



Amendments to H.R. 5325: Fiscal Year 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations (Rep. Graves, R-GA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE:

H.R. 5325 is expected to be considered beginning on June 9, 2016, under a [structured rule](#). The rule provides for one hour of general debate and for 10 minutes of debate on each amendment, equally split between a proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and the amendments. The rule also provides for one motion to recommit the bill.

The rule makes in order a total of 13 amendments, one third of the amendments proposed at the Rules Committee.

	Total Offered	Not Made in Order	Made in Order
Republican	21	14	7
Democrat	18	12	6
Total	39	26	13

The Rule *did not* make in order amendments from Republican members that would have:

1. Reduced funding for the House of Representatives to current FY 2016 levels,
2. Barred MRA funds for being used for first class flights,
3. Ended funding of the Office of the Former Speaker,
4. Prohibited employment of those violating immigration laws,
5. Prohibited the printing of marketing materials for the Transportation Security Administration.

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF AMENDMENTS:

1. [Speier \(D-CA\)](#): Would increase funding for the Sergeant at Arms by \$100,000 and decrease the Office of the Clerk by \$100,000. According to the amendment sponsor, the funds would be intended for additional clearance investigations.
2. [Ellison \(D-MN\)](#): Would establish Congressional intent that \$1 million of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer's funding would be to create an "Office of Good Jobs".

Such an office has been advocated for by the [leadership PAC associated with the Congressional Progressive Caucus](#) on a federal government-wide basis.

A similar amendment to the FY 2017 Energy and Water bill was defeated by a [174 - 245](#) vote.

3. [Blumenauer \(D-OR\)](#): Would express Congressional intent that the Architect of the Capitol should allocate \$100,000 to conduct a feasibility study regarding the installation and operation of Capital Bikeshare stations on Capitol Grounds.
4. [Welch \(D-VT\)](#): Would reduce the Capital Construction and Operations account by \$500,000 and increase the Capitol Building account by \$250,000 and increase the House Office Buildings account by \$250,000. According to the amendment sponsor, these funds are intended to bring the Capitol and House office buildings into compliance with General Services Administration requirements for federal buildings regarding lactation stations for breastfeeding mothers.
5. [Sanford \(R-SC\)](#): Would eliminate funding for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, saving taxpayers \$430,000. The [Stennis Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to “attract young people to careers in public service,” which some conservatives may believe is not a core constitutional responsibility of the Legislative Branch.

[Senator Stennis](#) (D-MS) served from 1947 until 1989, and has a number of things named after him, including a space center, and aircraft carrier, an airport, and a lock and dam.

The bill provides \$430,000 for the Center, despite the fact that it has access to other sources of funding. The Center was created by Congress in 1988 with an initial funding of \$7.5 million in Special Issue Treasury securities and the Center has the ability to draw funding from the interest on these securities. The Center also has the ability to raise private sector funds. The FY12 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill passed by the House would have eliminated this program. Conservatives may be concerned that the Stennis Center also received \$1 million in the FY 2016 Omnibus from the Navy’s Operation and Maintenance account which is meant to fund readiness (the Navy also required \$7.2 billion in cap-exempt OCO funding to meet its Operation and Maintenance needs for FY 2016).

The [Heritage Foundation](#) recommends elimination of the Stennis Center.

6. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would cut the bill’s spending levels by one percent across the board, exempting accounts for the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol-Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security, and Office of the Sergeant At Arms. This would save taxpayers \$31 million.
7. [Flores \(R-TX\)](#): Would prohibit funds from being used for the manufacturing of government security credentials by the Government Publishing Office (GPO) for any agency other than Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives.

Congress tasked the GPO to produce, protect, and distribute the official publications and information products of the federal government. Due to advances in technology, however, the responsibilities of the GPO continue to grow smaller. In an attempt to remain relevant, GPO has begun to stretch the interpretation of “printing” to include the manufacture of secure government credentials.

GPO has recently begun to assert sole-authority to manufacture these credentials for federal agencies, effectively closing the competitive bidding process that has traditionally been used for

these government contracts. Private companies have been efficiently producing effective secure government credentials for years. Competitive contracting ensures that the federal government receives the best product at the best possible price.

8. **Gosar (R-AZ)**: Would prohibit the use of funds for delivering printed copies of the United States House of Representatives Telephone Directory to the office of any Member of the House of Representatives. The House Telephone Directory is available online at <http://directory.clerk.house.gov/>. The printed copy Telephone Directory is often out of date by the time it arrives.
 9. **Gosar (R-AZ)**: Prohibits any funds for delivering printed copies of the President's Budget to the office of any Member of the House of Representatives. The President's Budget request is available [online](#). The printed copy of the President's Budget totals close to 2,000 pages.
 10. **Grayson (D-FL)**: Would prohibit the use of funds to hire a contractor that: 1) has been in the last three years convicted or had a civil judgement for antitrust statutes, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating federal tax law, or receiving stolen property; 2) are under indictment for the offenses listed above; or, 3) is delinquent on more than \$3,000 in federal taxes in the last three years.
 11. **Takano (D-CA)**: Would appropriate \$2.5 million for the re-creation of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) and reduce the Architect of the Capitol Capital Construction and Operations Account by \$2.5 million. The former OTA, which was closed after the Republicans gained the majority in 1995, was tasked with providing "early indications of the probable beneficial and adverse impacts of the applications of technology and to develop other coordinate information which may assist the Congress."
- A similar amendment in the 113th Congress was defeated by a [164 – 248](#) vote.
12. **Russell (R-OK)**: Would prohibit the use of funds to deliver a printed copy of the Federal Register to a Member of the House of Representatives. The Federal Register may be found online at <https://www.federalregister.gov>.
 13. **Pearce (R-NM)**: Would reduce funding for the [Office of Congressional Ethics](#) (OCE) by \$190,970, reducing the funding for the OCE to the current enacted FY 2016 level. The OCE is "an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct against Members, officers, and staff of the United States House of Representatives and, when appropriate, referring matters to the House Committee on Ethics."

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