

# CRS Report for Congress

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## House Committee Funding Legislation, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress

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# House Committee Funding Legislation, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress

## Summary

Its Rules require the House of Representatives to act by March 31, 2005, to provide operating funds for its standing and select committees (except for the Appropriations Committee). Some, but not all, committees have introduced resolutions providing amounts for the expenses of their committees; these have been referred to the Committee on House Administration. On March 2, 2005, Representative Bob Ney, chairman of the committee, introduced H.Res. 133, to provide for the continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House from April 1, 2005, through April 30, 2005. The measure was referred to the committee on House Administration.

The House Administration Committee typically holds hearings on each committee's request, and the chair of that committee typically introduces an omnibus funding resolution, based on committee requests. The House normally acts on committee funding resolutions during the last week of March in the first year of a Congress.

This report, which will be updated as events warrant, provides committee funding requests for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress and authorizations for House committees in the 104<sup>th</sup> - 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses. CRS Report RL32794, *House Committee Funding Requests and Authorizations, 104<sup>th</sup> - 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by R. Eric Petersen, provides historical and analytical data on funding requests and authorizations for House committees since 1995. Information on Senate committee funding is available in CRS Report RL32779, *Senate Committee Funding Resolutions, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, and Funding Authorizations 104<sup>th</sup> - 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by R. Eric Petersen.

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# House Committee Funding Legislation, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress

## Recent Action

House Rules require the chamber to act by March 31, 2005, to provide operating funds for its standing and select committees, except for the Appropriations Committee, which is funded separately through legislative branch appropriations bills. Several committees have introduced resolutions providing amounts for the expenses of their committees. On March 2, 2005, Representative Bob Ney, chairman of the committee, introduced H. Res. 133, to provide for the continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House from April 1, 2005, through April 30, 2005. The measure was referred to the committee on House Administration.

Measures introduced to fund individual committee activities, which are summarized in **Table 1**, have been referred to the Committee on House Administration. The committee typically holds hearings on each committee's request. The chair of the House Administration Committee then typically introduces an omnibus funding resolution, which, after its referral to the House Administration Committee, has traditionally served as the legislative vehicle for a full committee markup. The House normally acts on committee funding resolutions during the last week of March in the first year of a Congress.

**Table 2** provides committee funding requests for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress and authorizations for House committees in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. **Table 3** provides the same information, calculated in constant (January 2005) dollars.<sup>1</sup> **Tables 4** and **5** include authorizations for House committees in the 104<sup>th</sup> -108<sup>th</sup> Congresses in actual and constant dollars.

## House Committee Funding Process

Under House Rule X, clause 6, each standing and select committee of the House (except the Appropriations Committee) is required to submit an operating budget request for its necessary expenses over the two years of a Congress. The budgetary requests include estimated salary needs for staff, costs of consulting services, printing costs, office equipment and supply costs, and travel costs for committee members and staff. Some costs (such as pension and insurance contributions for committee employees) are not directly billed to the committee and are paid from other

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<sup>1</sup> Information on Senate committee funding is available in CRS Report RL32779, *Senate Committee Funding Resolutions, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, and Funding Authorizations 104<sup>th</sup> - 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by R. Eric Petersen.

appropriated funds. Individual committee requests are then packaged by the House Administration Committee into an omnibus “primary expense resolution.”

Clause 6(c) requires that “the minority party (be) treated fairly in the appointment” of committee staff employed pursuant to such expense resolutions. Prior to the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, House rules provided a base level of 30 so-called “statutory” staff positions for all House standing committees (except the Appropriations Committee). Funds for these staff were provided through a line-item appropriation and were not included in the funding resolutions reported from the House Administration Committee. In the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, House rules were changed to (1) provide for biennial committee funding resolutions, and (2) include funding authorization for the baseline 30 staff positions in each committee’s funding authorization.<sup>2</sup> Twenty of these positions are allotted to the committee majority and 10 to the committee minority. The House majority leadership has encouraged its committee leaders to move as quickly as possible to provide the minority with one-third of the remaining 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, indicate a general consensus that all House committees should provide at least one-third minority staffing this Congress.

