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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE   NEW

Neither chamber met today; both the House and Senate will reconvene on Monday, July 30.

The Senate next week will consider a judicial nomination and then turn to consideration of two tax bills (S. 3412, S. 3413) and cybersecurity legislation (S. 3414).

The House schedule for next week has not been announced at this writing.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE APPROVES FY13 DEFENSE SPENDING BILL   NEW

The House approved its FY13 Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 5856) yesterday by a vote of 326 to 90, marking the seventh of 12 funding bills the chamber has approved for FY13. Before approving the measure, the House voted to reduce core Defense Department funding by $1.1 billion across-the-board to $581.1 billion, the same as the FY12 level, reports Politico. However, the bill remains more than $6 billion above the level agreed to in last year’s Budget Control Act (BCA), so it drew a veto threat from the White House. CQ.com reports that the Senate Appropriations Committee plans to mark up its own version of the FY13 Defense bill before the August recess.

As reported from committee, the bill provides $12.21 billion for Science & Technology (S&T), a slight cut of $53.2 million, or 0.4 percent, from the estimated FY12 level of $12.63 billion. S&T programs include defense-wide and military service funding for 6.1 basic research, 6.2 applied research, and 6.3 advanced technology development.

Within this total, applied research (6.2 programs) receives $4.563 billion, a $176.1 million, or 3.7-percent, cut from the estimated FY12 level of $4.739 billion. Advanced technology
development (6.3 programs) receives $5.530 billion, a $118.6 million, or 2.2-percent, increase above the estimated FY12 level of $5.411 billion.

The committee report shows that 6.1 basic research would receive a total of $2.116 billion, or about 0.2 percent above FY12. The report provides the following breakdown for 6.1 basic research:

- Army: $428.5 million, $15.6 million below the Administration’s request and $27.7 million below the FY12 estimate.
- Navy: $625.0 million, $20 million above the Administration’s request and $19.7 million above the FY12 estimate.
- Air Force: $516.0 million, the same as the Administration’s request and $14.9 million below the FY12 estimate.
- Defense Wide: $547.4 million, $4.4 million below the Administration’s request and $27.2 million above the FY12 estimate.

The committee-approved bill would provide DARPA with $2.827 billion in FY13, which is $10 million above the Administration’s request and $11.4 million above the FY12 estimate.

**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE MARKS UP FY13 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION FUNDING BILL UPDATED**

The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee on July 18 approved its FY13 funding bill by a vote of 8 to 6. The measure, which is the last of the FY13 bills to be marked up in subcommittee, is expected to be considered in full committee next week. The bill is not expected to reach the House floor.

The overall bill is $150 billion, which is $6.3 billion lower than the comparable FY12 level and $8.8 billion below both the President’s FY13 request and the Senate committee-approved FY13 funding bill (S. 3295). The House committee report is not yet available.

**Higher Education.** Like the Senate bill, the House measure maintains the maximum discretionary Pell Grant award at $4,860 for academic year 2013-2014. With the inclusion of mandatory funding, this would raise the maximum Pell Grant award to the scheduled $5,635. Although the committee report is not yet available, the bill apparently makes no changes in the Pell Grant formula and level-funds the campus-based student aid programs. Bill language would prevent the Department of Education from using any funds to implement or enforce its final regulations on state authorization and credit hour or its proposed regulations on gainful employment.

**Biomedical Research.** The measure flat funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at its FY12 level of $30.6 billion, which is also the President’s FY13 request. The Senate bill would provide a $100 million increase for the agency.

The House bill also includes prescriptive language for NIH. The language mandates: a funding allocation of 90 percent for extramural activities and 10 percent for intramural activities; no funding for “any economic research programs, projects or activities;” a minimum number of new National Research Service Awards; no changes in the National Children’s study; and a further
lowering of the extramural investigator salary cap to Executive Level III. The Senate bill retains the current salary cap at Executive Level II (which the biomedical research community has sought to restore to Executive Level I since that limit was imposed last year).

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