

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

FY2003 Consolidated Appropriations Resolution: Reference Guide

Robert Keith
Specialist in American National Government
Government and Finance Division

Summary

The House and Senate agreed to the conference report on H.J.Res. 2, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY2003, on February 13, 2003, thus bringing to a close congressional action on the regular appropriations measures for that fiscal year. President George Bush signed the measure into law on February 20, as P.L. 108-7 (117 Stat. 11-554). The measure incorporates the remaining 11 regular appropriations acts for FY2003 (the defense and military construction appropriations acts were enacted on October 23, 2002), providing \$397.4 billion for these activities. The measure includes an across-the-board cut of 0.65%, which is expected to yield \$2.647 billion in offsets.

Toward the beginning of the 108th Congress, the House and Senate brought the consideration of the regular appropriations acts for FY2003 to a close by incorporating the remaining 11 bills into a single bill, H.J.Res. 2, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY2003. Two of the regular appropriations acts for that fiscal year were enacted in 2002, during the second session of the 107th Congress, just after the start of the fiscal year.¹ In its final form, H.J.Res. 2 provides \$397.4 billion in discretionary budget authority.²

The House passed H.J.Res. 2 by voice vote on January 8, 2003. In its House-passed form, H.J.Res. 2 was a continuing resolution for FY2003 providing for the continuation of stop-gap funding through January 31, 2003. It was anticipated, however, that the Senate would use the measure as a vehicle for incorporating the remaining regular appropriations acts. The Senate did so, and passed the measure as amended on January 23 by a vote of 69-29. The House and Senate agreed to the conference report (H.Rept.

¹ The Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY2003 (P.L. 107-248) and the Military Construction Appropriation Act for FY2003 (P.L. 107-249) were enacted into law on October 23, 2002.

² See the remarks of Representative C.W. Bill Young, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, during consideration of H.J.Res. 2 in the *Congressional Record* of February 13, 2003, at pages H558-559.

108-10) on February 13, by votes of 338-83 and 76-20, respectively. H.J.Res. 2 was presented to President Bush on February 19 and he signed it into law on February 20, as P.L. 108-7 (117 Stat. 11-554).

An abbreviated listing of the contents of H.J.Res. 2 is provided in Table 1. The act is organized by division, with each division (A through K) corresponding to one of the regular appropriations acts. Further, there are five other divisions (L through P), which involve such matters as additional emergency funding, amendments to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the Price-Anderson Act, and the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Citations are provided to the pages of the *Congressional Record* of February 12, 2003 (Vol. 149, No. 26—Book II) where the legislative text of the conference report and the joint explanatory statement are provided.

In order to offset part of the costs of the act, an across-the-board cut of 0.65% is included in Section 601 of Division N (the Division is referred to as the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act for FY2003). The cut is expected to yield \$2.647 billion in savings.³

Section 601(a) imposes the cut on the regular appropriations provided in Divisions A-K, as well as to advance appropriations for FY2003 that were enacted in prior appropriations acts.

Section 601(b) provides that the 0.65% cut is to be applied on a proportionate basis to each account, and to each program, project, and activity within an account.

Finally, Section 601(c) exempts from the reductions the budget authority provided in the act for specified programs in the following amounts:

- \$4.696 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- \$6.668 billion for the Head Start program;
- \$23.889 billion for the Veterans' Medical Care program; and
- \$3.836 billion for NASA's space shuttle program.

The text of Section 601 is provided in Appendix A.

³ See the table inserted by Representative C.W. Bill Young, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, in the *Congressional Record* of February 13, 2003, on page H658. The Senate included an across-the-board cut of nearly 3% in the version of H.J.Res. 2 which it passed on January 23, 2003. According to the table on page H658, the larger cut would have yielded savings of \$11.392 billion.

**Table 1. Contents of H.J.Res. 2 (P.L. 108-7),
the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY2003
(H.Rept. 108-10; February 12, 2003)**

Section/ Division	Content	Congressional Record page number	
		Legislative text	Joint explanatory statement
Sec. 1	Short Title	H707	—
Sec. 2	Table of Contents	H707	—
Sec. 3	References	H707	—
Division A	Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Programs Appropriations	H707-717	H853-876
Division B	Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations	H717-732	H877-948
Division C	District of Columbia Appropriations	H732-739	H948-952
Division D	Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H740-746	H952-1042
Division E	Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations	H746-762	H1042-1053
Division F	Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations	H762-784	H1053-1093
Division G	Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations	H784-797	H1093-1188
Division H	Legislative Branch Appropriations	H797-807	H1188-1191
Division I	Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations	H807-818	H1191-H1226
Division J	Treasury and General Government Appropriations	H819-831	H1226-1235
Division K	Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations	H831-845	H1235-1273
Division L	Homeland Security Act of 2002 Amendments	H845-846	H1273-1274

Section/ Division	Content	<i>Congressional Record</i> page number	
		Legislative text	Joint explanatory statement
Division M	Defense Matters	H847-848	H1274-1275
Division N	Emergency Relief and Offsets	H848-852	H1275-1276
Division O	Price-Anderson Act Amendments	H852	H1276
Division P	United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission	H852	H1276

**Appendix A. Text of the 0.65% Across-the-Board Cut
Provision in H.J.Res. 2 (P.L. 108-7),
the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY2003
(Division N, Title VI, Section 601)**

Title VI—Offsets

Sec. 601. (a) ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCISSIONS.—There is hereby rescinded an amount equal to 0.65 percent of—

- (1) the budget authority provided (or obligation limitation imposed) for fiscal year 2003 for any discretionary account in divisions A through K of this joint resolution;
- (2) the budget authority provided in any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2003 for any discretionary account in any prior fiscal year appropriations Act; and
- (3) the contract authority provided in fiscal year 2003 for any program subject to limitation contained in this joint resolution.

(b) PROPORTIONATE APPLICATION.—Any rescission made by subsection (a) shall be applied proportionately—

- (1) to each discretionary account and each item of budget authority described in subsection (a); and
- (2) within each such account and item, to each program, project, and activity (with programs, projects, and activities as delineated in the appropriation Act or accompanying reports for the relevant fiscal year covering such account or item, or for accounts and items not included in appropriation Acts, as delineated in the most recently submitted President's budget).

(c) The rescission in subsection (a) shall not apply to budget authority appropriated or otherwise made available by this joint resolution in the following amounts in the following activities or accounts:

- \$4,696,000,000 provided for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in the Department of Agriculture in division A;
- \$6,667,533,000 provided for the Head Start Act in the Department of Education in division G;
- \$23,889,304,000 provided for medical care in the Department of Veterans Affairs in division K; and
- \$3,836,000,000 provided for the Shuttle program in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in division K.