

## **Spending Bills for Programs in the Department of Justice Approved by the Full House, and the Senate Appropriations Committee**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the FY 2007 spending bill that includes programs in the Department of Justice (DOJ) serving people with histories of alcohol and drug use and addiction, and people with criminal records. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY 2007 DOJ spending bill. Under the House- and Senate Appropriations Committee-approved spending bills, programs providing services to people with addiction histories and/or criminal records would receive the following funding levels:

- **The President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI)** would receive \$7 million through the Department of Justice in the House-approved spending bill, \$2 million more than last year's funding and \$8 million less than the President's FY 2007 budget request. The Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bill would allocate \$5 million for the DOJ portion of the President's PRI, level to last year's funding and \$10 million less than the President's budget request.
  - **The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program**, which helps states and localities to develop and implement residential substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional and detention facilities, would receive \$5 million under the House-approved bill, \$5 million less than last year. RSAT would receive \$1 million under the Senate Appropriations Committee spending bill, a \$9 million cut from last year's funding. The President had not requested any funding for the RSAT program in his FY 2007 budget.
  - **The Drug Court program**, which provides financial and technical assistance to state and local governments and courts to develop and implement treatment drug courts, would receive \$40 million under the House-approved spending bill, a \$30 million increase over last year's funding amount and nearly \$30 million less than the President's budget request. The Senate Appropriations Committee requested that the Drug Court program receive \$15 million, \$5 million more than last year's funding and \$55 million less than the President's budget request.
  - **The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program**, which funds programs providing a number of different prevention, education, community corrections and drug treatment services, would receive \$558.1 million according to both the House- and Senate Appropriations Committee-approved spending bills; this represents a \$141.6 million increase over last year's funding. The President had slated this program for elimination in his FY 2007 budget.
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- **The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program**, which supports and enhances efforts by states and localities to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors, and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, would receive \$25 million according to both the House- and Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bills, funding level to FY 2006. This program was also slated for elimination in the President's budget.

Timing for full Senate consideration of the DOJ spending bill is uncertain; once the Senate completes its work on the appropriations bill, members of the House and Senate will likely meet in a conference committee to reconcile the funding differences between the two pieces of legislation. Additional information about the House- and Senate Appropriations Committee-approved DOJ spending bills can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app07.html>.

### **House Appropriations Committee Approves Spending Bill for Programs in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the full House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 07 spending bill for programs in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS). Programs providing drug and alcohol education, prevention, and treatment services and conducting scientific research on alcoholism and drug addiction, would receive the following appropriations under the House Appropriations Committee-approved bill, which are unchanged from the House Labor HHS Subcommittee-approved spending bill:

- **The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant** would receive \$1.834 billion, a \$75.4 million increase over both FY 2006 funding and the President's budget request.
- **The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment** would receive \$326.7 million, representing a \$72.2 million cut from last year's funding and nearly \$48 million less than the President's budget request.
- **The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention** would receive \$195.8 million, a \$3 million increase over FY 2006 funding, but \$15.2 million more than the President's budget request.
- **The Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants program** would receive \$310 million, despite being slated for elimination in the President's budget; this represents a \$36.5 million cut from last year's funding.
- **The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)** would receive \$995 million, a \$5 million cut from last year, which is equal to the President's budget request.
- **The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)** would receive \$433 million, also equivalent to the President's budget request, a \$2.6 million cut from last year's funding.

Additionally, funding through the Department of Labor for the President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative would be completely eliminated under the House Appropriations Committee-approved Labor HHS spending bill. The Department of Labor had received \$19.6 million last year, the same amount the President requested for the program to receive in his FY 2007 budget. The House Labor HHS spending bill did not include any funding for this program through the Department of Labor.

Under the House Appropriations Committee-approved Labor HHS spending bill, the Ryan White Care Act, which funds health and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS, would receive a \$70 million increase over last year's funding. The additional funding is intended to help States provide medications to individuals with HIV/AIDS. In addition, the House Labor HHS spending bill would also provide \$63 million for a new HIV testing initiative at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It is unclear when the Full House will consider the Labor-HHS spending bill. Although a vote in the House was scheduled for the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>, the vote was delayed and it has been reported that the vote may not occur until after the November mid-term elections. Additional information about funding amounts in the Labor HHS spending bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee can be found at: [http://appropriations.house.gov/files/LH\\_Detail\\_FCWEB.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/files/LH_Detail_FCWEB.pdf).

**Legislation to Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Approved by the Senate; Differences Between the House- and Senate-Approved Bills Must be Reconciled Before Legislation Can Become Law**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the full Senate approved S. 1021, legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), by unanimous consent. S. 1021 was approved in May of 2005 by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In March of 2005, the full House approved H.R. 27, its version of legislation to reauthorize WIA. Both S. 1021 and H.R. 27 contain a provision that would require States to detail how they will serve the employment and training needs of people in the hard-to-serve population; both bills include "ex-offenders" in the hard-to-serve population definition.

Key provisions of S.1021 include:

- Requirement that State Workforce Investment boards now must include the State economic development agency; the legislation requires that business representatives include representatives of small businesses.
- Authorization of up to \$250 million for Youth Challenge Grants for each year in which the appropriation for youth activities exceeds \$1 billion.
- Retention of the three separate funding streams of WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Workers, and the Wagner-Peyser Act employment service program.
- Requirement that adjustment of performance measures to reflect economic conditions and the characteristics of the population served to remove disincentives to serving hard-to-serve populations.

- Reauthorization and amendment of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 1998.

In order for WIA reauthorization legislation to become law, the differing provisions in the House- and Senate-approved bills must first be resolved. It is unclear whether there will be a formal conference committee convened to oversee the process this summer; Congress will be out on recess for the month of August and is scheduled to adjourn at the beginning of October to prepare for the mid-term elections in November.

The text of both pieces of legislation can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>