

stated above, the conference agreement leaves this option to the discretion of the Congress.

*7. Amendments to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act*

HOUSE BILL (SECTION 11106)

The House bill permanently extends the requirement that allocations to the authorizing committees cover at least a five-year period. In the process, it collapses the temporary allocations under section 602 into section 302, generally conforming to the structure set forth in section 602.

It also modifies the default allocation in which an interim allocation is provided to the Appropriations Committee in the House if the budget resolution is not agreed to by April 15. Under the modified default allocation, the Appropriations Committee would be allocated an amount based on the prior year's budget resolution (instead of the President's budget). It clarifies that the Appropriations Committee shall subdivide its allocation among its 13 subcommittees. It provides that the allocations and suballocations shall be divided between defense, non-defense, and the violent crime reduction category as long as separate spending limits are in effect.

SENATE AMENDMENT (SECTION 1605)

The Senate amendment is essentially identical to the House bill, though it does not contain the provision regarding temporary allocations to the House Appropriations Committee in section 302.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT (SECTION 10106)

The Conference agreement reflects the House bill with modifications. As with section 301 regarding the scope of the timeframes in a budget resolution, the conference agreement also requires that section 302 allocations made to committees cover at least five years. Interim allocations only apply in the House.

The conference agreement also provides that the Budget Committee must make separate allocations of defense, nondefense, and violent crime reduction funding. Section 302(a)(3) requires that the allocation of budget authority and outlays to the Appropriations Committees will be further divided among the categories specified in section 250(c)(4) of GRH. Under section 302(b), the Appropriations Committees are required to allocate these separate categories among its 13 subcommittees. These separate divisions of the allocations are enforced in the Senate pursuant to section 302(f) of the Budget Act.

As modified, section 302(f) of the Budget Act refers to the "applicable" allocation. The word "applicable" is used in part to recognize the fact that two budget resolutions will often be in force at the same time.

*8. Amendments to section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act*

HOUSE BILL (SECTION 11107)

The House bill makes several technical changes to Section 303(a) of the Budget Act which prohibits the consideration of

spending legislation before Congress has agreed to a budget resolution. It eliminates references to new credit authority and new entitlement authority. In the future, legislation providing new entitlement authority will be scored as providing new budget authority which is also subject to section 303(a). Credit authority is already scored as new budget authority, in the amount of the subsidy.

SENATE AMENDMENT (SECTION 1606)

The Senate amendment repeals subsection (c) of section 303, which provides a process for the Senate to consider a resolution to waive this point of order. Since this point of order can be waived under section 904 of the Budget Act through a motion, the waiver resolution process is not needed.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT (SECTION 10107)

The Conference agreement reflects the House bill with an amendment. The Conference agreement rewrites section 303 in its entirety to simplify this section, drop obsolete provisions, and make conforming changes to reflect changes made to other provisions in the Act. The Conference agreement retains the general objective of section 303: to discourage the Congress from considering budget-related legislation until the adoption of a budget resolution for a year.

The language of current section 303 is vague with respect to its application to appropriations measures in the Senate. Under section 302 of the Budget Act, allocations are made to the Senate Appropriations Committee for just the first year of a budget resolution (the budget year). The conference clarifies the application of this point of order to provide that it is out of order to consider an appropriations measure for a year until an allocation under section 302(a) has been made pursuant to the budget resolution for that year. The conference agreement retains the current law exception that allows appropriations measures to contain advance appropriations for the two years following that year. By “advance appropriations”, the conferees mean an appropriation which is first available in a year beyond the year for which the appropriation bill applies.

The conferees intend to clarify that section 303(a) is a gross test which looks at whether any provision within the measure provides new budget authority, increases revenue, etc. It is not a net test that looks at the sum of changes in budget authority, increases in revenue, etc. as is the case with sections 302(f) and 311(a).

*9. Amendments to section 304 of the Congressional Budget Act*

HOUSE BILL

No provision

SENATE AMENDMENT

No provision

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT (SECTION 10108)

The Conference agreement repeals subsection (b) of section 304. Subsection 304(a) provides the authority for Congress to revise