

MANAGERS' PACKAGE

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2026

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REPORT AMENDMENTS

1) Amendment by Senator Collins and Senator Murray (Indirect Cost Rate)

On page 9 of the report before the paragraph entitled “Federal Trust and Treaty Responsibilities” insert the following paragraph titled “Indirect Cost Rate”

“The Committee recognizes that indirect cost recovery has been essential for supporting federally-funded research at university and private laboratories, enabling critical institutional functions such as federal compliance, research facility operations, and administrative support. The Committee acknowledges that optimizing indirect cost rates can further enhance the efficiency of funding allocation for direct research and programmatic activities, benefiting early-career researchers, smaller institutions, and community-based organizations. Ensuring an effective balance in indirect costs is key to sustaining U.S. leadership in scientific research and technological innovation. The Committee notes the academic research community’s efforts to develop a consensus proposal to refine this balance. In anticipation of that effort, the Committee introduces a new Title V General Provision on indirect cost rates.”

2) Amendment by Senator Moran (Spectrum Management)

On page 25 of the report, strike and remove the paragraph titled “Spectrum Management”

3) Amendment by Senator Moran (Section 337)

On page 174 of the report, strike the paragraph titled “Section 337 Party Transparency”, and insert the following new paragraph:

“*Section 337.*—The Committee notes that, under 19 U.S.C. 337, the Commission may consider the effect of the exclusion of an article upon public health and welfare, and other factors, when making determinations. The Committee directs ITC to submit a report, within 120 days of enactment of this act, on its processes for considering an exclusion’s potential effects on public health and welfare. Furthermore, the Committee directs ITC, within 30 days of enactment of this act, to provide a briefing on investigations undertaken by the ITC regarding real parties’ interest, current disclosure requirements, remedial measures available, and any recommendations to address such concerns without overburdening litigants or creating unintended consequences.”

4) Amendment by Senator Rounds and Senator Heinrich (Whistleblower Incentives)

On page 15 of the report, after paragraph titled “Reciprocal Defense Procurement [RDP] Agreements”, insert the following new paragraph:

“Whistleblower Incentives for Export Control Enforcement.—The Committee recognizes the growing national security threat posed by the illegal export of sensitive U.S. technologies, particularly advanced semiconductors and artificial intelligence-enabling chips, to foreign adversaries. To strengthen enforcement of export controls under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (title XVII of Public Law 115–232), the Committee encourages the establishment of a whistleblower incentive and protection program at BIS. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report, within 120 days of enactment, outlining a framework for such a program. The report shall include the feasibility of a program that provides financial rewards to individuals who voluntarily provide original information relating to potential violations of U.S. export control laws. The report should also include criteria for eligibility, procedures for reward determinations, and mechanisms for interagency coordination. Any framework shall include strict protections for the identity and safety of whistleblowers, and rewards should be issued only upon successful enforcement actions resulting from submitted information. Further, in its framework, BIS is encouraged to develop secure reporting channels, coordinate with relevant law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and allocate resources to review, investigate, and act on credible tips. The report should also identify anticipated funding needs for administration and oversight.”

5) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (Section 232 Tariffs)

On page 15 of the report, after paragraph titled “Reciprocal Defense Procurement [RDP] Agreements”, insert the following new paragraph:

“Defense Impact of Section 232 Tariffs.—The Committee directs BIS, within 180 days of enactment of this act, to submit a report on the impacts of existing section 232 tariffs on the defense supply chain, including the number of jobs affected, and on national security. This report should include information about increased costs or lead times for new orders or materials; any potential shortages of components, parts, or finished equipment; and the impact on aerospace and defense manufacturers downstream of the tariffed products.”

6) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (Workforce Development for the Semiconductor Industry)

On page 72 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Employee Access to High-quality Affordable Child Care”, insert the following new paragraph:

“Workforce Development for the Semiconductor Industry.—The Committee applauds DOC’s ongoing efforts to expand and improve workforce development for the semiconductor industry, particularly as NIST continues to implement the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167). The Committee encourages DOC to continue to explore partnership opportunities with higher education institutions, including community colleges and regional public colleges, with an emphasis on advanced precision manufacturing education, and a commitment to improving the K–12, undergraduate, graduate and non-college bound pipeline of workers.”