Each committee is encouraged to discuss its proposed budget and approve it at a committee organization meeting. Some committees, however, do not prepare or approve their draft budgets this way. Each committee chair normally introduces a House resolution to provide his or her committee with the requisite funds for the two years of the Congress. These individual resolutions are then referred to the House Administration Committee, which holds public hearings on each committee’s request. The chair and the ranking minority member from each committee normally testify at these hearings.

The chair of the House Administration Committee then typically introduces an omnibus funding resolution, which, after its referral to the House Administration Committee, has served as the legislative vehicle for a full committee markup. The chairman’s resolution usually incorporates, without change, the amounts requested by each committee.

The House normally acts on committee funding resolutions during the last week of March in the first year of a Congress. The committee funding resolution is normally called up as privileged business under the Rules of the House, allowing it to be called up and considered without the need for a special rule from the Rules Committee. Privileged funding resolutions are considered in the House under the one-hour rule and, typically, the majority party manager does not yield the floor to permit amendments to be offered. (The committee-reported amendment is automatically laid before the House.) At the end of one hour of debate, the majority party manager moves the previous question and, if agreed to, the House votes on final

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<sup>2</sup> As before, these provisions were not made applicable to the House Appropriations Committee.

passage of the resolution. Before the vote on final passage, it has become customary for the minority party to offer a motion to recommit the funding resolution. This motion normally permits the minority to offer an alternative funding proposal and to obtain a House vote on it. Owing to the bipartisan consensus on the funding resolution in the past two Congresses, House Democrats did not offer such a motion in 2001 or 2003.

**Table 1. House Committee Funding Requests, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Committee	109 <sup>th</sup> Congress		
	Request	1 <sup>st</sup> Session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session
Agriculture	\$11,562,481	\$5,595,604	\$5,966,877
Armed Services	\$13,333,137	\$6,387,373	\$6,945,764
Budget	\$12,026,478	\$6,013,239	\$6,013,239
Education and the Workforce	\$15,493,286	\$7,708,622	\$7,784,664
Energy and Commerce	\$21,388,076	\$10,297,200	\$11,090,876
Financial Services	\$16,127,977	\$7,831,097	\$8,296,880
Government Reform	\$12,349,000	\$10,624,500	\$1,724,500
Homeland Security	\$15,787,494	\$7,462,855	\$8,324,639
House Administration <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—
International Relations	\$18,869,785	\$9,092,015	\$9,777,770
Judiciary	\$18,263,201	\$8,972,238	\$9,290,962
Resources	\$14,805,934	\$7,289,521	\$7,516,413
Rules	\$6,365,600	\$3,176,144	\$3,189,456
Science	\$13,146,852	\$6,388,306	\$6,758,546
Small Business	\$6,034,058	\$2,987,331	\$3,046,727
Standards <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$18,582,105	\$9,007,388	\$9,574,717
Veterans' Affairs	\$7,933,081	\$3,832,415	\$4,100,666
Ways and Means	\$17,819,494	\$8,732,509	\$9,086,985
Permanent Select Intelligence <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—

**Source:** Data taken from committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Notes:** Introduced as of March 4, 2005.

a. The committee has not yet introduced a funding resolution.

**Table 2. House Committee Funding Authorizations, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, and Committee Funding Requests, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Actual Dollars**

