA DELAURO

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## Legislative Branch Bill Text | Committee Report

For fiscal year 2023, the bill provides a total of \$5.702 billion, an increase of \$954.4 million or 20.1 percent, over 2022. The legislation:

- Increases funding to hire additional officers, improve training, and bolster wellness support for the Capitol Police.
- Makes a substantial investment in securing our Capitol Complex for the safety of its Members, staff, and visitors.
- Expands internship opportunities by providing a livable wage for House interns, growing opportunities for working and middle-class families.
- Provides the necessary increases to support the staffing and other resources needed by Congress to do its job well and best serve constituents.

#### **Bill Summary:**

**House of Representatives** – The bill provides a total of \$1.869 billion in discretionary appropriations for the House of Representatives, an increase of \$153.8 million above the FY 2022 enacted level, including:

- \$810 million for the **Members Representational Allowance (MRA)**, the basic office budgets of House Members, an increase of \$35.6 million above the FY 2022 level.
- \$36.6 million for the offices of the **Majority and Minority Leadership**, an increase of \$1.6 million above the FY 2022 level.
- \$24.3 million in **funding for paid interns** for Member, Leadership, and Committee offices, an increase of \$4.1 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding helps expand internship opportunities to people who may not be financially able to take an unpaid position. Funding at this level will provide \$46,800 per Member office, an increase of \$11,800 to support paying interns a livable wage. The bill also provides resources to establish a House Intern Resource Office.
- \$220.3 million for the operations of **House committees**, an increase of \$23.2 million above the FY 2022 level.
- \$323.6 million for the salaries and expenses of House officers and employees, including the offices of the Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Parliamentarian, and Legislative Counsel, among others. This is an increase of \$35 million above the FY 2022 level. Within this funding:

- \$38.8 million is provided for the Sergeant at Arms, \$11 million above the FY 2022 level, which includes funding towards initiatives to enhance the personal security of Members.
- \$13.5 million for the Office of Legislative Counsel, \$832,000 above the FY 2022 level.
- \$9.7 million for the **Green and Gold Congressional Aide program**, formerly known as the Wounded Warrior and Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Programs.
- \$10 million for the **House Modernization Initiatives Account**, an increase of \$8 million above the FY 2022 level, to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people.

### **Other Agencies**

The bill also provides:

- \$708 million for the **Capitol Police**, an increase of \$105.6 million above the FY 2022 level and fully funding the request. This funding:
  - Will allow for the hiring of up to 2,126 sworn officers and 567 civilian members of the Capitol Police.
  - Provides resources to fulfill security recommendations as suggested by the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General after the January 6th attacks on the Capitol.
  - Includes continued work on de-escalation and racial bias training.
  - Will help bring more transparency, diversity, and leadership training and standardize vetting and the routine review of staff for employment suitability with the Capitol Police.
- \$64.6 million for the **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)**, an increase of \$3.7 million above the FY 2022 level. This funding level will allow CBO to be responsive to Committees, Leadership, and Members to the greatest extent practicable, increase its efforts to improve modeling and analytical capability in key areas, and make its work as transparent and accessible as possible.
- \$8 million for the **Office of Congressional Workplace Rights**, an increase of \$500,000 above the FY 2022 level to fulfill the Office's responsibilities to implement the Congressional Accountability Reform Act and to assist with recent staff unionization efforts.
- \$1.3 billion for the Architect of the Capitol, an increase of \$576 million above the FY 2022 level. This funding includes \$532.2 million, an increase of \$469.8 million, for the Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds, and Security supporting significant enhancements to the physical security of the Capitol Complex as a result of the security recommendations made after January 6, 2021. The bill also includes funding for the Library's Module 7 storage project.
- \$831.4 million, an increase of \$37.4 million above the FY 2022 level, for the Library of Congress, including the Copyright Office, Congressional Research Service, and National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. This funding level will allow continued

progress on urgent information technology needs and on modernization of systems for copyright registration and recordation and support ongoing Library initiatives such as the Veterans' History Project.

- \$130.9 million for the **Government Publishing Office**, an increase of \$6.7 million above the FY 2022 level. This funding allows for the publishing of Congressional information in both digital and print formats.
- \$790.3 million for the **Government Accountability Office (GAO)**, an increase of \$71 million above the FY 2022 level. This level of funding would support 3,500 full-time equivalents (FTEs) which continues the focus on building science, technology, and cybersecurity expertise while filling critical gaps.

#### Important Policy Changes:

- **Employment of DACA Recipients** The bill includes language permitting the Legislative Branch agencies it funds to employ Dreamers—residents of the United States brought to this country as children without proper immigration status—who hold employment authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- **United States Capitol Police** The bill also includes language to allow overtime earned by the sworn officers of the Capitol Police to count towards retirement calculations.
- **Offensive Statues** The bill recognizes the need to confront the crisis of systemic racism. The bill includes language directing the Architect of the Capitol to remove statues or busts in the United States Capitol that represent figures who participated in the Confederate Army or government, as well as the statues of white supremacists Charles Aycock, John C. Calhoun, and James Paul Clarke and the bust of Roger B. Taney.