

Bill to Boost IRS Funds Advances Over GOP Spending Objections

By Jack Fitzpatrick | June 29, 2021 6:36PM ET

House Democrats advanced a spending bill to boost funds for the Internal Revenue Service and other Treasury Department programs, over Republican calls to reduce planned increases in domestic spending and pull back stimulus funds for local governments.

House Appropriations Committee members voted 33-24 to advance the fiscal 2022 Financial Services-General Government spending bill out of the committee and to the floor, where House Democrats aim to pass spending bills in July.

The bill's \$29.1 billion topline total would be a \$4.8 billion increase over the fiscal 2021 level. The IRS would receive \$13.6 billion, a \$1.7 billion increase.



Photo by Samuel Corum - Pool/Getty Images

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), seen at a 2019 hearing, leads the House Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee.

The markup featured a debate over stimulus funds enacted in March's \$1.9 trillion reconciliation law ([Public Law 117-2](#)). Members rejected an amendment by Rep. [Steve Womack](#) (R-Ark.), ranking member of the subcommittee, to block a forthcoming tranche of stimulus payments to local governments that Womack said totaled nearly \$200 billion.

Womack panned the “extremely large amount of money that local governments didn’t ask for, that in many respects don’t need, and at this moment in time don’t even know how they’d effectively spend.”

Members rejected the proposal in a 23-34 vote. Rep. [Jaime Herrera Beutler](#) (R-Wash.) joined all 33 Democrats in opposing the measure.

Other Amendments

The panel adopted via a unanimous voice vote an amendment by Rep. [Chris Stewart](#) (R-Utah) to bar federal funds for cloud computing contractors that don’t implement safeguards against child pornography.

Lawmakers also adopted a manager’s amendment—a package of noncontroversial changes to the bill and accompanying report—that included language directing the White House Office of Management and Budget to convene a conference on “a roadmap to end hunger and improve nutrition by 2030.”

The committee also rejected two amendments offered by Rep. [Ashley Hinson](#) (R-Iowa) that would have blocked federal funds to pay for abortions for federal employees and blocked the District of Columbia from using federal or district funds to pay for abortions. Both measures included exceptions in the case of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

Rep. [Henry Cuellar](#) (D-Texas) joined Republicans in supporting the measure to bar funds to pay for abortions for federal employees.

Allocations Approved

In the same markup, members voted 33-25 along party lines to set topline allocations for all 12 fiscal 2022 spending bills, including large increases to bills to fund domestic priorities and a modest \$9.9 billion increase for the Defense appropriations bill.

House Appropriators Divide \$1.5 Trillion Among 12 Spending Bills

Subcommittee	302(b) Allocation
Agriculture-FDA	\$26.6B
Commerce-Justice-Science	81.3
Defense	705.9
Energy & Water	53.2
Financial Services	28.5
Homeland Security	52.8
Interior-Environment	43.4
Labor-HHS-Education	237.5
Legislative Branch	6.0
Military Construction-VA	124.5
State-Foreign Operations	62.2
Transportation-HUD	84.1

Note: As approved by the committee on June 29
Source: House Appropriations Committee

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Appropriations talks have at times been dominated by debates over the broader issue of stimulus funds and Democrats' plans to spend liberally through regular appropriations and other major legislation. Republicans, who supported deficit-boosting measures such as the 2017 tax law ([Public Law 115-97](#)) during the Trump administration, have panned Democrats' proposals that would increase the deficit. President Joe Biden's fiscal 2022 budget proposal called for a 16.5% increase in nondefense discretionary spending.

"We all know that every single dollar is borrowed money and is simply going to further mortgage the future of generations to follow us, likely in the form of higher taxes," Womack said. "We're going to have to pay this money back."

Democrats have defended proposals to boost spending, saying the U.S. hasn't fully recovered from the pandemic or the recession it caused.

"It ain't over yet," said Rep. [Mike Quigley](#) (D-Ill.), the Financial Services Subcommittee chair. "There are serious risks involved."

The bill would provide the Department of the Treasury \$15.4 billion in discretionary funds, a \$1.9 billion increase. It would make immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program eligible for federal employment. It would create a commission to recommend changing the names of federal property that honor individuals in a way that's "inconsistent with the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion."

The measure would also eliminate bans on the use of local and federal funds in the District of Columbia to legalize marijuana.

Appropriators also backed the Legislative Branch spending bill, completing committee action on two of the 12 bills.

[Capitol Police Boosted in \\$4.8 Billion House Spending Measure](#)

Keep track of all the progress of spending bills with the [Status of Appropriations Table](#).

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