

MANAGERS' PACKAGE

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2026

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BILL AMENDMENTS

- 1.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding Reducing Lead in Drinking Water)

REPORT AMENDMENTS

1.) Amendment by Senator Murkowski (regarding Community Safety).

On page 29 of the report in the fourth paragraph, strike “Polar Bear Tourism” and insert “Community Safety”.

2.) Amendment by Senator Murkowski (regarding Congressionally Directed Spending)

On page 163 of the report, in the table titled “Congressionally Directed Spending Items”, strike the row titled “Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center for Alaska Tribal Safe Housing Project”.

Insert the following in the appropriate place:

“Bureau of Indian Affairs Operation of Indian Programs AK Cook Inlet Tribal Council for Commission on Native Children Recommendation Dissemination \$500,000 Murkowski”

3.) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (regarding America250)

On page 153 of the report at the appropriate place, insert the following:

*“America250.—*The Committee notes that the “America250 Playbook: Our Journey to 2026,” approved by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, states that “America250 is the nonpartisan initiative with a mission to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Semiquincentennial[...]” and that “America250 aims to inspire our fellow Americans to reflect on our past, strengthen our love of country, and renew our commitment to the ideals of democracy through programs that educate, engage, and unite us as a nation.”

4.) Amendment by Senator Van Hollen (regarding actions on energy projects)

On page 9, after the paragraph titled “Agency Budget Staff”, insert the following:

*“Execution of Energy Projects.—*The Committee urges the Department to utilize resources in order to conduct decisions, actions, consultations, and other undertakings related to renewable energy projects in a timely manner so as to avoid unnecessary project delays and cost increases so that the United States can ensure permitting reliability to industry, maximize energy production, and bring down Americans’ energy costs.”

5.) Amendment by Senator Coons (regarding deferred maintenance)

On page 5 of the report, at the end of the paragraph titled “Deferred Maintenance”, insert the following:

“The Committee is concerned that the Department has delayed the disbursement of funds for Legacy Restoration Fund projects on the fiscal year 2025 list. The Committee urges the disbursement of these funds in a timely manner.”

6.) Amendment by Senator Capito (regarding violations of drinking water regulations)

On page 107 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Urban Waters”, insert the following:

“Drinking Water Quality.— The Committee directs the Agency to provide a briefing not later than 60 days following the enactment of this Act on resources available for the Agency to assist States and counties with a high prevalence of violations of drinking water regulations, such as Wyoming County and McDowell County in southern West Virginia.”

7.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding Reducing Lead in Drinking Water)

On page 98 of the report, strike “\$2,879,076,000” and insert “\$2,869,076,000” in each place mentioned.

On page 111 of the report, strike “\$4,376,109,000” and insert “\$4,386,109,000” in each place mentioned.

On page 112 of the report, strike “\$3,269,776,000” and insert “\$3,279,776,000”.

8) Amendment by Senator Hyde-Smith (regarding the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex)

On page 31 of the report, strike the paragraph titled “Mississippi Flyway” and insert the following:

*“Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex.—*The Mathews Brake and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges within the Complex were established to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl and resident wildlife. The Committee is concerned these important refuges no longer meet their intended purpose due to lack of adequate management and invasive aquatic plants such as water hyacinth. Within available funds, the Committee directs the Service to implement measures to restore, enhance, and better manage habitat for waterfowl and wildlife on the refuges, and urges the Service to partner with local landowners and nonprofit conservation organizations to meet this objective.”

9) Amendment by Senator Rounds (regarding Mount Rushmore National Memorial law enforcement)

On page 40 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Park Protection”, insert the following:

“Mount Rushmore National Memorial Law Enforcement.—The Committee is concerned about law enforcement staffing levels at Mount Rushmore National Memorial and notes the need for additional full-time law enforcement officers to enhance visitor safety, protect the monument, and effectively manage increased visitation. The Committee encourages the National Park Service to prioritize funding for these additional law enforcement positions within available resources. The Committee also requests that the Service provide a briefing to the Committee about law enforcement staffing needs within 90 days.”

10.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding Cumberland Island National Seashore)

On page 40 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Park Support”, insert the following:

“Cumberland Island National Seashore.—The Committee urges the Service to prioritize staffing at Cumberland Island National Seashore so that the Service can continue to maintain facilities, law enforcement capacity, and natural and cultural resources.”

11.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge)

On page 12 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Fish and Wildlife Service”, insert the following:

“Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.—The Committee encourages the Service to acquire lands within the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge’s boundaries, which will expand hunting, fishing, and recreation access and help reduce fire risk in the Refuge and nearby communities.”

12.) Amendment by Senator Heinrich (regarding healthcare delivery)

On page 139 of the report, after the two paragraphs following “Indian Health Professions”, insert the following:

“Study on the comparative healthcare delivery between the Department of the Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).—The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is directed to conduct a study not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, that at a minimum provides, (1) A comparison of per-patient funding levels for healthcare services provided by VA and IHS, including historical funding trends over the past 10 fiscal years; (2) An analysis of recruitment and retention strategies utilized by VA, including but not limited to hiring flexibilities, pay incentives, and workforce development programs, and the extent to which such strategies could be adapted or extended to IHS; (3) Recommendations for legislative or administrative actions that Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services can take

to improve IHS hiring, recruitment, and retention outcomes, informed by VA best practices; (4) Identification of statutory or regulatory barriers that limit IHS from implementing hiring authorities or incentives like those available to the VA.”

