

Public Law 104-92
104th Congress

An Act

Jan. 6, 1996
[H.R. 1643]

Making appropriations for certain activities for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 for continuing the following projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act) which were conducted in the fiscal year 1995:

All nutrition services for the elderly under the account heading "Aging services programs" under the Administration on Aging in the Department of Health and Human Services;

All grants to States for child welfare services, authorized by title IV, part B, subpart 1, of the Social Security Act, under the account heading "Children and families services programs" under the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services;

All Federal Parent Locator Service activities, as authorized by section 453 of the Social Security Act, under the account heading "Children and families services programs" under the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services;

All State unemployment insurance administration activities under the account heading "State unemployment insurance and employment service operations" under the Employment and Training Administration in the Department of Labor;

All general welfare assistance payments and foster care payments, as authorized by law, funded under the account heading "Operation of Indian programs" under the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior;

All projects and activities funded under the account heading "Family support payments to States" under the Administration For Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services;

All projects and activities funded under the account heading "Payments to States for foster care and adoption assistance" under the Administration For Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services;

All administrative activities necessary to carry out the projects and activities in the preceding two paragraphs;

All projects and activities funded under the account headings "Dual benefits payments account", "Limitation on administration" and "Limitation on railroad unemployment insurance administration fund" under the Railroad Retirement Board;

All projects and activities necessary to accommodate visitors and to provide for visitor services in the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuges, the National Forests, the facilities operated by the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the United States Holocaust Memorial; and

All projects and activities necessary to process visas and passports and to provide for American citizen services, notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956: *Provided*, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under an Act which included funding for fiscal year 1996 for the projects and activities listed in this section is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under the Act which included funding for fiscal year 1996 for the projects and activities listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this Act, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this Act, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

(c) Whenever an Act which included funding for fiscal year 1996 for the projects and activities listed in this section has been passed by only the House or only the Senate as of the date of enactment of this Act, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the one House at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the one House, whichever is lower, and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 102. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 103. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 104. No provision which is included in the appropriations Act enumerated in section 101 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, fund, or authority provided in this Act.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

Termination
date.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this title of this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this title of this Act, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) September 30, 1996, except for the projects and activities under the headings "Family support payments to States" and "Payments to States for foster care and adoption assistance", for which date shall be March 15, 1996, whichever first occurs.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this title of this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 101 of this Act that makes the availability of any appropriation provided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 106(c) of this Act.

SEC. 109. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 110. For the purposes of this title of this Act, the time covered by this title of this Act shall be considered to have begun on December 16, 1995.

SEC. 111. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, funds appropriated under section 101 for the payment of vested dual benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act shall be made available so as to fully fund the payments made on January 1, 1996, and the payments to be made within the period covered by this Act including those payments to be made on the first day of each month within the period covered by this Act. In addition to the funds appropriated under section 101 of this Act, \$12,800,000 is appropriated to restore full funding for payments made for the period prior to January 1, 1996.

8 USC 1351 note.

SEC. 112. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the authorities provided under subsection (a) of section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) shall remain in effect during the period of this Act, notwithstanding paragraph (3) of said subsection.

TITLE II

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable

corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 201. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996 OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal year 1996 in which appropriations are not otherwise available for programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall nevertheless ensure that—

(1) payments of existing veterans benefits are made in accordance with regular procedures and schedules and in accordance with eligibility requirements for such benefits; and

(2) payments to contractors of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs are made when due in the case of services provided that directly relate to patient health and safety.

(b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the payments pursuant to subsection (a), including such amounts as may be necessary for the costs of administration of such payments.

(c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIATIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applicable accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and for the costs of administration of such payments, when regular appropriations become available for those purposes.

(d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes of this section, existing veterans benefits are benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for payment as of—

(1) December 15, 1995; or

(2) if appropriations for such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection (b)) after December 15, 1995, the last day on which appropriations for payment of such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

SEC. 202. Section 201 shall cease to be effective on September 30, 1996.

SEC. 203. For the purposes of this title of this Act, the time covered by this title of this Act shall be considered to have begun on January 4, 1996.

Termination
date.

Coverage.

TITLE III

Government
employees.

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 301. Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in applicable appropriations Acts for the fiscal year 1995 for paying salaries of Federal employees excepted from the provisions of the Antideficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1341 et seq.) who are continuing projects and activities conducted in fiscal year 1995 who work during periods when there is otherwise no funding authority for their salaries.

SEC. 302. Appropriations made by section 301 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 303. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 301 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 304. No provision which is included in the appropriations Act enumerated in section 301 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, fund, or authority provided in this Act.

SEC. 305. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

Termination
date.

SEC. 306. Unless otherwise provided for in this title of this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this title of this Act, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) January 26, 1996, whichever first occurs.

SEC. 307. Expenditures made pursuant to this title of this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 308. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 301 of this Act that makes the availability of any appropriation provided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 306(c) of this Act.

