



## CRS Report for Congress

### House Committee Funding, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

R. Eric Petersen  
Analyst in American National Government  
Government and Finance Division

#### Summary

Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 6, the House Administration Committee reports an omnibus, biennial “primary expense resolution” to cover the expenses of each standing and select committee (except the Appropriations Committee). The resolution is based in part on committee requests for funds to cover necessary expenses for the two years of a Congress. On March 1, 2007, the Committee on House Administration reported H.Res. 202, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This report summarizes requests from individual committees and funding levels reported by the Committee on House Administration, and compares 110<sup>th</sup> Congress-reported levels to authorizations for House committees in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. CRS Report RL32794, *House Committee Funding Requests and Authorizations, 104<sup>th</sup> - 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by R. Eric Petersen, provides historical and analytical data on funding requests and authorizations for House committees since 1995.

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On March 1, 2007, the Committee on House Administration met to mark up H.Res. 202, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, who is chairwoman of the panel, offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to the measure, which was adopted by voice vote. The panel then reported H.Res. 202, as amended, to the House by voice vote.

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<sup>1</sup> P.L. 79-601, Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, Section 202(b), 80 Stat. 834 grants the Committee on Appropriations authorization to appropriate funds for its own activities.

The Committee on House Administration held a hearing on committee expense requests on February 28, 2007. Representative Millender-McDonald indicated that, under the provisions of a year-long continuing resolution funding FY2007 House operations at FY2006 levels, plus an increase for inflation, most panel budgets would likely receive authorizations for increases of not more than 2.4% over funding levels authorized for the second session of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. She said that if more funding becomes available in FY2008, the committee might revisit authorizations for the second session.<sup>2</sup>

During the hearings the chairwoman and the ranking minority member, Representative Vernon Ehlers, reiterated the longstanding expectation that committee resources would reflect a distribution of 2/3 of committee staff to the majority, and 1/3 to the minority, and a similar distribution of non-staff resources.<sup>3</sup> In their testimony, most committee chairs and ranking members acknowledged mutually satisfactory arrangements had been reached regarding the distribution of committee staff and other expenses.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Oral comments of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald at the hearing of the Committee on House Administration on committee funding, Feb. 28, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Between 1995 and 2005, House majority leadership encouraged its committee leaders to provide the minority with one-third of committee staff and resources authorized in the biennial funding resolutions. Statements made by leaders of the House Administration Committee at the beginning of its committee funding review for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, and reaffirmed at the beginning of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, indicated a consensus that all House committees should provide at least one-third minority staffing in those Congresses. In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the 2/3-1/3 distribution of staff was reaffirmed by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, but some testimony by ranking members urged provision of 1/3 of non-staff resources to the minority. In addition, some questions regarding the extent of control the minority might exercise over those resources were raised. In its report to accompany H.Res. 224 (109<sup>th</sup> Congress), the Committee on House Administration said that it “feels it is the prerogative of the Chairman to maintain control over the committee budget, as the chairman is ultimately responsible for all expenditures obligated by the committee.” In the course of the Feb 28, 2007, hearings on committee funding, Chairwoman Millender-McDonald orally affirmed the policy establishing the chair as the official with ultimate responsibility for committee resources.

See Gabriel Kahn, “Panels Ask Oversight to Slash Own Budgets,” *Roll Call*, Feb. 27, 1995; Juliet Eilperin and Gabriel Kahn, “House’s Chief Officer Unveils ‘Dream Team,” *Roll Call*, Mar. 9, 1995, retrieved through nexis.com; U.S. House, Committee on House Administration, *Hearing on Committee Funding Requests*, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong. 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 2003), p. 2-3, available at [[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108\\_house\\_hearings&docid=f:89055.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_house_hearings&docid=f:89055.pdf)]; U.S. House, Committee on House Administration, *Committee Funding*, 109<sup>th</sup> Cong. 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 2005), pp. 4-6, 41-47, and 64-75, available at [[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_house\\_hearings&docid=f:20927.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_house_hearings&docid=f:20927.pdf)]; U.S. House, *Providing for the Expenses of Certain Committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Ninth Congress*, H.Rept. 109-54, 109<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1st sess. Apr. 26, 2005 (Washington: GPO, 2005), quote, p. 7, available at [[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_cong\\_reports&docid=f:hr054.109.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_reports&docid=f:hr054.109.pdf)].

<sup>4</sup> In his written opening statement, Representative Ehlers noted that “adjustments to the 2/3-1/3 budget allocation have been made in the past, for instance through the use of shared staff, or a centrally managed budget for non-personnel expenditures.” See Committee on House Administration, Republican Office, “Opening Statement of Ranking Member Vernon J. Ehlers,”

(continued...)