Committee	108 <sup>th</sup> Congress			109 <sup>th</sup> Congress			109 <sup>th</sup> Congress
	Approved	1 <sup>st</sup> Session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Request	1 <sup>st</sup> Session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Proposed Change
Agriculture	\$10,327,531	\$5,084,900	\$5,242,632	\$11,562,481	\$5,595,604	\$5,966,877	11.96%
Armed Services	\$11,931,357	\$5,871,876	\$6,059,481	\$13,333,137	\$6,387,373	\$6,945,764	11.75%
Budget	\$11,869,572	\$5,856,333	\$6,013,239	\$12,026,478	\$6,013,239	\$6,013,239	1.32%
Education and the Workforce	\$14,673,371	\$7,047,896	\$7,625,475	\$15,493,286	\$7,708,622	\$7,784,664	5.59%
Energy and Commerce	\$18,622,138	\$9,101,042	\$9,521,097	\$21,388,076	\$10,297,200	\$11,090,876	14.85%
Financial Services	\$13,696,487	\$6,601,085	\$7,095,402	\$16,127,977	\$7,831,097	\$8,296,880	17.75%
Government Reform	\$19,614,435	\$9,740,963	\$9,873,472	\$12,349,000	\$10,624,500	\$1,724,500	-37.04%
Homeland Security <sup>b</sup>	\$10,952,787	\$5,366,866	\$5,585,921	\$15,787,494	\$7,462,855	\$8,324,639	44.14%
House Administration <sup>a</sup>	\$8,527,057	\$4,122,092	\$4,404,965	—	—	—	—
International Relations	\$14,552,695	\$6,993,645	\$7,559,050	\$18,869,785	\$9,092,015	\$9,777,770	29.67%
Judiciary	\$14,048,616	\$6,957,554	\$7,091,062	\$18,263,201	\$8,972,238	\$9,290,962	30.00%
Resources	\$13,509,424	\$6,492,029	\$7,017,395	\$14,805,934	\$7,289,521	\$7,516,413	9.60%
Rules	\$5,669,311	\$2,797,898	\$2,871,413	\$6,365,600	\$3,176,144	\$3,189,456	12.28%
Science	\$11,690,845	\$5,711,401	\$5,979,444	\$13,146,852	\$6,388,306	\$6,758,546	12.45%
Small Business	\$5,120,301	\$2,535,261	\$2,585,041	\$6,034,058	\$2,987,331	\$3,046,727	17.85%
Standards <sup>a</sup>	\$3,071,250	\$1,527,825	\$1,543,425	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$16,461,893	\$7,982,558	\$8,479,334	\$18,582,105	\$9,007,388	\$9,574,717	12.88%
Veterans' Affairs	\$5,486,795	\$2,703,328	\$2,783,466	\$7,933,081	\$3,832,415	\$4,100,666	44.58%
Ways and Means	\$15,976,288	\$7,828,037	\$8,148,251	\$17,819,494	\$8,732,509	\$9,086,985	11.54%
Permanent Select Intelligence	\$7,809,730	\$3,780,487	\$4,029,243	—	—	—	-100.00%

**Source:** Data taken from committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses.

**Notes:** Introduced as of March 4, 2005.

a. In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the committee has not yet introduced a funding resolution .

b. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security was a select committee.

**Table 3. House Committee Funding Authorizations, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, and Committee Funding Requests, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Constant Dollars**