SEC. 309. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 310. ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DEEMED TO BE EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES.—(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, is amended for the period December 15, 1995 through January 26, 1996—

District of
Columbia.

(1) by inserting after the first sentence "All officers and employees of the United States Government or the District of Columbia government shall be deemed to be performing services relating to emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property."; and

(2) by striking out the last sentence.

SEC. 311. EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES UNDER NORMAL LEAVE POLICY.—Federal employees considered excepted from furlough during any period in which there is a lapse in appropriations with respect to the agency activity in which the employee is engaged shall not be considered to be furloughed when on leave and shall be

subject to the same leave regulations as if no lapse in appropriations had occurred.

SEC. 312. ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, beginning on January 2, 1996, any Federal employee who is excepted from furlough and is not being paid due to a lapse in appropriations shall be deemed to be totally separated from Federal service and eligible for unemployment compensation benefits under subchapter I of chapter 85 of title 5 of the United States Code with no waiting period for such eligibility to accrue.

SEC. 313. For the purposes of this title, Federal employees returning to work under the provisions of section 310 shall be deemed to have returned to work at the first regularly scheduled opportunity after December 15, 1995.

SEC. 314. Appropriations made pursuant to section 301 are made notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, section 701 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236), section 53 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act, and section 10 of Public Law 91-672.

TITLE IV

District of
Columbia.

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of the general fund and enterprise funds of the District of Columbia for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 401. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 for continuing projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this title of this Act) which were conducted in the fiscal year 1995 and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority would be available in the following appropriations Act:

The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1996:

Provided, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted in this Act is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under the Act listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this Act, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this Act, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That where an item is not included in either version or where an item is included in only one version of the Act as passed by both Houses as of the date of enactment of this Act, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 411 or 412 under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the applicable appropriations Act for the

fiscal year 1995 and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 402. Appropriations made by section 401 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 403. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 401 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 404. No provision which is included in the appropriations Act enumerated in section 401 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, fund, or authority provided in this title of this Act.

SEC. 405. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this title of this Act.

Termination
date.

SEC. 406. Unless otherwise provided for in this title of this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this title of this Act, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) September 30, 1996, whichever first occurs.

Abortion.

SEC. 407. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this Act, except section 406, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this Act shall be expended for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SEC. 408. Expenditures made pursuant to this title of this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 409. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 401 of this title of this Act that makes the availability of any appropriation provided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 406(c) of this Act.

SEC. 410. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this title of this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 411. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this Act, except section 406, whenever the Act listed in section 401 as passed by both the House and Senate as of the date of enactment of this Act does not include funding for an ongoing project or activity for which there is a budget request, or whenever the rate for operations for an ongoing project or activity provided by section 401 for which there is a budget request would result

in the project or activity being significantly reduced, the pertinent project or activity may be continued under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 by increasing the rate for operations provided by section 401 to a rate for operations not to exceed one that provides the minimal level that would enable existing activities to continue. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this Act bears to 366. For the purposes of this title of this Act the minimal level means a rate for operations that is reduced from the current rate by 25 percent.

SEC. 412. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this Act, except section 406, whenever the rate for operations for any continuing project or activity provided by section 401 or section 411 for which there is a budget request would result in a furlough of Government employees, that rate for operations may be increased to the minimum level that would enable the furlough to be avoided. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this Act bears to 366.

SEC. 413. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this Act, except sections 406, 411, and 412, for those programs that had high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of funding at the beginning of the fiscal year in fiscal year 1995 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, similar distributions of funds for fiscal year 1996 shall not be made and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this title of this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 414. This title of this Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in this title of this Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 415. The provisions of section 132 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1988, Public Law 100-202, shall not apply for this title of this Act.

SEC. 416. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this Act, except section 406, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this Act shall be used to implement or enforce any system or registration of unmarried, cohabiting couples whether they are homosexual, lesbian, heterosexual, including but not limited to registration for the purpose of extending employment, health, or governmental benefits to such couples on the same basis that such benefits are extended to legally married couples; nor shall any funds made available pursuant to any provision of this title of this Act otherwise be used to implement or enforce D.C. Act 9-188, signed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia on April 15, 1992.

Domestic
partners.

TITLE V

CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN REIMBURSEMENTS

SEC. 501. CLARIFICATION OF REIMBURSEMENT TO STATES FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED EMPLOYEES.—(a) If a State used State funds

to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

(2) the State shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon due under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

(3) the State may use funds available to the State under such Federal program to reimburse such State, together with interest thereon due under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "State" shall have the meaning as such term is defined under the applicable Federal program under subsection (a).

Applicability.

(c) The authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 1996 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this Act) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the expenses referred to in subsection (a) with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

Approved January 6, 1996.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1643:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 104-162 (Comm. on Ways and Means).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 141 (1995): July 10, 11, considered and passed House.

Jan. 2, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Vol. 142 (1996): Jan. 5, House concurred in Senate amendment with an amendment. Senate concurred in House amendment.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 32 (1996):

Jan. 6, Presidential statement.