

113TH CONGRESS }
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

R E P O R T

OF

OVERSIGHT PLANS
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 2(d)(1) of Rule X



APPROVED JANUARY 23, 2013

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

113th Congress

HAROLD ROGERS, Kentucky, *Chairman*

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¹ Chairman Emeritus

WILLIAM B. INGLEE, *Clerk and Staff Director*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

JANUARY 23, 2013

Hon. Darrell E. Issa,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Candice S. Miller,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA and CHAIRMAN MILLER: On behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby transmit the Committee's plan for Oversight activities for the 113th Congress. This year, the Committee intends to conduct increased oversight of Federal programs, policies and activities, especially with regard to unnecessary spending and duplication in Government programs. In addition, the Committee will carefully study the Administration's budget requests and fiscal and programmatic execution in light of budget constraints, changing demographics, shifting needs, and the priorities of the American people.

The Committee looks forward to working with all Members of the House of Representatives in order to fulfill our responsibilities under the Rules.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS, *Chairman*

(III)

REPORT OF OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APPROVED JANUARY 23, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt oversight plans at the beginning of each Congress. Specifically, the Rule states in part:

“Rule X, clause (2)(d)(1). Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.”

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rule X of the Rules of the House vests in the Committee on Appropriations broad responsibility over the Federal budget. Specifically the Rule defines the Committee’s jurisdiction, as follows:

“Rule X clause 1(b). Committee on Appropriations.

(1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government.

(2) Rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriations Acts.

(3) Transfers of unexpended balances.

(4) Bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and referred to the committee under clause 4(a)(2).”

GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

“2. (a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and (B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of such changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and

(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.”

SPECIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS

“3. (a) The Committee on Appropriations shall conduct such studies and examinations of the organization and operation of executive departments and other executive agencies (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the United States) as it considers necessary to assist it in the determination of matters within its jurisdiction.”

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

“4. (a)(1)(A) The Committee on Appropriations shall, within 30 days after the transmittal of the budget to Congress each year, hold hearings on the budget as a whole with particular reference to—

(i) the basic recommendations and budgetary policies of the President in the presentation of the budget; and

(ii) the fiscal, financial, and economic assumptions used as bases in arriving at total estimated expenditures and receipts.

(B) In holding hearings under subdivision (A), the Committee shall receive testimony from the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and such other persons as the Committee may desire.

(C) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, shall be held in open session, except when the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that the testimony to be taken at that hearing on that day may be related to a matter of national security. The committee may by the same procedure close one subsequent day of hearing. A transcript of all such hearings shall be printed and a copy thereof furnished to each Member, Delegate, and the Resident Commissioner.

(D) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, may be held before a joint meeting of the Committee and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate in accordance with such procedures as the two committees jointly may determine.

(2) Pursuant to section 401(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, when a committee reports a bill or joint resolution that provides new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of that Act, and enactment of the bill or joint resolution, as reported, would cause a breach of the committee's pertinent allocation of new budget authority under section 302(a) of that Act, the bill or joint resolution may be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with instruction to report it with recommendations (which may include an amendment limiting the total amount of new entitlement authority provided in the bill or joint resolution). If the Committee on Appropriations fails to report a bill or joint resolution so referred within 15 calendar days (not counting any day on which the House is not in session), the committee automatically shall be discharged from consideration of the bill or joint resolution, and the bill or joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) In addition, the Committee on Appropriations shall study on a continuing basis those provisions of law that (on the first day of the first fiscal year for which the congressional budget process is effective) provide spending authority or permanent budget authority and shall report to the House from time to time its recommendations for terminating or modifying such provisions.

(4) In the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee on Appropriations (after consulting with the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocations made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such concurrent resolution, and promptly report the subdivisions to the House as soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year is agreed to."

Rule XIII of the Rules of the House prescribes special reporting requirements of the Committee on Appropriations. Specifically Rule XIII, clause 3(f) states:

CONTENT OF REPORTS

“(f)(1) A report of the Committee on Appropriations on a general appropriation bill shall include—

(A) a concise statement describing the effect of any provision of the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly changes the application of existing law; and

(B) a list of all appropriations contained in the bill for expenditures not currently authorized by law for the period concerned (except classified intelligence or national security programs, projects, or activities) along with a statement of the last year for which such expenditures were authorized, the level of expenditures authorized for that year, the actual level of expenditures for that year, and the level of appropriations in the bill for such expenditures.

(2) Whenever the Committee on Appropriations reports a bill or joint resolution including matter specified in clause 1(b)(2) or (3) of rule X, it shall include—

(A) in the bill or joint resolution, separate headings for “Rescissions” and “Transfers of Unexpended Balances”; and

(B) in the report of the committee, a separate section listing such rescissions and transfers.”

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Appropriations is strongly committed to stringent and comprehensive oversight of Federal discretionary spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested wisely and prudently on behalf of the American people. Oversight should not be a partisan exercise, but a serious evaluation and accounting of how taxpayer dollars are being utilized by Government agencies and programs.

Because of the historic nature of the Nation’s financial crisis, Congress must go further in exercising oversight than ever before. This Congress must get into the weeds, root out waste, abuse and duplicative spending in Federal programs, and reject “more money” solutions to our budgetary challenges.

As part of this focus, the Appropriations Committee must maintain continual pressure on Federal agency officials and department heads in order to promote accountability and responsibility by the agencies regarding the investment of American tax dollars. In addition, the Committee will utilize, where appropriate, information and testimony from non-Government entities to further scrutinize Federal spending and the effectiveness and necessity of Government programs.

To accomplish these goals for in the 113th Congress, the Committee on Appropriations intends to engage in the following oversight actions:

(1) *Subcommittee Hearings.* The Appropriations Committee holds itself to the highest standards for analyses of the President’s budget and supplemental funding requests. During the 112th Congress, the Appropriations Committee held 246 hearings, heard testimony from 1,858 witnesses and published 164 volumes of hearings totaling 134,620 pages.

These subcommittee hearings will include testimony from Federal agency officials with responsibility over the spending of taxpayer dollars, as well as non-Government individuals and entities with relevant budgetary information and analysis.

(2) *Investigations.* In addition to open oversight hearings, the Committee will also engage in in-depth, comprehensive studies and investigations into agency activities when it is deemed necessary. Specifically, these investigations may include examination of potential duplication in Government programs, budget practices in Federal agencies, as well as others. Many of these investigations will be conducted by the Committee's Surveys and Investigations staff, who are highly qualified and experienced in the detailed examination of Federal budgets. In addition, the Committee will continue to utilize the investigative expertise of the Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General of the various Federal agencies. In the 112th Congress, the Committee initiated 78 studies for the Surveys and Investigations staff and received 232 investigative reports from the Government Accountability Office.

(3) *Appropriations Bills.* The "Power of the Purse" is the Committee's primary responsibility, as outlined in Article I, Section 9, and Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution which states that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The manner in which the Committee chooses to provide or withhold Federal funding will be undertaken with the utmost level of care and concern over the prudent and responsible use of taxpayer funds, based on its in-depth review of each agencies programs and budget through its informed analyses. The Committee will strictly adhere to its responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act by ensuring its strict conformance with the total discretionary spending levels established in the Budget Resolution. The Committee will fulfill its responsibility to allocate those funds among the subcommittees based on the prioritization of limited spending based on its analyses and reviews.