Committee	108 <sup>th</sup> Congress			109 <sup>th</sup> Congress			109 <sup>th</sup> Congress
	Approved	1 <sup>st</sup> Session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Request	1 <sup>st</sup> Session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Proposed Change
Agriculture	\$10,703,588	\$5,270,057	\$5,433,532	\$11,562,481	\$5,595,604	\$5,966,877	8.02%
Armed Services	\$12,365,814	\$6,085,689	\$6,280,125	\$13,333,137	\$6,387,373	\$6,945,764	7.82%
Budget	\$12,301,779	\$6,069,580	\$6,232,199	\$12,026,478	\$6,013,239	\$6,013,239	-2.24%
Education and the Workforce	\$15,207,673	\$7,304,531	\$7,903,142	\$15,493,286	\$7,708,622	\$7,784,664	1.88%
Energy and Commerce	\$19,300,227	\$9,432,439	\$9,867,789	\$21,388,076	\$10,297,200	\$11,090,876	10.82%
Financial Services	\$14,195,218	\$6,841,451	\$7,353,767	\$16,127,977	\$7,831,097	\$8,296,880	13.62%
Government Reform	\$20,328,656	\$10,095,661	\$10,232,995	\$12,349,000	\$10,624,500	\$1,724,500	-39.25%
Homeland Security <sup>b</sup>	\$11,351,611	\$5,562,290	\$5,789,321	\$15,787,494	\$7,462,855	\$8,324,639	39.08%
House Administration <sup>a</sup>	\$8,837,553	\$4,272,190	\$4,565,363	—	—	—	—
International Relations	\$15,082,603	\$7,248,305	\$7,834,298	\$18,869,785	\$9,092,015	\$9,777,770	25.11%
Judiciary	\$14,560,169	\$7,210,900	\$7,349,269	\$18,263,201	\$8,972,238	\$9,290,962	25.43%
Resources	\$14,001,343	\$6,728,424	\$7,272,920	\$14,805,934	\$7,289,521	\$7,516,413	5.75%
Rules	\$5,875,748	\$2,899,778	\$2,975,970	\$6,365,600	\$3,176,144	\$3,189,456	8.34%
Science	\$12,116,544	\$5,919,370	\$6,197,174	\$13,146,852	\$6,388,306	\$6,758,546	8.50%
Small Business	\$5,306,747	\$2,627,578	\$2,679,170	\$6,034,058	\$2,987,331	\$3,046,727	13.71%
Standards <sup>a</sup>	\$3,183,084	\$1,583,458	\$1,599,626	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$17,061,321	\$8,273,227	\$8,788,092	\$18,582,105	\$9,007,388	\$9,574,717	8.91%
Veterans' Affairs	\$5,686,586	\$2,801,764	\$2,884,820	\$7,933,081	\$3,832,415	\$4,100,666	39.51%
Ways and Means	\$16,558,033	\$8,113,080	\$8,444,954	\$17,819,494	\$8,732,509	\$9,086,985	7.62%

**Source:** Based on data taken from committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses (as of March 4, 2005), and the Consumer Price Index. See U.S. Department Of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Price Index*, Feb. 23, 2005, available at [ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiat.txt], visited Feb. 23, 2005.

**Note:** January, 2005 dollars.

a. In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the committee has not yet introduced a funding resolution.

b. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security was a select committee.

**Table 4. House Committee Funding Authorizations, 104<sup>th</sup> - 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses, Actual Dollars**

Committee	104 <sup>th</sup> Congress	105 <sup>th</sup> Congress	106 <sup>th</sup> Congress	107 <sup>th</sup> Congress	108 <sup>th</sup> Congress
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved
Agriculture	\$7,406,899	\$7,656,162	\$8,414,033	\$9,607,006	\$10,327,531
Armed Services	\$9,085,743	\$9,721,745	\$10,342,681	\$10,872,677	\$11,931,357
Budget	\$9,912,000	\$9,940,000	\$9,940,000	\$11,107,043	\$11,869,572
Education and the Workforce	\$9,621,539	\$10,125,113	\$11,200,497	\$13,573,886	\$14,673,371
Energy and Commerce	\$13,686,823	\$14,535,406	\$15,285,113	\$17,226,770	\$18,622,138
Financial Services	\$8,645,054	\$8,901,617	\$9,307,521	\$11,846,231	\$13,696,487
Government Reform	\$13,520,037	\$20,020,572	\$19,770,233	\$19,420,233	\$19,614,435
Homeland Security <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—	—	\$10,952,787
House Administration	\$6,177,608	\$6,050,349	\$6,251,871	\$7,418,045	\$8,527,057
International Relations	\$10,028,093	\$10,368,358	\$11,313,531	\$12,672,626	\$14,552,695
Judiciary	\$9,553,190	\$10,604,041	\$12,152,275	\$13,166,463	\$14,048,616
Resources	\$9,588,953	\$9,876,550	\$10,567,908	\$11,601,260	\$13,509,424
Rules	\$4,433,817	\$4,649,102	\$5,069,424	\$5,370,773	\$5,669,311
Science	\$8,411,326	\$8,677,830	\$8,931,726	\$10,628,041	\$11,690,845
Small Business	\$3,791,580	\$3,906,941	\$4,148,880	\$4,798,783	\$5,120,301
Standards	\$1,981,150	\$2,456,300	\$2,632,915	\$2,871,091	\$3,071,250
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$10,878,981	\$12,184,459	\$13,220,138	\$14,479,551	\$16,461,893
Veterans' Affairs	\$4,220,605	\$4,344,160	\$4,735,135	\$5,142,263	\$5,486,795
Ways and Means	\$10,219,358	\$11,036,907	\$11,930,338	\$14,748,888	\$15,976,288
Permanent Select Intelligence	\$4,519,890	\$4,815,526	\$5,164,444	\$6,955,074	\$7,809,730
Reserve Fund	—	\$7,900,000	\$3,000,000	—	—

