

Reforms and Regulations for Congressionally Directed Spending in Fiscal Year 2026

Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray are committed to following the requirements for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) items found in [Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate](#) and the reforms that were instituted by the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations (the “Committee”) in the 117th Congress to promote greater transparency and accountability.

Existing U.S. Senate Requirements

In reviewing a Senator’s requests for CDS items, the Committee will follow Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. Rule XLIV requires rigorous procedures for accountability and transparency, such as:

- **No Financial Interest:** The rules forbid any Senator from pursuing a CDS item to further his or her financial interest, or that of his or her immediate family. Each Senator requesting a CDS item must certify in writing that there is no such interest and the Committee must make that certification available to the public.
- **Request in Writing:** Any Senator requesting a CDS item must do so in writing and include the Senator’s name, the name and location of the intended recipient, and the purpose of the spending item.
- **Committee Consideration:** When reporting legislation containing CDS items, the Committee is required to make each item publicly available online in a searchable format as soon as practicable after the mark up (including the name of each Senator requesting the item).
- **Disclosure Before Floor Consideration:** The rules prohibit a vote on a motion to proceed to a bill or a vote on adoption of a conference report unless the Chair of the Committee certifies that a complete list of CDS items has been publicly available for at least 48 hours.
- **Point of Order Against New Projects in Conference Reports:** A point of order may be raised against a provision of a conference report if it includes a CDS item that was not included in either the Senate or House bills.

Continued Committee Reforms

In addition to the important requirements in Rule XLIV, the Committee instituted additional reforms in the 117th Congress to promote greater transparency and accountability. These reforms remain in place for fiscal year 2026:

- Funding for CDS items shall not exceed one percent of discretionary spending.
- For-profit entities are ineligible for CDS items, and Senators must certify that none of the entities for which they have requested CDS is a for-profit entity.

- Senators are required to publish his or her CDS requests on his or her website and make public the previously mentioned financial certification letter for the duration of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle. The Committee will provide a link to each requesting Senator's financial certification letter and disclosure on the Committee's website.
- The Committee will require the Government Accountability Office to audit a sample of enacted CDS items and report its findings to Congress.

NEW U.S. Senate Requirements

For fiscal year 2026, Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray have instituted a maximum number of CDS requests a Senator may submit to certain subcommittees and/or accounts for consideration.