



Key U.S. House Budget Vote Expected on February 1, 2006 Part I: Procedural Summary of the Conference Agreement

January 2006

This is the first of three fact sheets summarizing various issues related to the upcoming vote on the 2006 Budget Reconciliation Conference Agreement (“Conference Agreement”).

On February 1, 2006, or shortly thereafter, the House will vote on the 2006 Budget Reconciliation Conference Agreement (the “Conference Agreement”), a very significant part of the Federal Fiscal Year 06 budget. While this bill is the compromise version of the House Budget Reconciliation bill and the Senate Budget Reconciliation bill, it is much closer to the original House version.

This will be the third time that Connecticut’s U.S. House members vote on the substance of this bill.

- ***The First Vote***, November 18, 2005, was a vote on the House Reconciliation bill that contained provisions virtually identical to those in the Conference Agreement. ***All CT House members voted NO.***
- ***The Second Vote***, December 19, 2006, was a vote on the Conference Agreement bill that will be voted on again in early February. House members did not have a chance to review this bill before it was voted on, and may not have known how similar it was to the original House bill.¹ ***CT House members voted along party lines: DeLauro and Larson vote NO; Johnson, Shays and Simmons voted YES.***
- ***The Third Vote***, expected February 1, 2006, is necessary because the Senate made technical changes to the Conference Agreement (after the Second House Vote). ***This provides an opportunity for Members of Congress to reassess their position on the bill, and address its many shortcomings.***

A note about reconciliation. Reconciliation spending bills deal only with entitlement spending, such as Medicaid. The Federal Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes many cuts to programs that are not discussed in these papers because they are not entitlement programs. Tax changes also may be enacted both within and outside the reconciliation process. These will be reported on separately.

¹ Normal House rules require at least one day between the presentation of major legislation and the vote on that legislation. With respect to the Budget Conference Agreement vote on December 19, 2005, however, the House leadership invoked what is called “Martial Law,” allowing the commencement of debate and a vote immediately after the unveiling of the bill.