



E-GOV ROADBLOCKS

CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS on how agencies transfer money for e-government initiatives are getting tighter. Three bills for 2007 have tightened the reins.

HOUSE BILLS

Science, State, Justice and Commerce, HR 5672

Section 605(a) prohibits the reprogramming of funds to:

- Create new programs
- Eliminate a program, project or activity
- Increase funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted
- Relocate offices or employees
- Reorganize or rename offices
- Reorganize programs, or activities
- Contract out or privatize any function or activity presently performed by federal employees unless the appropriations committees of both houses of Congress are notified 15 days in advance.

Section 605(b) prohibits a reprogramming of funds in excess of \$750,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, if the funds:

- Augment existing programs, projects or activities
- Reduce by 10 percent funding

for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress

- Result from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress, unless the House and Senate appropriations committees are notified 15 days in advance.

The committee has again included carryover funds under the requirements of section 605 to clarify that agencies must follow reprogramming procedures with respect to carry over funds.

Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, HR 5647

The act requires that the agencies submit a reprogramming request before using funds provided to implement e-government initiatives.

With any such request, the lead career executive in the program or office must

describe the previous estimated benefits of the e-government initiatives and demonstrate the benefits that would come from reprogramming the funds.

Failure to do so will automatically result in a denial of the request.

Section 520 prohibits the reprogramming or transfer of funds to the e-government initiatives without an approved reprogramming request from the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary and the District of Columbia, HR 5576

All departments within the subcommittee's jurisdiction are required to submit operating plans, and reprogramming letters and reorganization proposals for committee approval.

Unless otherwise specified in the act or the accompanying report, the approved level for any program, project or activity is that amount detailed for that program, project or activity in the department's annual detailed congressional submission.