**Table 1** summarizes requests from individual committees and funding levels reported by the Committee on House Administration for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. **Table 2** compares levels reported by the House Administration Committee for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to levels authorized for House committees in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.<sup>5</sup> CRS Report RL32794, *House Committee Funding Requests and Authorizations, 104<sup>th</sup> - 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by R. Eric Petersen, provides historical and analytical data on funding requests and authorizations for House committees since 1995.

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<sup>4</sup> (...continued)

Feb. 28, 2007. In their testimony, some committee chairs and ranking members indicated that they had reached agreement for a strict 2/3-1/3 distribution of resources while others acknowledged mutually agreeable alternatives that provided the minority with resources for staff and other expenses.

<sup>5</sup> In the 109th Congress, the Committee on Education and Labor was known as the Committee on Education and the Workforce; the Committee on Foreign Affairs was known as the Committee on International Relations; the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform was known as the Committee on Government Reform; and the Committee on Science and Technology was known as the Committee on Science.

**Table 1. House Committee Funding Requests, and Reported Levels, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Committee	Requested			Reported			Difference Between Requested & Reported	
	Total	1st Session	2nd Session	Total	1st Session	2nd Session	Amount	% of Request
Agriculture	\$12,398,755	\$5,954,462	\$6,444,293	\$11,995,306	\$5,910,765	\$6,084,541	-\$403,449	-3.25%
Armed Services	\$15,469,004	\$6,883,959	\$8,585,045	\$14,618,946	\$7,203,581	\$7,415,366	-\$850,058	-5.50%
Budget	\$12,026,478	\$6,013,239	\$6,013,239	\$12,520,064	\$6,169,343	\$6,350,721	\$493,586	4.10%
Education and Labor	\$16,334,250	\$8,025,500	\$8,308,750	\$16,213,840	\$7,989,475	\$8,224,365	-\$120,410	-0.74%
Energy and Commerce	\$22,474,614	\$11,013,668	\$11,460,946	\$21,056,249	\$10,375,603	\$10,680,646	-\$1,418,365	-6.31%
Financial Services	\$16,575,710	\$8,029,517	\$8,546,193	\$16,189,138	\$7,977,303	\$8,211,835	-\$386,572	-2.33%
Foreign Affairs	\$17,953,805	\$8,762,228	\$9,191,577	\$17,391,504	\$8,569,776	\$8,821,728	-\$562,301	-3.13%
Homeland Security	\$16,511,877	\$8,132,028	\$8,379,849	\$16,448,403	\$8,105,057	\$8,343,346	-\$63,474	-0.38%
House Administration	\$10,214,461	\$5,033,242	\$5,181,219	\$10,214,461	\$5,033,242	\$5,181,219	\$0	0.00%
Judiciary	\$16,657,587	\$8,165,484	\$8,492,103	\$16,347,324	\$8,055,250	\$8,292,074	-\$310,263	-1.86%
Natural Resources	\$15,581,951	\$7,638,213	\$7,943,738	\$15,288,192	\$7,533,355	\$7,754,836	-\$293,759	-1.89%
Oversight and Government Reform	\$22,876,214	\$10,790,667	\$12,085,547	\$21,602,950	\$10,644,994	\$10,957,956	-\$1,273,264	-5.57%
Rules	\$6,781,540	\$3,357,198	\$3,424,342	\$6,852,908	\$3,376,815	\$3,476,093	\$71,368	1.05%
Science and Technology	\$13,209,820	\$6,475,402	\$6,734,418	\$12,963,775	\$6,387,984	\$6,575,791	-\$246,045	-1.86%
Small Business	\$6,257,410	\$3,009,086	\$3,248,324	\$5,965,945	\$2,939,758	\$3,026,187	-\$291,465	-4.66%
Standards of Official Conduct	\$6,119,301	\$2,996,561	\$3,122,740	\$4,994,181	\$2,460,915	\$2,533,266	-\$1,125,120	-18.39%
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$19,724,511	\$9,528,749	\$10,195,762	\$19,261,795	\$9,491,374	\$9,770,421	-\$462,716	-2.35%
Veterans' Affairs	\$6,933,319	\$3,398,686	\$3,534,633	\$7,076,347	\$3,486,916	\$3,589,431	\$143,028	2.06%
Ways and Means	\$20,059,514	\$9,785,129	\$10,274,385	\$19,040,609	\$9,382,384	\$9,658,226	-\$1,018,905	-5.08%
Permanent Select Intelligence	\$10,409,000	\$5,077,000	\$5,332,000	\$10,467,084	\$5,157,724	\$5,309,361	\$58,086	0.56%

**Source:** Data taken from individual committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and from H.Res. 202, as reported. U.S. House, *Providing for the Expenses of Certain Committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Tenth Congress*, H.Rept. 110-29, 110<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., Mar. 3, 2007 (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 5. As shown on p. 5 of the committee report, the totals reported for individual committees do not always exactly equal the sum of the amounts reported for each session.