7) Amendment by Senator Baldwin (MBDA Report and Briefing)

On page 20 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Transfer Authority”, insert the following new paragraph:

*“MBDA Report and Briefing.—*The Committee directs MBDA to submit a report, within 45 days of enactment of this act, explaining which components or functions of MBDA considers statutorily required. The Committee also directs MBDA to brief the Committee, within 30 days of enactment of this act, on any changes to the agency’s spending or expenditures that resulted from the agency’s implementation of Executive Order 14238. These changes shall be described at the program, project, or activity level.

8) Amendment by Senator Peters (Census)

On page 23 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Effects of Field Office Closures”, insert the following new paragraph:

*“Census Test.—*Fiscal year 2026 is a crucial year in the ramp up to the 2030 Census, as the Census Bureau is scheduled to conduct the 2026 Census Test in six geographically and demographically diverse field sites nationwide and with a nationally representative sample of households. The Committee urges the Census Bureau to prioritize and protect funding and contracts necessary to ensure the objectives of the 2026 Census Test are fully realized.”

9) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (Recompete)

On page 17 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs [Tech Hubs]”, insert the following new paragraph:

*“Recompete Pilot Program.—*The Committee recommendation provides \$15,000,000 for the Recompete Pilot Program. The Committee encourages EDA to consider designating any finalists from a previous funding round that did not receive an implementation award as finalists in future funding competitions.

10) Amendment by Senator Moran (Faith-Based Hate Crimes)

On page 115 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program”, insert the following new paragraph:

*“Combating Violence and Hate Crimes at Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations.—*The Committee remains concerned with the rise in religiously-motivated violence across the United States, including targeted acts of violence directed at houses of worship, faith-based community centers, and other religious institutions. In response to these

threats, the Committee directs the Department to prioritize funding allocated under 34 U.S.C. 10157(b) to support State and local law enforcement agencies seeking to enhance security measures for at-risk religious institutions and to address the precipitous increases in hate crimes targeting individuals on the basis of religion. The Committee further directs the Department to submit a report, within six months of the enactment of this act, describing the implementation of this directive.”

11) Amendment by Senator Ossoff (Federal Prison Oversight Act)

On page 106 of the report, after the paragraph titled “RRC ID Data Collection”, insert the following:

*“Establishment of Ombudsman Office.—*The Committee directs the Department, within 90 days of enactment of this act, to report to the Committee on plans that it has developed and steps that it has taken to establish an Ombudsman’s office to receive complaints from incarcerated persons, family advocates, representatives of incarcerated persons, Bureau of Prisons staff, a representative of staff, a Member of Congress, or a member of the judicial branch of the Federal government, pursuant to the Federal Prison Oversight Act. The Committee further directs the Department, within 90 days of enactment of this act, to provide to the Committee a proposed spending plan, detailing BOP’s plan to establish the Ombudsman office and inspections regime, as required by the Federal Prison Oversight Act.”

12) Amendment by Senator Schatz (Prioritizing Housing Supply)

On page 18 of the report, after the paragraph titled “Rural Economic Development”, strike paragraph titled “Prioritizing Housing Supply” and insert the following new paragraph:

*“Prioritizing Housing Supply.—*The Committee recognizes that economic development and job creation will not benefit residents unless there is sufficient housing supply, and that land use regulations in many regions prevent the new housing supply needed to accommodate economic growth. The Committee encourages EDA to provide guidance for the inclusion of a component in Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies related to housing supply and deregulation to address land use and zoning barriers to housing. The Committee also encourages EDA to ensure that projects funded through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs include such a component, and to consider prioritizing jurisdictions that have removed land use and zoning barriers to housing production in discretionary grants, including its Economic Adjustment Assistance, Public Works, and Recompete grants. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs EDA to provide an update on ways EDA funds could support housing supply and land use deregulation priorities.”

13) Amendment by Senator Peters (MEP)

On page 33 of the report, at the end of the paragraph titled “Hollings Manufacturing Partnership Program [MEP]”, insert:

“The Committee encourages NIST to ensure that at least 85 percent of the funds provided for MEP be allocated directly to Centers through base awards, competitive or expansion award pilot programs.”

14) Amendment by Senator Peters (USMCA)

On page 176 of the report, insert the following at the end of the paragraph entitled “USMCA.” insert:

“Further, as the review period for the USMCA approaches in summer 2026, the Committee urges USTR to pursue changes that would prohibit the People’s Republic of China from taking advantage of the agreement, improve the agreement’s labor standards, and onshore additional manufacturing jobs. The Committee directs USTR to consult with all relevant Congressional Committees during the review period to ensure bipartisan, bicameral support from Congress.”

