



June 28, 2006

## Amendments to the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act of 2007, H.R. 5672

### Part V

The following contains information on amendments included in the UC Agreement

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### Amendments Made in Order Under the UC Agreement

**Hinchey (D-NY).** Prohibits funds in the Act from being used by the Department of Justice or another agency to obtain private telephone records of citizens or permanent U.S. residents from private data brokers or credit reporting entities, unless the DoJ or agency “has taken measures to assure the records were not obtained by the broker or entity by pretexting or other fraudulent means.” This amendment is likely subject to a point of order. According to the sponsor’s office, the U.S. government “is spending an estimated \$30 million per year in obtaining these private phone records.”

**Hinchey (D-NY).** According to the sponsor’s office, the amendment regarding FCC licenses will not be offered.

**Kucinich (D-OH).** Prohibits funds in the Act from being used by NASA to prepare for or to carry out any involuntary separations due to a reduction in force. According to the sponsor’s office, this amendment would “extend a ban on layoffs at NASA from March 16, 2007 to October 2007” and allow Congress to perform “oversight of the workforce transformation.”

**Murphy (R-PA).** Increases, then decreases the Federal Communications Commission salaries and expenses account by \$50,000. According to the sponsor’s office, this earmark is to highlight the need to make “call spoofing” illegal. Call spoofing is modifying one’s Caller ID information “to mislead or defraud a call recipient.”

Members sometimes use this technique (of reducing and immediately increasing an account by the same amount) to gain time on the floor to speak about the program in

question. Further, since actually earmarking money for a certain project may run afoul of the Rules of the House on appropriations bills, Members sometimes offer amendments that use this reduce/increase technique on projects they wish to earmark. While such an amendment does not actually earmark the funds, it creates a change in the bill. The corresponding legislative history (debate on the floor) would signify that the funds are to be used for a specific project.

***Brown (D-OH).*** According to the sponsor's office, this amendment regarding funding for NASA aeronautics research will not be offered.