**Table 2. House Committee Funding Reported to the House, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, and Amounts Authorized by the House, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Nominal Dollars**

Committee	109 <sup>th</sup> Congress - Approved			110 <sup>th</sup> Congress - Reported			Difference between 109 <sup>th</sup> & 110 <sup>th</sup> Cong	
	Approved	1st Session	2nd Session	Reported	1st Session	2nd Session	Amount	%
Agriculture	\$11,257,009	\$5,495,805	\$5,761,204	\$11,995,306	\$5,910,765	\$6,084,541	\$738,297	6.56%
Armed Services	\$12,826,208	\$6,292,249	\$6,533,959	\$14,618,946	\$7,203,581	\$7,415,366	\$1,792,738	13.98%
Budget	\$12,026,478	\$6,013,239	\$6,013,239	\$12,520,064	\$6,169,343	\$6,350,721	\$493,586	4.10%
Education and Labor	\$15,493,286	\$7,705,970	\$7,787,316	\$16,213,840	\$7,989,475	\$8,224,365	\$720,554	4.65%
Energy and Commerce	\$19,925,687	\$9,812,619	\$10,113,068	\$21,056,249	\$10,375,603	\$10,680,646	\$1,130,562	5.67%
Financial Services	\$15,203,100	\$7,427,648	\$7,775,452	\$16,189,138	\$7,977,303	\$8,211,835	\$986,038	6.49%
Foreign Affairs	\$16,299,018	\$7,946,084	\$8,352,934	\$17,391,504	\$8,569,776	\$8,821,728	\$1,092,486	6.70%
Homeland Security	\$14,000,000	\$6,100,026	\$7,899,974	\$16,448,403	\$8,105,057	\$8,343,346	\$2,448,403	17.49%
House Administration	\$9,554,568	\$4,648,683	\$4,905,885	\$10,214,461	\$5,033,242	\$5,181,219	\$659,893	6.91%
Judiciary	\$15,312,992	\$7,461,565	\$7,851,427	\$16,347,324	\$8,055,250	\$8,292,074	\$1,034,332	6.75%
Natural Resources	\$14,520,962	\$7,178,224	\$7,342,738	\$15,288,192	\$7,533,355	\$7,754,836	\$767,230	5.28%
Oversight and Government Reform	\$20,497,085	\$10,121,443	\$10,375,642	\$21,602,950	\$10,644,994	\$10,957,956	\$1,105,865	5.40%
Rules	\$6,365,600	\$3,074,229	\$3,291,371	\$6,852,908	\$3,376,815	\$3,476,093	\$487,308	7.66%
Science and Technology	\$12,327,996	\$6,101,648	\$6,226,348	\$12,963,775	\$6,387,984	\$6,575,791	\$635,779	5.16%
Small Business	\$5,586,973	\$2,721,600	\$2,865,373	\$5,965,945	\$2,939,758	\$3,026,187	\$378,972	6.78%
Standards of Official Conduct	\$4,290,536	\$1,891,890	\$2,398,646	\$4,994,181	\$2,460,915	\$2,533,266	\$703,645	16.40%
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$18,108,082	\$8,856,869	\$9,251,213	\$19,261,795	\$9,491,374	\$9,770,421	\$1,153,713	6.37%
Veterans' Affairs	\$6,474,418	\$3,075,732	\$3,398,686	\$7,076,347	\$3,486,916	\$3,589,431	\$601,929	9.30%
Ways and Means	\$17,819,494	\$8,674,514	\$9,144,980	\$19,040,610	\$9,382,384	\$9,658,226	\$1,221,116	6.85%
Permanent Select Intelligence	\$9,527,870	\$4,500,653	\$5,027,217	\$10,467,084	\$5,157,724	\$5,309,361	\$939,214	9.86%

**Source:** Data taken from H.Res. 224, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, adopted by the House; and H.Res. 202, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, as reported by the Committee on House Administration. U.S. House, *Providing for the Expenses of Certain Committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Tenth Congress*, H.Rept. 110-29, 110<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., Mar. 3, 2007 (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 5. As shown on p. 5 of the committee report, the totals reported for individual committees do not always exactly equal the sum of the amounts reported for each session.

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