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PRESIDENT SIGNS GPO APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2001

President Clinton signed the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 into law on December 21, completing action on GPO's appropriations for the year. GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation and the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents are contained in Title I and Title II of the Act, respectively.

The original Legislative Branch Appropriations bill for FY 2001, H.R. 4516, was passed by the House of Representatives on September 14. It was rejected by the Senate on September 20 and then passed on October 12. It was vetoed by the President on October 30, along with the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill to which it was linked. Following the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2000, GPO's funding was provided through a series of 21 continuing resolutions. The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill was reintroduced on December 14 as H.R. 5657, and then incorporated by reference into the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations bill, H.R. 4577, that was passed on December 15. H.R. 4577 includes a .22 percent rescission to funding contained in the bill, including GPO's appropriations.

For fiscal 2001, GPO's appropriations total \$99,198,000 (after application of the .22 percent rescission, which yields a cut of approximately \$218,000). This is a decrease of \$3,971,000, or nearly 4%, from the level of \$103,169,000 that was approved for fiscal year 2000. GPO's appropriations have declined 13% in the past 5 years.

A total of \$71,305,000 was approved for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation (after application of the .22 percent rescission, a cut of approximately \$157,000). This is a reduction of \$1,992,000, or nearly 3%, from the \$73,297,000 that was approved for fiscal year 2000. These funds are used to cover the costs of printing work that GPO performs for Congress, such as the Congressional Record, bills, reports, and hearings.

>A total of \$27,893,000 was approved for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents (after application of the .22 percent rescission, a cut of approximately \$61,000). This is a reduction of \$1,979,000, or about 7%, from the \$29,872,000 that was approved for 2000. These funds are 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.

In cutting the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation, Congress 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." Superintendent of Documents Francis J. Buckley, Jr., has already initiated actions to accelerate the ongoing transition of the Federal Depository Library Program to a more electronic basis.

The new law authorizes the transfer of appropriations balances from preceding fiscal years to GPO's revolving fund, which will help with GPO's financial situation. It sets the ceiling on the number of full-time equivalents, or personnel, that GPO can employ at 3,285, the level GPO requested. However, Congress directed other measures that may have a significant impact on GPO's structure and operations. These include a study of the printing needs of the House of Representatives, along with an evaluation of transferring part of GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding appropriation to the Clerk of the House in fiscal year 2003.

Congress 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, and is due to be submitted to the House Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in March 2001.

GPO has begun developing the appropriations estimates for fiscal 2002. These will be considered by Congress early next year.

(Self-Mailer)



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