

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

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FY 2014 Omnibus – Homeland Security Appropriations

Funding for critical security and law enforcement programs is prioritized, overhead costs are cut

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the fiscal year 2014 Omnibus is targeted toward critical security and law enforcement efforts to ensure that our nation and our people remain safe, and that the laws of the land are strongly enforced. This includes priority funding for frontline security operations – including all operational, counterterrorism, and threat-targeting activities, and the acquisition of essential tactical resources. The bill also reflects responsible choices to save taxpayer dollars by reducing overhead costs and cutting funding for lower-priority programs. In total, the bill provides \$39.3 billion in discretionary funding for DHS, a reduction of \$336 million compared to the fiscal year 2013 enacted level.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – The bill contains \$10.6 billion for CBP, an increase of \$110.6 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This funding will allow for the highest operational force levels in history – 21,370 Border Patrol agents and 23,775 CBP officers – including an increase of 2,000 additional CBP officers slated for the nation’s busiest ports of entry. The amount includes increases for CBP’s threat-targeting systems for needed improvements identified following the Boston Marathon attacks, such as enhancements to aid the identification of known and suspected terrorists and criminals.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – The bill provides \$5.3 billion for ICE, \$164 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level but approximately \$120 million above the sequester level. This includes \$1.8 billion for both domestic and international investigation programs, including increases above the President’s request to combat human trafficking, child exploitation, cyber-crime, and drug smuggling, and to bolster visa overstay enforcement. The bill also contains \$2.8 billion for ICE detention programs, including funding to sustain the statutorily mandated 34,000 detention beds – the highest detention capacity in history. Additionally, the bill fully funds E-Verify, a program that helps companies check if their employees may legally work in the United States, at \$114 million, and prohibits funds for the ICE public advocate or similar position.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – The TSA is funded at \$4.9 billion – a decrease of \$225 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This includes funding for security enforcement, cargo inspections, intelligence functions, and Federal Flight Deck Officers, and increases for canine detention teams and privatized screening operations. Additionally, the bill continues to reform passenger screening operations by capping full-time screening personnel at 46,000, reducing TSA’s federal screener workforce, and supporting TSA’s shift to more risk-based screening.

Cybersecurity – The bill includes a total of \$792 million for cybersecurity operations, which is \$35.5 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This funding will sustain improvements to the Federal Network Security program to help blunt cyber-attacks and foreign espionage.

Coast Guard – The bill includes \$10.2 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard – a decrease of \$211 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level and \$463 million above the President’s request. The bill sustains military pay and allowances, and denies the President’s proposed cuts that would have gutted vital Coast Guard operations. Targeted increases are provided for: cutter and aviation operating hours, training, and maintenance; acquisition of the seventh National Security Cutter (NSC) and long-lead time material for the eighth NSC; six Fast Response Cutter (FRC) patrol boats; an additional C-130J aircraft; and urgently needed upgrades to family housing. The bill also allows the Coast Guard to receive a transfer of 14 C-27J maritime patrol aircraft from the Air Force.

Secret Service – The bill includes \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Secret Service – a decrease of \$27 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level due to savings from reduced operations after presidential elections. The bill increases funding for cybersecurity investigations, rejects the President’s proposed cuts to critical Secret Service staffing, and continues funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which the President proposed to zero out.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – The bill allows \$6.2 billion for disaster relief – fully funding FEMA’s stated requirement. The bill also provides a total of \$2.5 billion for first responder grants, \$39 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level, including: \$1.5 billion for State and Local grants, \$680 million for Assistance to Firefighter Grants, and \$350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants. Additionally, the bill includes a House amendment that delays certain premium increases in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Research and Development – The bill includes \$1.2 billion for Science and Technology, \$302 million below the President’s request and \$307 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This level sustains investment in high-priority research and development efforts that will advance the nation’s security, including \$404 million in funding for the construction of the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF).

Overhead Costs and Oversight – Overall, the bill cuts the budget of DHS by \$376 million compared to the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This includes a reduction of \$42.8 million in administrative overhead costs, and the denial of construction funding for three new headquarters buildings. The legislation also requires that DHS submit comprehensive spending plans to Congress – 31 in all – to increase transparency and congressional and public oversight over the use of taxpayer dollars.

Funding Restrictions and Policy Provisions – The bill continues a prohibition on the transfer or release detainees from Guantanamo Bay, and includes numerous other restrictions to prevent waste and abuse. Some of these provisions include: a restriction on another “Fast and Furious” type program, extensive reporting requirements for DHS’s procurement and usage of ammunition, and limitations and reporting requirements on spending for conferences and ceremonies. The bill also includes provisions to require CBP to better address wait times and staffing, and to work with private industry stakeholders to improve travel and trade efficiency.

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