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# News Release



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## CONGRESS APPROVES GPO APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2001

With Senate passage of the conference agreement on H.R. 4516, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for 2001, on October 12, Congress completed action on GPO's appropriations, clearing the measure for the President. The House of Representatives approved the conference agreement on September 14. GPO's funding has been covered by successive continuing resolutions since October 1, and will continue to be covered until the President signs the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act into law.

Under Title I of the Act, Congress approved \$71,462,000 for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, which is used to cover the costs of printing work that GPO performs for Congress, such as the Congressional Record, bills, reports, and hearings. This is a reduction of \$1,835,000, or nearly 3%, from the \$73,297,000 that was approved for fiscal year 2000.

Under Title II, Congress approved \$27,954,000 for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents. This funding is used to cover the costs of distributing Government publications as required by law, including distribution to Federal depository libraries, cataloging and indexing Government documents, distributing Government publications to recipients designated by law, and distributing Government publications to other nations which agree to send copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress. This is a reduction of \$1,918,000, or about 6%, from the \$29,872,000 that was approved for 2000. In making this reduction, the conferees directed that "emphasis should be on streamlining the distribution of traditional paper copies of publications which may include providing online access and less expensive electronic formats." GPO has already initiated actions to accelerate the ongoing transition of the Federal Depository Library Program to a more electronic basis.

The final levels appropriated for each of GPO's accounts represent compromises between the different levels of funding proposed by the House and the Senate. The conferees also agreed to authorize the transfer of appropriations balances from preceding fiscal years to GPO's revolving fund.

The two appropriations total \$99,416,000, or nearly 4% of the Legislative Branch Act overall. They represent a decrease of \$3,753,000, or about 4%, from the

level of \$103,169,000 that was approved for GPO for fiscal year 2000. GPO's appropriations have declined 13% in the past 5 years, from a high of \$114.1 million in 1996. During the same period, GPO's staffing, as measured by full-time equivalents, decreased by nearly 25% from 4,129 at the beginning of fiscal year 1996 to 3,100 at the end of fiscal year 2000. During the same period, GPO has developed **GPO Access** ([www.access.gpo.gov](http://www.access.gpo.gov)) into one of the Federal Government's premier Internet sites, which currently is used by the public to retrieve more than 25 million Government documents every month.

The FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act contains additional directions from Congress. A study is to be made of the printing needs of the House of Representatives and an evaluation of transferring such funds as may be necessary to meet those needs from GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding appropriation to the Clerk of the House in fiscal year 2003. The conferees also directed the General Accounting Office to conduct a study "on the impact of providing documents to the public solely in electronic format." The study is to include "an assessment of the feasibility of the transfer of the depository library program to the Library of Congress." The study is currently underway.

(Self-Mailer)



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