
**AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL EXPENDITURES BY THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

NOVEMBER 3 (legislative day, OCTOBER 16), 1987.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BENTSEN, from the Committee on Finance,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. Res. 311]

The Committee on Finance, reports favorably an original resolution to authorize supplemental expenditures for the Committee on Finance, and recommends that the resolution do pass.

AUTHORIZATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL EXPENDITURES

The Resolution amends S. Res. 80, the annual authorization resolution, to authorize supplemental expenditures by the Committee on Finance in the amount of \$235,000, increasing the authorized amount from \$2,223,333 to \$2,458,333.

PURPOSE FOR WHICH AUTHORIZATION IS SOUGHT

The supplemental authorization is necessary to prevent a substantial cut in the Finance Committee's operating budget from last year's levels.

This report includes a letter dated April 22, 1987, from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee to the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, providing additional details.

EARLIER SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

The amount requested in this resolution was requested earlier, pursuant to S. Res. 71, the annual authorization resolution reported by the Committee.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, April 22, 1987.

Hon. Wendell Ford,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Finance is seeking funding for the period March 1, 1987 through February 29, 1988 to supplement the amounts approved in S. Res. 80.

The amount sought is \$235,000. This is the same amount that the Senate authorized out of the previous year's unexpended balances for the Finance Committee for the 1986-87 (section 2(e) of S. Res. 353, 99th Congress). That amount, together with the newly authorized amount of \$2,153,790, brought the operating budget of the Finance Committee for last year to \$2,388,790.

The amount approved for the current year in S. Res. 80, however, was based on only the basic 1986-87 amount of \$2,153,790. As a result, the amount approved in S. Res. 80 (\$2,153,790. As a result, the amount approved in S. Res. 80 (\$2,153,790 plus a COLA adjustment of \$69,543, totaling \$2,223,333) represents a substantial cut in the Finance Committee's operating budget. This may be compared to the increases granted all other Committees with the exception of the Armed Services Committee.

The supplemental request, together with the amount specified in S. Res. 80, would bring the Finance Committee's 1987-88 budget to a total of \$2,458,333. In other words, this year's budget would be the same as last year's, increased only by the previously approved COLA adjustment of \$69,543.

We are aware that, in the discussion of the amendment that added the \$235,000 of funding in section 2(e) of last year's funding resolution, reference was made to a purportedly temporary need for funds because of the pending tax reform legislation. However, we wish to emphasize that the nature of the Finance Committee's work is such that it will continually bear a heavy portion of the important work of the Congress. If anything, the workload of the Committee has increased from 1986 to 1987.

In 1986, the Committee devoted a substantial amount of time to a single important policy initiative, tax reform. By anyone's reckoning, the major policy initiatives to be considered by the 100th Congress include three policy initiatives over which the Finance Committee has jurisdiction: trade law reform; catastrophic health insurance; and welfare reform. All three of these areas obviously involve a great deal of political controversy. They are also highly technical and complex, and require intensive application of staff resources in order to handle hearings, markups, floor action and conference deliberations.

In addition, we wish to call to your attention the Budget Resolution recently reported by the Budget Committee. That resolution contemplates four years of reconciled budget savings of \$171.5 billion. Of that total, \$113 billion, or 66 percent, is to be provided by the Finance Committee—\$90.8 billion in taxes and \$22.2 billion in spending cuts.

An additional major legislative task now being handled by Finance Committee staff is the preparation of technical corrections to the Tax Reform Act of 1986. This will be a painstakingly technical 300-500 page bill, and we will continue to devote an enormous amount of staff resources to this project as the bill is introduced and moves through the legislative process.

The supplemental funding is to be devoted primarily to enabling the Committee to shift resources from the tax professional staff and administrative staff to the areas of trade, health and social welfare, in order to meet the changing needs and workload of the Committee.

There will be three new positions on the Majority staff for experienced, technical professionals—one each in the areas of trade, health and social welfare. There will be two new positions on the Minority staff—one for a staff economist devoted primarily to trade and spending issues, and one for a junior staff member primarily devoted to trade. The aggregate annual salary cost of these five new positions is \$247,690.

The Rules Committee should note that the Finance Committee has eliminated other positions and shifted other resources in order to accommodate these new positions, because our request is to maintain, and not increase, the Committee's budget. For example, the current Majority staff intends to operate without four professional staff positions (one Deputy Chief of Staff position, one economist position, and two tax counsel positions) used by the previous Majority staff primarily for handling tax reform legislation. The current Minority staff had accommodated its additional positions by using a different general salary structure than the previous Minority staff.

To conclude, the amount requested is necessary to prevent an effective cut in Finance Committee resources, and to enable the Finance Committee to have the staffing that is necessary for it to meet its obligations to provide legislative recommendations to the Senate on such important matters as trade law reform, catastrophic health insurance, welfare reform, deficit reduction and tax technical corrections.

We respectfully request the Committee on Rules and Administration to approve our funding request to assist the Committee in its work on major legislation.

Sincerely,

LLOYD BENTSEN,

Chairman.

BOB PACKWOOD,

Ranking Minority Member.