



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 8, 2016, under a [structured rule](#).

Amendments made in order under the Rule will be summarized in additional Legislative Bulletins as they become available.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

H.R. 5325 would provide appropriations for the Legislative Branch. Consistent with past precedent, the bill does not include funding for Senate-only items.

A [consolidated summary of major non-spending policy provisions \(riders\)](#) is available at the end of the detailed summary below.

The Committee Report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

COST:

The bill provides a net total of \$3.482 billion in Fiscal Year 2017 base discretionary budget authority that is subject to the Budget Control Act (BCA) discretionary spending caps (as increased by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA15)). This figure excludes Senate-only items.

The bill is written at a level that would comply with the higher \$1.070 trillion in discretionary spending allowed by BBA15.

In thousands of Dollars

	FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level
Net Total Base Discretionary	3,341,401	3,408,618	3,635,092	3,481,618

Net Total Base Discretionary Budget Authority is:

- \$153 million below the president's budget request.
- \$73 million above the enacted FY 2016 level.
- \$140 million above the level proposed by the Appropriations Committee for FY 2016.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned this appropriations bill is [written to the \\$1.070 trillion level](#), which is the maximum amount permitted under the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015](#). This spending ceiling increase from the \$1.040 trillion level was opposed by [167 House Republicans](#) when it was enacted last fall. The \$1.070 trillion level for Fiscal Year 2017 base discretionary spending is \$30 billion more than the maximum amount that would have been permitted under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Some conservatives may be concerned that this appropriations bill is being considered by the House despite the fact that House has yet to consider a budget resolution.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No, according to the [Committee Report](#).

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

House of Representatives

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
1,180,735	1,180,734	1,187,309	1,189,049	8,314	8,315	1,740

The bill would provide \$1.189 billion for the House of Representatives, a level \$1.74 million above the president's budget request and \$8.315 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

House Leadership Offices: The bill would provide \$22 million for the House Leadership Offices, a level equal to the president's budget request and the FY 2016 enacted level.

Members Representational Allowances (MRAs): The bill would provide \$563 million for the House MRAs, a level \$8.315 million above the president's budget request and \$8.315 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. The Committee [approved an amendment](#) offered by Rep. Farr to increase MRAs by a voice vote.

House Committees: The bill would provide \$150 million for the House MRAs, a level equal to the president's budget request and \$3 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

House Officers and Employees: The bill would provide \$181 million for the House Officers and Employees, a level equal to the president's budget request and \$3 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This account provides funding for salaries for the Office of the Clerk, Office of the Sergeant at Arms, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Parliamentarian, Office of the Legislative Counsel, and other employees of the House.

Allowances and Expenses: The bill would provide \$281 million for the House Allowances and Expenses, a level \$2 million above the president's budget request and \$4 million below the FY 2015 enacted level. This

account provides for supplies, administrative expenses, employee benefits, and costs of official mail for House Committees, leadership, and administrative offices.

Joint Items

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
19,469	20,732	21,010	19,565	96	-1,167	-1,445

The bill would provide \$20 million for the Joint House and Senate Items, a level \$1 million below the president’s budget request and \$1 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This includes funding for the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Office of the Attending Physician.

Capitol Police

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
369,000	375,000	409,588	391,300	22,300	16,300	-18,288

The bill would provide \$391 million for the Capitol Police, a level \$18 million below the president’s budget request and \$16 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
47,270	46,500	47,637	46,500	-770	0	-1,137

The bill provides \$47 million for the CBO, a level \$1 million below to the president’s budget request and equal to the FY 2016 enacted level.

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
492,171	528,683	605,895	551,735	59,564	23,052	-54,160

The bill would provide \$551 million for the AOC (excluding Senate-only items), a level \$54 million below the president’s budget request and \$23 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

Capitol Building Operation and Maintenance: The bill would provide \$33 million for operation, maintenance, and care of the Capitol building, a level that is \$11 million below the president’s budget

request and \$14 million below the FY 2016 enacted level. This funding includes \$5 million for the preservation of the West Façade.

House Office Buildings Operation and Maintenance: The bill would provide \$187 million for the operation, maintenance, and care of the House office buildings, a level that is \$2 million below the president’s budget request and \$13 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This includes \$62 million for the Cannon Building renovation, \$31 million for rehabilitation of the Rayburn garage, \$20 million for emergency power upgrades, \$15 million for the lease of O’Neil Building, and \$10 million for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund.

Capitol Power Plant: The bill would provide \$104 million for the Capitol Power Plant, a level that is \$1 million below the president’s budget request and \$10 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

Library of Congress (LOC)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
591,431	599,912	667,215	628,912	37,481	29,000	-38,303

The bill would provide \$629 million for the LOC, a level \$38 million below the president’s budget request and \$29 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

Copyright Office: The bill would provide \$27 million for the Copyright Office, a level \$1 million below the president’s budget request and \$4 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. When appropriated funds are combined with offsetting collections and available prior funding, the Copyright Office will have authority to spend \$69 million.

Congressional Research Service (CRS): The bill would provide \$108 million for the CRS, a level \$6 million below the president’s budget request and \$1 million above the FY 2016 enacted level.

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
110,236	117,068	117,068	117,068	6,832	0	0

The bill would provide \$117 million for the GPO, a level equal to the president’s budget request and equal to the FY 2016 enacted level.

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level	FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
522,000	531,000	567,825	533,100	11,100	2,100	-34,725

The bill would provide \$533 million for the GAO, a level \$35 million below the president’s budget request and \$2 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. The GAO also has the ability to spend \$23 million in offsetting collections. The GAO works for Congress by providing oversight and investigations of federal programs.

Open World Leadership Center

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level		FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
5,700	5,600	5,800	1,000		-4,700	-4,600	-4,800

The bill would provide \$1 million for the Open World Leadership Center, a level \$4.8 million below the president’s budget request and \$4.6 million below the FY 2016 enacted level. These funds are to provide for the orderly shutdown of the Open World Leadership Center.

The [Open World Leadership Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to promote democracy in Russia and other Eurasian countries. According to the Committee Report, “For many years the Committee has had concern with the placement of the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) in the Legislative Branch with it mirroring numerous similar or nearly identical programs administered by other Federal agencies. In this fiscal environment where our national debt exceeds \$19 trillion, it is important to eliminate duplicative programs.”

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development

Net Total Discretionary in Thousands of Dollars

FY16 House Level	FY16 Enacted	FY17 President Request	FY17 House Level		FY17 vs 16 House	FY17 vs 16 Enacted	FY17 vs President
430	430	430	430		0	0	0

The bill provides \$430,000 for the Stennis Center, a level equal to the president’s budget request and equal to the FY 2016 enacted level.

The [Stennis Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to “attract young people to careers in public service.” [Senator Stennis](#) (D-MS) served from 1947 until 1989. 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.

MAJOR POLICY PROVISIONS:

Members Pay Increases: The bill would prohibit a cost of living increase for members during FY 2017.

Unspent MRAs: The bill would provide that unspent MRA funds be used for deficit reduction.

Zero-Base Budgeting: The bill would direct all agencies funded by the bill to utilize zero-base budgeting, which does not assume increases from year to year. The RSC Budget called for this fiscally-responsible budgeting to be used government-wide.

Use of the Term “Illegal Aliens” by the Library of Congress: Earlier this year, the Library of Congress [announced](#) that it would replace its subject headings using the terms “aliens” and “illegal aliens” so they would instead be “noncitizens” and “unauthorized immigration”. The Library justified its decision, which came after a [systematic lobbying effort](#) (including a [Twitter campaign](#)), by saying that the terms have “taken on a pejorative tone in recent years”.

However, the term illegal alien is the proper technical term and is used in [title 8 of the U.S. Code](#) (Aliens and Nationality). [According to the Library](#), “The heading Aliens is one of the oldest headings in Library of Congress Subject Headings, having appeared in the first edition” of the headings list.

The [Committee Report](#) includes language that “instructs the Library [of Congress] to maintain certain subject headings that reflect terminology used in title 8, United States Code.”

Limitation on Leased Vehicles: The bill would limit spending on leased vehicles using MRA funds to no more than \$1,000 per month.

O’Neil Shuttle Service: The bill provides the authority to provide shuttle service between the Capitol, the House office buildings, and the O’Neil Building.

Prohibiting Delivery of Certain Printed Items: The bill would prohibit funds for the delivery of printed copies of bills, resolutions, the Congressional Record, the Statements of Disbursements, the Daily Calendar, and the Congressional Pictorial Directory.

Limitation of Print Copies of the U.S. Code: The bill would limit the total number of printed copies of the U.S. Code to no more than 50 copies for the House of Representatives.

Prohibition on Bonus to Contractors Behind Schedule or Over Budget: The bill would prohibit the payment of bonuses to contractors that are behind schedule or over budget.

Prohibition on Scrim: The bill would prohibit funds for scrim (cloth building facade showing a picture of the building during construction).

Sledding: The Committee Report includes language that would instruct the Capitol Police to allow sledding on Capitol Hill.

Staff-Led Tours: The bill would prohibit funds from being used to eliminate or restrict staff and intern-led tours of the Capitol, other than temporary suspensions by order of the Capitol Police Board.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 5325 on [May 17, 2016](#), and reported the bill by a voice vote. The Committee also held a number of [oversight hearings](#) on the agencies funded by the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the

common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate finds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use."

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*

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