

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

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

FY 2017 Omnibus Summary – Department of Homeland Security Appropriations

Bill targets funds to security operations, border and immigration enforcement

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) portion of the Omnibus contains funding for critical programs such as aviation security, border and immigration enforcement, customs activities, protection against cyberterrorism, natural disaster response, and efforts to stop the smuggling of drugs and people into the U.S.

The legislation provides \$42.4 billion in discretionary funding for DHS, an increase of \$1.45 billion above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$1.35 billion above the previous Administration's request. Of the total, \$7.3 billion is included for disaster relief and emergency response activities. In addition, \$1.1 billion of the \$3 billion requested in President Trump's March 16, 2017, budget amendment is included. This amount represents the largest increase to border security technologies and infrastructure improvement in more than a decade. The increases for custody operations end the practice of "catch and release."

Bill Highlights:

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – The bill contains \$11.4 billion in discretionary appropriations for CBP – an increase of \$137 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. These resources ensure the nation's borders are protected by putting boots on the ground, improving technology, and stemming the flow of illegal activities in and out of the country.

In addition, to meet emerging needs at the border, the legislation provides \$772 million in funding as requested by President Trump in his March 2017 budget amendment for improvements to and maintenance of existing infrastructure, technology investments, and increased Border Patrol agent hiring.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – The bill provides \$6.4 billion for ICE – \$550 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. This includes \$617 million – \$380 million in base funding and \$237 million in supplemental funding – for additional detention beds and transportation and removal costs.

Within this total, the legislation includes:

- \$2.1 billion – an increase of \$92 million above the fiscal year 2016 level – for domestic and international investigations programs, including combatting human trafficking, child exploitation, cybercrime, visa screening, and drug smuggling;
- \$3.7 billion for detention and removal programs, including:
 - 39,324 detention beds, electronic monitoring, and GPS tracking alternatives to detention;
 - 129 Fugitive Operations teams and 100 new officers to enforce immigration laws; and
 - Criminal Alien Program operations, including the 287(g) program, which partners with local law enforcement to process, arrest, and book illegal immigrants into state or local detention facilities.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – The bill includes \$7.8 billion for TSA – an increase of \$331 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

To enhance aviation security and reduce unacceptably long wait times at the nation’s airports, the bill includes full funding for Transportation Security Officers, privatized screening operations, and passenger and baggage screening equipment. An additional \$22.6 million above the previous administration’s request is included to hire, train, and deploy 50 more canine teams to further expedite processing time.

The bill institutes rigorous oversight requirements for TSA, and requires assessments on how to improve security and efficiency of passenger and baggage screening.

Cybersecurity and Protection of Communications – Hacking and cyberattacks cost the federal government billions of taxpayer dollars, and expose the personal information of thousands of Americans. To help prevent these breaches in the future, the bill includes a total of \$1.8 billion for the National Protection and Programs Directorate – \$183 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level – to enhance critical infrastructure and stop cyberattacks.

Within this amount, \$1.4 billion is provided to help secure civilian (.gov) networks, detect and prevent cyber-attacks and foreign espionage, and enhance and modernize emergency communications. Funds are also included to enhance emergency communications capabilities and to continue the modernization of the Biometric Identification System.

Coast Guard – The bill contains \$10.5 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard – an increase of \$344 million above the previous Administration’s request and a decrease of \$467.3 million below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides 1.6 percent military pay increase;

- Provides \$7.1 billion for operations and training, military personnel costs, aviation and cutter hours, and to reduce a maintenance backlog that can hinder readiness and response; and
- Provides \$1.37 billion – \$233 million above the request – for modernization and recapitalization of vessels, aircraft, and facilities. This includes funding for the Polar Ice Breaking Vessel program, the acquisition of an Offshore Patrol Cutter, an HC130-J aircraft, six Fast Response Cutters, and facility improvements at multiple locations throughout the United States.

Secret Service – The bill provides \$2 billion for the U.S. Secret Service – an increase of \$112 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. This will increase investments in investigations and cybersecurity, and continue funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which the previous Administration proposed to eliminate.

This also includes \$131 million for additional costs related to presidential protection demands.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – To ensure responsible and ample response to both manmade and natural disasters, the bill fully funds FEMA’s disaster relief account at \$7.3 billion.

The legislation denies the previous Administration’s proposed cuts to first-responder and other critical grant programs, providing \$500.5 million above the request for these vital investments. The bill funds FEMA grants at \$2.7 billion, sustaining fiscal year 2016 levels, including \$1.3 billion for state and local grants, \$690 million for firefighter assistance grants, and \$350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) – Most CIS activities are funded through the collection of fees rather than appropriations; however, \$121.1 million is included for **E-Verify**, a program that allows companies to check the legal work status of their employees.

Guantanamo Bay – The bill retains a prohibition on funds to transfer or release detainees from Guantanamo Bay into the U.S. or its territories.

Savings and Oversight – The bill includes several provisions to save taxpayer dollars and increase accountability at DHS. This includes:

- Denying a proposal to increase TSA passenger fees by \$880 million;
- Rescinding \$507.4 million in unobligated, unused funds from various accounts; and
- Requiring extensive reporting, including spending plans and benchmarks.

For the full Committee Report on the Homeland Security portion of the Omnibus, including a detailed funding table, please visit:

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/115/OMNI/DIVISION%20F-%20HOMELAND%20SOM%20OCR%20FY17.pdf>

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