15) Amendment by Senator Schatz (Synthetic Content Database)

On page 28 of the report, under the header, after the paragraph titled “*Foreign AI Model Evaluations*” insert:

“*National Synthetic Content Database.*—The Committee supports efforts by NIST to advance digital content authentication technologies through the development and maintenance of a National Synthetic Content Database. The Committee recognizes the benefits of a shared national database to provide coverage of synthetic content developments, as well as to inform content authentication efforts in both government and industry.”

16) Amendment by Senator Schatz (Digital Content)

On page 28 of the report, under the header, after the paragraph titled “*Foreign AI Model Evaluations*”, insert:

“*Digital Content Authentication Prize Challenge.*—The Committee acknowledges the critical importance of content authenticity in an era where AI can produce highly realistic and potentially deceptive material. The Committee is aware that competitions are a proven approach to spurring innovation for complex technical challenges, enabling the rapid identification of solutions through diverse engagement. The Committee therefore encourages NIST to within one year conduct a prize competition on novel ways to identify synthetic content. Priorities for the competition should include: machine detection and digital forensic methods to detect partial or fully AI-generated content across single or multimodal content; assessing the robustness,

interoperability, and security of watermarking and other labeling methods across modalities; and testing innovations in tamper-evident or tamper-proofing content provenance tools.”

17) Amendment by Senator Schatz (AI Standards)

On page 28 of the report, under the header, after the paragraph titled “*Foreign AI Model Evaluations*,” insert:

“*AI Consumer Adoption and Standards for Preventing Fraud and Scams.*—AI is a powerful technology that can lower the barrier for bad actors to create and proliferate harmful scams. To that end, the Committee encourages NIST to include in their research efforts a focus on consumer fraud and scam risks, in order to maximize the benefits of commercial AI deployment and address potential consumer harms. Additionally, the Committee supports efforts by NIST to develop standards for the disclosure of audio and visual synthetic content, including solutions for verifying content provenance and authenticity, as well as collaboration between AI developers and digital platforms to inform users about the authenticity of shared content.”

18) Amendment by Senator Merkley (Seafood Import Monitoring Program)

On page 50 of the report, after the paragraph titled “*Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing*” insert the following:

“*Seafood Import Monitoring Program.*—The Committee provides \$6,200,000 for the implementation and modernization of SIMP.”

19) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (Threats to State Judges)

On page 96 of the report, after paragraph titled “Operation Not Forgotten”, insert the following new paragraph:

“*Threats to State Judges.*—The FBI Office of Partner Engagement [OPE] plays a central role in sharing information with law enforcement partners, notably through its fusion center engagement program. Most State and major urban area fusion centers were established in the years following the September 11, 2001, attacks in an effort to enhance communication, cooperation and information sharing between State, local and Federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI. The Committee is aware of increased abuse and threats against State judges and judicial personnel. Moreover, the families of judges and judicial personnel face abuse and threats with much of the vitriol coming online. The Committee believes that the FBI can help states and localities in finding and neutralizing threats against State judges. Therefore, the Committee urges the FBI to increase its work with fusion centers on collecting and disseminating threat information against State judges and State judicial branch personnel.”

20) Amendment by Senator Shaheen (Trauma-Informed Investigations)

On page 113 of the report, after paragraph titled “Violence Against Middle Eastern and North African Women”, insert the following new paragraph:

“Trauma-Informed Investigations.”—OVW published the Framework for Prosecutors to Strengthen our National Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Involving Adult Victims [Prosecutor’s Framework] in May 2024. OVW stressed the need for prosecutors “to build provable cases in a trauma-informed manner that treats victims with humanity and ensures due process for defendants.” The Committee notes the importance of those investigating and prosecuting alleged sexual assault and domestic violence crimes understanding that survivors do not respond to these crimes in any one way and that trauma-informed questioning is necessary to help ensure that justice is done. OVW has encouraged the grantees of the STOP formula grant program and prosecutors broadly to use the Prosecutor’s Framework. The Committee directs OVW to provide a report to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this act, on its efforts to encourage grantees in the aforementioned programs to implement the guidance.”