13.) Amendment by Senator Heinrich (regarding BIE schools deferred maintenance needs)

On page 5 of the report, strike the paragraph titled “Deferred Maintenance” and insert the following:

“Deferred Maintenance.— The Committee has made a concerted effort in recent years to address the backlog maintenance needs on our public lands and in Bureau of Indian Education schools through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund [Fund], as authorized in the Great American Outdoors Act (Public Law 116-152) [GAOA]. The Fund’s authorization expired in fiscal year 2025. The Committee notes that the Interior Appropriations Bill alone is not sufficient to meet the construction needs of BIE schools and public land infrastructure. The Committee looks forward to the prompt reauthorization of the Legacy Restoration Fund to continue to address the deferred maintenance backlog needs on our public lands and in Bureau of Indian Education schools.”

14. Amendment by Senator Schatz (regarding Native Hawaiian Community Resilience Program)

On page 81 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Plum Island”, insert the following:

“Native Hawaiian Community Resilience Program.— The Committee has made a concerted effort to support community-led adaptation projects, habitat restoration, and coastal management, including on Native Hawaiian homelands, thus, the Committee supports the continuation of the Kapapahuliau grants. The Committee urges the Secretary to consider this program during the 2027 budget formulation and work with Congress on a permanent solution. Lastly, the Committee directs the Department to provide a briefing to the Committee and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs no later than 90 days upon enactment of this act on how to build on these efforts.

15. Amendment by Senator Durbin (regarding Bubbly Creek)

On page 111 of the report, strike the paragraph titled “Bubbly Creek, Illinois” and insert the following:

*“Bubbly Creek, Illinois.—*The Committee supports the inclusion of the restoration of the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River known as “Bubbly Creek” in its Lakewide Management Plan. The Committee directs the Agency to maximize its partnerships and resources to ensure that no further delays impede restoration. The Committee directs the Agency,

in close coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, to expedite interagency discussions on a project management structure that will allow the project to move to construction. The Committee directs the EPA to update the Committee on the status of negotiations within 30 days and to finalize a plan to move to construction within 180 days of enactment.”

16.) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (regarding Experimental Forest in the Northeast)

On page 120 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Experimental Forests in the Northeast”, insert the following:

“The Committee recognizes the importance of filling vacant research and leadership positions with qualified personnel and encourages the Service to expeditiously fill these vacancies with funds provided in this act.”

17.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding grant terminations)

On page 92 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Nonrecurring Expenses Fund”, insert the following:

“*Grant Terminations.*— The Committee urges the EPA to uphold grant obligations made to local governments and nonprofit organizations that are working to improve access to healthcare in rural areas while ensuring appropriate stewardship of taxpayer dollars.”

18.) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (regarding the NPS Office of International Affairs)

On page 44 of the report, within the table “Program Funding for National Recreation and Preservation”, after “Cultural programs, 9/11 Memorial Act Grants4,000”, insert the following:

“International Park Affairs, Office of International Affairs.....1,300”

19.) Amendment by Senator Heinrich (regarding National Wildlife Refuge staffing)

On page 28 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Staffing of the National Wildlife Refuge System”, insert the following:

“Further, the Committee directs the Service to submit, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, a report detailing by month: (1) how many permanent, probationary, and temporary positions were terminated during Fiscal Year 2025 and in which refuge units or complexes they served, their titles, and whether they were permanent, probationary, or temporary staff; (2) how many permanent, probationary, and temporary positions remain filled and in which refuge units or complexes they serve, their titles, and whether they are permanent, probationary, or temporary staff; and (3) which Refuge System units or complexes have two or fewer staffers, what the filled positions at those refuges are, and if those staff are permanent, probationary, or temporary.”

20.) Amendment by Senator Moran (regarding Congressionally Directed Spending)

On page 112 of the report, strike “[290]” and insert “[291]”.

On page 171 of the report, in the table titled “Congressionally Directed Spending Items”, for the project titled “City of Caney for Water Distribution System Improvements”, strike “5,000,000” and insert “4,000,000”.

On page 171 of the report, in the table titled “Congressionally Directed Spending Items”, insert the following in the appropriate place:

Environmental Protection Agency STAG – Drinking Water state revolving fund [SRF] KS
Russell R9 Project 1,000,000 Moran

21.) Amendment by Senator Reed (regarding National Park Service spending)

On page 44 of the report, after the paragraph entitled “Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Grants”, insert the following:

“Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the National Park Service shall provide a detailed report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing any and all funding allocated, committed, transferred, reprogrammed, or otherwise shifted or set aside for the planning or procurement of statues or other activities as described in Executive Order 13934 (85 Fed. Reg. 41165; relating to building and rebuilding monuments to American heroes), Executive Order 13978 (86 Fed. Reg. 6809; relating to building the National Garden of American Heroes), and Executive Order 14189 (90 Fed. Reg. 8849; relating to celebrating America’s birthday), including the accounts, agencies, or offices originally holding such funds, the authorities cited for allocating, committing, transferring, reprogramming, or otherwise shifting or setting aside such funding, the accounts, agencies or offices currently managing such funds, and any obligations and expenditures made of such funds.”

BILL AMENDMENTS

1.) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (regarding Reducing Lead in Drinking Water)

On page 86 of the bill, line 23, strike “\$2,879,076,000” and insert “\$2,869,076,000”.

On page 93 of the bill, line 5, strike “\$4,376,109,000” and insert “\$4,386,109,000”.

On page 105 of the bill, line 22, strike “\$22,000,000” and insert “\$32,000,000”.