**Source:** Data taken from committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for each Congress.

**Notes:** Renamed committees are listed according to their names and types in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

a. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security was a select committee.

**Table 5. House Committee Funding Authorizations, 104<sup>th</sup> -108<sup>th</sup> Congresses, Constant Dollars**

Committee	104 <sup>th</sup> Congress	105 <sup>th</sup> Congress	106 <sup>th</sup> Congress	107 <sup>th</sup> Congress	108 <sup>th</sup> Congress
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved
Agriculture	\$9,268,344	\$9,096,761	\$9,631,189	\$10,344,755	\$10,703,588
Armed Services	\$11,369,102	\$11,551,008	\$11,838,831	\$11,707,620	\$12,365,814
Budget	\$12,403,008	\$11,810,330	\$11,377,899	\$11,959,984	\$12,301,779
Education and the Workforce	\$12,039,550	\$12,030,274	\$12,820,737	\$14,616,262	\$15,207,673
Energy and Commerce	\$17,126,490	\$17,270,417	\$17,496,225	\$18,549,661	\$19,300,227
Financial Services	\$10,817,663	\$10,576,563	\$10,653,927	\$12,755,936	\$14,195,218
Government Reform	\$16,917,789	\$23,787,683	\$22,630,153	\$20,911,567	\$20,328,656
Homeland Security <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—	—	\$11,351,611
House Administration	\$7,730,117	\$7,188,795	\$7,156,253	\$7,987,697	\$8,837,553
International Relations	\$12,548,276	\$12,319,289	\$12,950,122	\$13,645,792	\$15,082,603
Judiciary	\$11,954,024	\$12,599,318	\$13,910,197	\$14,177,552	\$14,560,169
Resources	\$11,998,775	\$11,734,941	\$12,096,639	\$12,492,153	\$14,001,343
Rules	\$5,548,090	\$5,523,886	\$5,802,756	\$5,783,210	\$5,875,748
Science	\$10,525,196	\$10,310,668	\$10,223,770	\$11,444,198	\$12,116,544
Small Business	\$4,744,451	\$4,642,079	\$4,749,048	\$5,167,295	\$5,306,747
Standards	\$2,479,037	\$2,918,482	\$3,013,787	\$3,091,570	\$3,183,084
Transportation and Infrastructure	\$13,613,003	\$14,477,111	\$15,132,535	\$15,591,476	\$17,061,321
Veterans' Affairs	\$5,281,295	\$5,161,566	\$5,420,110	\$5,537,152	\$5,686,586
Ways and Means	\$12,787,609	\$13,113,633	\$13,656,155	\$15,881,496	\$16,558,033
Permanent Select Intelligence	\$5,655,794	\$5,721,625	\$5,911,521	\$7,489,173	\$8,094,106
Reserve Fund		\$9,386,480	\$3,433,974		

**Source:** Based on data taken from committee funding resolutions introduced in the House for each Congress, and the Consumer Price Index. See U.S. Department Of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Price Index*, Feb. 23, 2005, available at [<ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiiai.txt>], visited Feb. 23, 2005.

**Notes:** January, 2005 dollars. Renamed committees are listed according to their names and types in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

a. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security was a select committee.