21) Amendment by Senator Murray (Departmental Staffing)

On page 81 of the report, after paragraph titled “Prior Directives and Outstanding Reports”, insert the following new paragraph:

Departmental Staffing.—The Committee directs GAO to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Department’s human capital management practices, including an analysis of staffing levels over the previous three fiscal years. The analysis should include (1) the number of full-time employees in each office of DOJ; (2) the number of full-time employees who have voluntarily left service including whether those employees chose to take a deferred resignation offer or voluntary early retirement; and (3) the status or elimination of any DOJ field offices, including offices that have been closed over the previous three fiscal years. GAO is further directed to provide a scoping briefing to the Committee within 60 days of the enactment of this act, and to submit a final report within 18 months of the enactment of this act.

22) Amendments by Senator Moran, on behalf of Senators Murkowski, Britt, and Fischer (Congressionally-Directed Spending)

- a) On page 189 of the report, under the header “Recipient”, strike “Southeast” and insert “Anchorage”
- b) On page 193 of the report, under the header “Recommendation (\$)”, strike “1,257,000” and insert “1,007,000”
- c) On page 193 of the report, under the header “Recommendation (\$)”, strike “500,000” and insert “750,000”
- d) On page 188 of the report, in the row with “Instrumentation for Advanced Water Research” and under the header “Recommendation”, strike “2,000,000” and insert “1,000,000”; in a new row immediately following this row on page 188 of the report: insert under header “Account” “DOC–NIST STRS”, insert under the header “Project” “Growing Nebraska’s Bioeconomy”, insert under the header “Location” “Lincoln, NE”, insert under the header “Recipient” “University of

Nebraska Board of Regents”, insert under the header “Recommendation (\$)” “1,000,000”, and insert under header “Requestor(s)” “Fischer”.

BILL AMENDMENTS

1) Amendment by Senator Collins and Senator Murray (Indirect Costs)

Insert at the appropriate place after section 541 the following:

“SEC. ____ . In making Federal financial assistance, the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall continue to apply the negotiated indirect cost rates for Institutions of Higher Education in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as such negotiated indirect cost rates were applied in fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, or otherwise made available to the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such fiscal year 2024 negotiated indirect cost rates.”

2) Amendment by Senator Moran (National Weather Service)

Insert at the appropriate place after section 113 the following:

“SEC ____ . The National Weather Service shall maintain staffing levels by hiring, retaining, and rehiring after separations in order to fulfill the mission required under 15 U.S.C. 313 to protect life and property to the maximum extent possible.”

3) Amendment by Senator Van Hollen (Arts in Juvenile Justice):

On page 71 of the bill, line 5, insert the following new paragraph after “relating to children exposed to violence;”

“(F) \$2,000,000 shall be for the Arts in the Juvenile Justice Demonstration Program;”

VAN HOLLEN, re: FBI HEADQUARTERS

On page 86, line 5, insert the following:

“Sec. ____ . None of the funds made available by this or any other appropriations Act under the headings ‘Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses’, and ‘Federal Bureau of Investigation—Construction’, including unobligated balances from prior year appropriations, for the new Federal Bureau of Investigation consolidated headquarters facility in the National Capital Region, may be obligated, expended, reprogrammed, or rescinded for the purpose of moving the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s headquarters from its current location in the J. Edgar Hoover Building or to any location other than the site determined by the General Services Administration, as announced on November 9, 2023, to best meet the stringent security requirements sought in order to protect the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to headquarters and to fulfill the mission requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

Amendment by Senator Van Hollen and Senator Durbin (Jeffrey Epstein Records Retention):

On page 86 of the bill, line 4, insert after “in detail the justification for the waiver.”

“Sec. ____ . The Attorney General shall retain, preserve, and compile any records or evidence related to any investigation, prosecution, services provided to victims, or incarceration of Jeffrey Epstein: Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report that includes information on the history of the Jeffrey Epstein case (including the 2008 non-prosecution agreement), victims and testimony (including notifications under section 3771 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the “Crime Victims’ Rights Act”)), investigation of co-conspirators, internal reviews and misconduct findings by the Department of Justice, the current status of investigations into the financial and trafficking networks of Jeffrey Epstein, an intelligence assessment of Jeffrey Epstein’s financial ties, clients, and connections (if any) to the United States Government or foreign governments, and oversight failures at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York: Provided further, That, as necessary to protect privacy, the Attorney General may redact the names and personally identifiable information of victims from the report submitted to Congress.”

Jerry Moran

Amendment offered by **Senator Moran**:

On page 86, line 5, of the bill, strike the new section adopted through the amendment entitled "VAN HOLLEN, re: FBI HEADQUARTERS".