

# *Appropriation Bills*

## **A. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

### **§ 1. Scope of Chapter**

This chapter discusses consideration of appropriation bills on the floor, beginning with procedures for reporting and calling up such bills.<sup>(1)</sup> The requirement that appropriations contained in general appropriation bills must have been previously authorized by law is discussed in a general way; but detailed treatment of the prohibition against unauthorized appropriations and legislation on general appropriation bills is to be found in a separate chapter.<sup>(2)</sup>

Matters relating to the duties, prerogatives, and jurisdiction of the Committee on Appropriations are discussed in the chapter on committees of the House.<sup>(3)</sup>

1. For earlier treatment of the subject matter of this chapter, see 4 Hinds' Precedents §§ 3553–3700; 7 Cannon's Precedents §§ 1116–1331, 1571–1578.
2. Ch. 26, *infra*.
3. Ch. 17, *supra*. Similarly, this chapter does not treat in any detail the various powers and prerogatives of the House, including any constitutional restrictions affecting appropriations for particular purposes, such as the

Discussion of referral of bills to committees is accordingly to be found in that chapter, although additional related precedents may be found in the chapter on introduction and reference of bills.<sup>(4)</sup> It may be noted for present purposes that the Committee on Appropriations has jurisdiction over all general appropriation bills.

Similarly, issues related to committee hearings and various oversight functions of the Committee on Appropriations are to some extent covered in the chapter on committees; procedures and issues that have developed too recently for inclusion in this edition will be taken up in supplements to this edition as they appear. Accordingly, the general oversight re-

constitutional stricture (see art. I § 8 clause 12) that no appropriation of money "to raise and support armies" shall be for a longer term than two years. Matters relating to the powers and prerogatives of the House, generally, including House authority with respect to revenue and appropriation measures, are treated in Ch. 13, *supra*.

4. Ch. 16, *supra*.

sponsibilities of the committee with respect to conducting studies and examinations of the organization and operation of executive departments and agencies are not discussed at length here. Moreover, the hearings on the budget as a whole which are conducted by the committee in open session within 30 days of submission of the budget are not covered in any detail in this chapter.

In particular, procedures under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the impact of such act on the congressional budget process and on the role of the Committee on Appropriations, are necessarily given only limited treatment in this edition. A summary of the act's major provisions can be found in the chapter on the powers and prerogatives of the House.<sup>(5)</sup>

At this point, it is clear that the impact of the Congressional Budget Act on the appropriations process and on the responsibilities of the Committee on Appropriations will be considerable. For example, the committee is given certain responsibilities with respect to rescissions of appropriations, transfers of unexpended balances, and

the amount of new spending authority to be effective for a fiscal year. Its responsibilities extend to measures reported by other committees which exceed the appropriate allocation of new budget authority contained in the latest concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year (the resolution setting forth, among other things, appropriate levels of budget outlays and of total new budget authority).

New provisions also require the Committee on Appropriations (to the extent practicable), before reporting the first regular appropriation bill for the fiscal year, to complete subcommittee markup and full committee action on all regular appropriation bills for that year, and to submit to the House a summary report comparing the committee's recommendations with provisions of the latest concurrent resolution on the budget.<sup>(6)</sup>

5. Ch. 13, *supra*. See *House Rules and Manual* §§1007-11 (1981) for provisions from the Congressional Budget Act.

6. For further discussion of the above provisions, see materials contained in the latest edition of the *House Rules and Manual*, and supplements to this edition of *Deschler's Precedents*. See also the summary of Budget Act provisions in Ch. 13, *supra*.