

[Congressional Record: November 17, 1999 (House)]

[H12274]

Legal Services Corporation

payment to the legal services corporation

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended, \$305,000,000, of which \$289,000,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; \$2,100,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; \$8,900,000 is for management and administration; and \$5,000,000 is for client self help and information technology.

administrative provision--legal services corporation

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 1999 and 2000, respectively.

[H12308]

Legal Services Corporation

payment to the legal services corporation

The conference agreement includes \$305,000,000 for payment to the Legal Services Corporation, instead of \$300,000,000 as proposed in the Senate bill, and \$250,000,000 as proposed in the House bill.

The conference agreement provides \$289,000,000 for grants to basic field programs and independent audits, \$8,900,000 for management and administration, and \$2,100,000 for the Office of the Inspector General, as proposed by the Senate. The agreement also includes \$5,000,000 to provide technology grants to Legal Services Corporation grantees to be used to improve pro se clinic methods and acquire computerized systems that make basic legal information and court forms accessible to pro se litigants. These grants are made with the understanding, as stated in the Legal Services Corporation budget request, that the grantees make a commitment to include in their budgets for future years amounts sufficient to maintain and upgrade their equipment. The conferees note that \$28,000,000 is provided for civil legal assistance under the Violence Against Women Act program funded under title I of this bill.

The conferees expect that any unobligated balances remaining available at the end of the fiscal year may be reallocated among participating programs for technology enhancements and demonstration projects in succeeding fiscal years, subject to the reprogramming procedures in Section 605 of this Act.

The conferees have concerns about the case service reporting and associated data reports submitted annually by the Corporation's grantees and the case statistical reports submitted by the Corporation to the Congress, and the conferees direct the Corporation to make improvement of the accuracy of these submissions a top priority, per directions in the House report. The conferees also direct the Corporation to submit its 1999 annual case service reports and associated data reports to Congress no later than April 30, 2000. The Office of the Inspector General will assess the case service information provided by the grantees, and will report to the Committees no later than July 30, 2000, as to its accuracy, as described in the House report. The conference agreement also includes the two feasibility reports described in the House report, due no later than June 1, 2000. The conferees urge the Corporation to provide its annual case service reports by May 1 of each following fiscal year, as described in the House report. The conferees direct the Corporation to keep the Committees fully informed on

its study of the issue of the statutory requirement that aliens be `` present in the United States'', as described in the House report.

administrative provision--legal services corporation

The Conference recommendation includes bill language to continue the terms and conditions included under this section in the fiscal year 1999 bill, as proposed in the House. The Senate bill contained similar language, but did not propose to continue provisions regarding public disclosure of certain information and treatment of assets and income for certain clients.