WASHINGTON, June 7 — House and Senate negotiators said Wednesday that they had tentatively agreed to provide more than $8 billion to Louisiana for an ambitious program to build housing and repair levees damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"We are just thrilled," said Senator Mary L. Landrieu, Democrat of Louisiana, who has been seeking such aid for months.

The money is included in an emergency spending bill that also provides more than $70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A House-Senate conference committee worked out compromises on most issues, with the expectation that the two chambers could clear the legislation for President Bush in a week or less.

The compromise measure would provide $4.2 billion in housing assistance for people in Louisiana whose homes were damaged by the hurricane. It also provides $3.7 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers to repair and reinforce levees in southeast Louisiana and to restore wetlands.

Lawmakers said the bill included $550 million to rebuild the veterans hospital in New Orleans and $400 million to build cottages and other small houses for hurricane victims.

Louisiana expects to receive about half of the hurricane relief money earmarked for other purposes but not specifically allocated to any state. The overall amounts are $235 million for elementary and secondary schools along the Gulf Coast, $50 million for higher education, $409 million for agriculture, $118 million for a fisheries recovery program and $40 million to repair historic properties.
"The road to recovery led up a steep political hill, but today we made the climb," Ms. Landrieu said, noting that the negotiations continued past midnight Tuesday and throughout the day on Wednesday. "It was a tremendous victory for our state and our delegation."

More Articles in Washington »