

CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

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Public Law 113-235
113th Congress

An Act

Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. <<NOTE: Dec. 16, 2014 - [H.R. 83]>>

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, <<NOTE: Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.>>

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ``Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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Sec. 1. Budgetary Effects.

SEC. 3. <<NOTE: 1 USC 1 note.>> REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House of Representatives section of the Congressional Record on or about December 11, 2014 by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through K of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

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SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

(a) Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

(b) Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL ALLOWANCE FOR ESTIMATING DIFFERENCES.

If, for fiscal year 2015, new budget authority provided in appropriations Acts exceeds the discretionary spending limit for any category set forth in section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 due to estimating differences with the Congressional Budget Office, an adjustment to the discretionary spending limit in such category for fiscal year 2015 shall be made by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the amount of the excess but the total of all such adjustments shall not exceed 0.2 percent of the sum of the adjusted discretionary spending limits for all categories for that fiscal year.

SEC. 8. <<NOTE: 2 USC 4501 note.>> ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 610(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 9. <<NOTE: 48 USC 1492a.>> STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) Definitions.--In this section:

(1) Comprehensive energy plan.--The term "comprehensive energy plan" means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act

entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes", approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) Energy action plan.--The term "energy action plan" means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) Freely associated states.--The term "Freely Associated States" means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) Insular areas.--The term "insular areas" means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) Secretary.--The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) Team.--The term "team" means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) Establishment.--Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering

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Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts--

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) Participation of Regional Utility Organizations.--In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) Energy Action Plan.--In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include--

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to--

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and

sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) Reports to Secretary.--Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) Annual Reports to Congress.--Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) Approval of Secretary Required.--The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 <<NOTE: 48 USC 1806.>> (90 Stat. 263; 122 Stat. 854) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ``December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)'' and inserting ``December 31, 2019''; and

(2) in subsection (d)--

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking ``not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection'' and inserting ``ending on December 31, 2019'';

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

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SEC. 11. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

(a) For payments in lieu of taxes under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2015, \$372,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) The amount made available in subsection (a) shall be in addition to amounts made available for payments in lieu of taxes by the Carl Levin and Howard P. ``Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

DIVISION <<NOTE: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.>> A--
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

TITLE III <<NOTE: Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2015.>>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and the Helen Keller National Center Act, \$3,709,853,000, of which \$3,335,074,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under title I of the Rehabilitation Act: Provided, That the Secretary may use amounts provided in this Act that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States pursuant to section 110(b) of the Rehabilitation Act for innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities as defined in section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act, including activities aimed at improving the education and post-school outcomes of children receiving Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") and their families that may result in long-term improvement in the SSI child recipient's economic status and self-sufficiency: Provided further, That States may award subgrants for a portion of the funds to other public and private, non-profit entities: Provided further, That any funds made available subsequent to reallocation for innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities shall remain available until September 30, 2016: Provided further, That \$2,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to support alternative financing programs that provide for the purchase of assistive technology devices, such as a low-interest loan fund; an interest buy-down program; a revolving loan fund; a loan guarantee; or insurance program: Provided further, That applicants shall provide an assurance that, and information describing the manner in which, the alternative financing program will expand and emphasize consumer choice and control: Provided further, That State agencies and community-based disability organizations that are directed by and operated for individuals with disabilities shall be eligible to compete.