

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 887 Defense Appropriations
SPONSOR(S): Stargel
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Military & Veteran Affairs Committee		Marino	Cutchins
2) Rules & Calendar Council			
3) State Administration Council			
4) _____			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

From 2002 to 2005, the Congress passed the Defense Appropriations Bill before any other appropriations bills. Through this memorial, the Florida Legislature commends the Congress of the United States for making our nation's defense its first budgetary priority in those years and requests that Congress continue this tradition in 2006 and in future years.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Not Applicable.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation:

In the wake of the terror attacks on America, President Bush urged the U.S. Congress to pass the Defense Appropriations Bill before passing other spending bills. In a speech, he said, "And so I urge Congress to get moving on the appropriations process, particularly when it comes to the Defense bill. Generally, here in Washington, they wait and put the Defense bill out last. I'm not going to read any reasons why into that; it just happens. I'll let the experts tell you why. It seems like to me if we're at war -- and we are at war -- that they ought to get the Defense appropriations bill out first, and not play games with the Defense appropriations."¹

From 2002 to 2005, the Congress passed the Defense Appropriations Bill before any other appropriations bills. In 2004, the Florida Senate approved a memorial commending the Congress for making our nation's defense its first priority in 2002, and requested the Congress to continue this tradition that year and in future years.

Effect of Proposed Changes:

This memorial expresses legislative findings that the security of our nation and its people is the first and foremost obligation of the Federal Government, that our men and women in uniform, because of their courage and self-sacrifice, deserve the best equipment and resources to protect our nation. Additionally, the memorial expresses the finding that Congress has had a tendency in the past to delay passing the Defense Appropriations Bill until late in the budget year opening it to the addition of appropriations that are not defense-related.

Through this memorial, the Florida Legislature commends the Congress of the United States for making our nation's defense its first budgetary priority in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 and requests that Congress continue this tradition in 2006 and in future years.

The Florida Legislature further resolves that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Not Applicable.

¹ George W. Bush. "President Calls on Congress to Show Fiscal Responsibility: Remarks by the President at Meeting of the Leaders of the Fiscal Responsibility Coalition." April 16, 2002 <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020416-8.html>> (February 20, 2006)

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on state government expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

There are no known or expected direct economic impacts on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This memorial does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenues.

2. Other:

There do not appear to be any constitutional issues with this memorial.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not Applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Not Applicable.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES