



THAD COCHRAN OF MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY: CONTINUING RESOLUTION THROUGH MARCH 23

The legislation includes a continuing resolution (CR) to fund government operations at existing levels from Feb. 8 through March 23. It will ensure continued operation of important national security and domestic programs as Congress works with the Trump administration to complete the FY2018 appropriations process.

In addition to the CR, the bill includes provisions to address economic pressures on American cotton and dairy producers. Language is included to make cotton eligible for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program beginning with the 2018 crop year. This action would address ongoing and disaster-related economic challenges facing cotton producers, and allow them to participate in the program, just like all other major U.S. commodity producers. The measure also includes language to adjust production margins for the Dairy Margin Protection Program and to lift the restriction on livestock crop insurance expenditures.

The legislation also contains a limited number of anomalies to address unique issues arising during the duration of the CR. These anomalies:

- Continue funding authority to maintain the schedule and deliver the required data according to statutory deadlines in the 2020 Decennial Census Program.
- Allow Department of Energy to sell and use up to \$350 million of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to carry out the modernization program authorized in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.
- Provide \$6.379 million for operating funds for the Southeastern Power Administration, which are fully offset by collections from power customers.
- Provide the Judiciary with additional juror fees to accommodate for increased juror usage.
- Continue Department of Education authority to make account maintenance fee payments to guarantee agencies under the Federal Family Education Loan program.
- Provide authority for new construction starts for urgently-needed projects associated with the F-35A program to avoid schedule delays and anticipated cost increases identified by the Air Force.
- Make technical corrections to comply with the authorization, allowing the Department of Transportation to consolidate its credit programs for efficient management and direct oversight of the resources.
- Extend the authorization of the HOPE VI program for the duration of the CR, enabling

the Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods.

- Provide funding for the staffing of newly opened or expanded Indian Health Service facilities.
- Modify existing authority to allow the Secretary of Education to waive cohort default rate requirements for public institutions of higher education operating in severely economically distressed communities.

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