



**Legislative Bulletin.....May 1, 2014**

**Contents:**

**H.R. 4487 — Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (Cole, R-OK)**

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**By the Numbers:**

*In thousands of dollars*

	<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>
<b>Net Total Discretionary</b>	3,232,999	3,325,890	3,448,406	3,325,891

Net Total Discretionary Budget Authority is:

- \$92.9 million above the level proposed by the Appropriations Committee for FY 2014.
- \$1 thousand above the enacted FY 2014 level.
- \$122.5 thousand below the President’s budget request.

**Note:** Consist with past precedent, this legislation does not include funding for Senate items.

According to the [House Appropriations Committee](#), funding for the House of Representatives has been reduced by 14 percent since Republicans took the majority in 2011.

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

**Order of Business:** H.R. 4487 is expected to be considered on Thursday, May 1, 2014, under [a structured rule](#), making 8 amendments in order. Summaries for the amendments made in order are described later in this Legislative Bulletin. The rule provides for one hour of general debate. The rule further provides for an open rule on the FY 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

The rule does *not* make in order the following germane, non-duplicative amendments:

1. A Broun (R-GA) amendment to reduce funding for the Office of Compliance by \$91,000, returning it to FY14 levels.

2. A Duckworth (D-IL) amendment to prohibit the purchase of first class airfare with MRAs.
3. A Duffy (R-WI) amendment to reduce the Library of Congress by \$15.97 million to FY 2014 levels.
4. A Farenthold (R-TX) amendment to prohibit funding compensation for any federal employee while they are held in contempt of Congress.
5. A Gosar (R-AZ) amendment to prohibit funding for official portraits.
6. A Gosar (R-AZ) amendment to prohibit the purchase of first class airfare with MRAs.
7. A Gosar (R-AZ) amendment to increase funding for the Books for the Blind program and decrease funding for the Office of the Minority Leader.
8. A Moran (D-VA) amendment to create a voluntary \$25 per day housing stipend for Members.

**Bill Outline:**

**Total House of Representatives:**

*Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>		<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
1,171,569	1,180,908	1,200,509	1,180,735		+9,166	-173	-19,774

**House Leadership Offices:**

*Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>		<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
22,059	22,278	22,725	22,278		+219	0	-447

The breakdown of funding for the various House Leadership Offices can be found [here](#).

**Members Representational Allowances (MRA):**

*Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>		<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
543,919	554,318	565,404	554,318		+10,399	0	-11,086

**House Committees:**

*Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>		<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
144,647	147,174	150,071	147,174		+2,527	0	-2,897

**House Officers and Employees:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
173,721	172,655	175,226	171,345	-2,376	-1,310	-3,881

The breakdown of funding for the various Officers of the House can be found [here](#).

**Joint Items:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
17,978	18,994	19,195	18,965	+987	-29	-230

The breakdown of funding for the various Officers of the House can be found [here](#).

**Capitol Police:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
329,701	338,459	355,663	347,959	+18,258	+9,500	-7,704

The bill provides funding for 1775 officers and 443 civilian members of the Capitol Police.

**Office of Compliance:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
3,617	3,868	4,020	3,959	+342	+91	-61

**Congressional Budget Office:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
41,497	45,700	46,078	45,700	+4,203	0	-378

**Architect of the Capitol (AOC):***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
507,994	529,040	567,410	488,565	-19,429	-40,475	-78,845

Within the AOC, the bill provides \$15.023 million for the Botanic Garden, \$3.167 million above the FY 2014 enacted level and \$663 thousand below the President’s budget request.

The bill also provides \$20.875 million for the Capitol Visitor Center, \$243 thousand above the FY14 enacted level and \$220 thousand below the requested amount.

**Library of Congress:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
558,277	578,982	593,066	594,952	+36,675	+15,970	+1,886

**Government Printing Office:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
115,140	119,300	128,919	122,584	+7,444	+3,284	-6,335

**Government Accountability Office:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
486,226	505,383	525,116	519,622	+33,396	+14,239	-5,494

**Open World Leadership Center:***Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
1,000	6,000	8,000	3,420	+2,420	-2,580	-4,580

The [Open World Leadership Center](#) is a legislative branch program meant to promote democracy in Eurasian countries. The FY 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee would have shut down this program. An amendment to eliminate this program was approved in the 112th Congress by a 204 – 203 vote.

**John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training And Development:**

*Net Total Discretionary in Thousands*

<b>FY14 House Level</b>	<b>FY14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 President Request</b>	<b>FY15 House Level</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 House</b>	<b>FY15 vs 14 Enacted</b>	<b>FY15 vs President</b>
408	430	430	430	+22	0	0

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 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 [FY12 Legislative Branch Appropriations](#) bill passed by the House would have eliminated this program.

**Other Provisions of Note:**

**Members Pay Increases:** The bill prohibits a cost of living increase for Members during FY 2015.

**Unspent MRAs:** The bill provides that unspent MRA funds be used for deficit reduction.

**Prohibiting Delivery of Bills and Congressional Record:** The bill prohibits funds for the delivery of bills, resolutions, and printed copies of the Congressional Record.

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

**Limitation of Print Copies of the U.S. Code:** The bill limits the total number of print copies of the U.S. Code to no more than 50 copies for the House of Representatives.

**Amendments Made in Order under the Rule:**

The [Rule](#) makes in order the following amendments, each debatable for ten minutes:

1. [Nugent \(R-FL\)](#): Prohibits use of the MRA from leasing any vehicles other than mobile district offices and short-term rentals.
2. [Speier \(D-CA\)](#): Increases funding for the Office of Compliance by \$500 thousand and decreases the general Administration account of the Architect of the Capitol by \$500 thousand. Although the text of the amendment does not specify what this additional funding would be used for, the sponsor would like it to be used for sexual harassment training.
3. [Gosar \(R-AZ\)](#): Reduces funding for the Botanic Garden by \$3.167 million back to FY14 levels, and transfers the funds to the spending reduction account.

4. [Broun \(R-GA\)](#): Reduces funding for the Capitol Visitors Center by \$243 thousand back to FY14 levels, and transfers the funds to the spending reduction account.
5. [Duffy \(R-WI\)](#): Eliminates funding for the [Open World Leadership Center](#), and transfers the funds to the spending reduction account. The Open World Center is funded at \$3.4 million and is meant to promote democracy in Eurasian countries. The [FY 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations](#) bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee would have shut down this program. A similar amendment was approved in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress by a [204 – 203](#) vote.
6. [Hall \(R-TX\)](#): Prohibits funding for the delivery of the Statements of Disbursements to Member offices.
7. [Wenstrup \(R-OH\)](#): Prohibits funding for the delivery of the Daily Calendar of the House of Representatives to Member offices.
8. [Holt \(D-NJ\)](#): Reduces funding for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund by \$2.5 million and appropriates funding for the salaries and expenses of an Office of Technology Assessment as authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972. The former Office of Technology Assessment was closed after the Republicans gained the majority in 1995. A similar amendment failed by a [176 – 235](#) vote in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Unauthorized Appropriations:** According to the [Committee Report](#), “The accompanying bill contains no appropriations not authorized by law.”

**Committee Action:** The Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 4487 on [April 9, 2014](#), and approved the legislation by voice vote. The Committee also held several [oversight hearings](#).

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:**

According to the [Committee Report](#), “neither the bill nor the report contains any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.”

**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 funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.”

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