

[20686001]

Congress sent to President Bush an \$ 8.5 billion military construction bill that cuts spending for new installations by 16 % while revamping the Pentagon budget to move more than \$ 450 million from foreign bases to home-state projects .

[20686007]

West Virginia , home of Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd , would receive \$ 21.5 million - four times the military 's request .

[20686008]

Tennessee and North Carolina , home states of the two Democratic chairmen of the House and Senate military construction subcommittees , receive \$ 243.2 million , or 25 % above the Pentagon 's request .

[20686009]

Though spending for Iowa and Oregon was far less , their increases above Pentagon requests - 640 % and 430 % - respectively - were much greater because of the influence of Republicans at critical junctures .

[20686011]

By an 84-6 margin , the Senate approved the bulk of the spending Friday , but the bill was then sent back to the House to resolve the question of how to address budget limits on credit allocations for the Federal Housing Administration .

[20686012]

The House Democratic leadership could seek to waive these restrictions , but the underlying bill is already under attack for excesses elsewhere .

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Much of the excess spending will be pushed into fiscal 1991 , and in some cases is temporarily parked in slow-spending accounts in anticipation of being transferred to faster-spending areas after the budget scorekeeping is completed .

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For example , a House-Senate conference ostensibly increased the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget for construction of facilities to nearly \$ 392 million , or more than \$ 200 million above what either chamber had previously approved .

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Part of the increase would provide \$ 90 million toward ensuring construction of a costly solid rocket-motor facility in Mr. Whitten 's Mississippi .

[20686017]

But as much as \$ 177 million , or nearly 30 % of the account , is marked for potential transfers to research , management and flight accounts that are spent out at a faster clip .

[20686018]

The bill 's managers face criticism , too . for the unusual number of conditions openly imposed on where funds will be spent .

[20686019]

Conservatives . embarrassed by Republican influence-peddling scandals at the Department of Housing and Urban Development . have used the issue in an effort to shift blame onto a Democratic-controlled Congress .

[20686020]

HUD Secretary Jack Kemp backed an unsuccessful effort to strike such language last week , but received little support from the White House budget office , which wants to protect space-station funding in the bill and has tended to turn its eyes from pork-barrel amendments .

[20686021]

Within discretionary funds for community development grants , more than \$ 3.7 million is allocated to six projects in Michigan , home state of a subcommittee chairman , Rep. Bob Traxler .

[20686023]

The powerful Democrat had first wanted to add language relaxing environmental restrictions on two mills on the Hamakua coast that are threatening to close .