



BILL SUMMARY: Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Bill

Washington, D.C. – The Fiscal Year 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations Act provides \$64.4 billion in total discretionary funding, a \$600 million decrease overall from fiscal year 2025.

The bill:

- Funds FEMA, disaster relief, TSA, CISA, and other critical programs Americans count on.
- Cuts funding for CBP by nearly \$1.3 billion.
- Flat funds ICE, cuts detention funding, and lowers detention capacity provided by annual appropriations.
- Imposes new oversight, transparency, and accountability measures for both annual appropriations and the over \$190 billion the Department of Homeland Security received in *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBA) funding.
- Restricts Secretary Noem's ability to unilaterally shift funding and allocate federal dollars as she sees fit.
- Institutes new penalties if the Secretary delays reviews of reimbursements to states for costs of declared disasters.
- Provides over 100 line-item spending directives that carry the force of law and that are not currently in place under Republicans' fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution, which was extended through January 30.
- Rejects all extreme riders included in House Republicans' bill.

Important to Note:

Enactment of a full-year appropriations bill provides significantly more restrictions on DHS and Secretary Noem than would a full-year continuing resolution:

- A full-year continuing resolution omits accountability and transparency measures included in the full year bill—and provides significantly more authority for DHS to allocate funding as it sees fit.
- For example, the bill restricts ICE to spending \$3.8 billion of its annual budget on detention. By contrast, a full-year CR would provide DHS with the legal flexibility to spend the entirety of its roughly \$10 billion budget on detention while zeroing out other priorities (like oversight, medical care, and criminal investigations) that are otherwise statutorily required and fire-walled under the full-year bill.
- Under Republicans' yearlong continuing resolution in fiscal year 2025, Secretary Noem took advantage of the additional flexibilities to, among much else:
 - Cut funding for alternatives to detention and steer those funds to detention and removal operations; and

- All but eliminate independent oversight of ICE and CBP, which the full-year appropriations bill corrects for by mandating funding for oversight.

Because Republicans provided over \$190 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (nearly 3X DHS's annual budget) in OBBBA—largely for ICE (\$75 billion; over 7X ICE's annual budget) and CBP (\$65 billion; over 3.5X CBP's annual budget)—Congress' failure to pass a Homeland Security appropriations bill would not shut down ICE or CBP. A lapse in annual appropriations would instead allow ICE and CBP to continue their operations using OBBBA funds—but without any of the constraints imposed by an enacted funding bill—while FEMA, TSA, CISA, Coast Guard, and other DHS components are shuttered, or working without pay.

Guardrails and Accountability Measures: The bill includes new accountability and transparency measures across the Department of Homeland Security:

- Establishes—and funds—oversight of and transparency around how DHS is spending the \$190 billion it was provided in OBBBA (which is nearly triple the total annual appropriation for DHS).
 - OBBBA did not require DHS to provide *any* transparency to Congress or the public on how it is spending the \$190 billion in taxpayer dollars it received.
 - The bill now requires DHS to provide monthly updates on its spend plans for OBBBA funds, incorporating reporting requirements for OBBBA funds with those in place for regular appropriations.
 - The bill also includes \$12.8 million in new funding for OIG oversight of OBBBA funding.
- Significantly restricts DHS's ability to transfer funding across accounts, including:
 - Suspends transfer authority if DHS does not comply with bill requirement to publicly post reports.
 - Reduces how much may be transferred in and out of a variety of accounts—including for the Office of the Secretary, ICE, CISA, and others—relative to current law.
- Allocates \$20 million that must be used for the purchase and operation of body-worn cameras for ICE and CBP officers interacting with members of the public when conducting immigration enforcement operations.
- Directs the Department to ensure additional de-escalation training for ICE and CBP officers interacting with the public in communities across the country.
- Directs the Department to train all law enforcement personnel, including ICE and CBP officers and agents, on Americans' right to record any interactions they have with them.
- Provides line-item funding (\$20 million) for mandated, independent oversight of detention facilities after the Trump administration all but eliminated these activities using flexibilities provided under Republicans' fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution.
- Includes penalties for delaying reviews of FEMA disaster reimbursement requests.

Office of the Secretary and Executive Management (OSEM): The bill cuts funding for OSEM by \$59 million compared to fiscal year 2025, while increasing funding to rebuild essential oversight activities within the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP): The bill cuts funding for CBP by \$1.3 billion relative to fiscal year 2025, providing \$18.3 billion in total, which is \$1 billion less than President Trump's budget request and \$1 billion less than House Republicans' bill.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): The bill flat-funds ICE at \$10 billion, preventing any growth to ICE's annual budget, and it cuts ICE's enforcement and removal budget. It rejects President Trump's request for a \$840 million increase in funding for ICE, and it provides \$960 million less for ICE than House Republicans' draft bill and \$735 million less than Senate Republicans' draft bill.

The bill provides \$949 million (-15%) less in funding for ICE enforcement and removal operations than House Republicans' and \$708 million (-11%) less than Senate Republicans' proposed bills—and \$114 million less than the fiscal year 2025 level. This funding level falls well short of the level requested by President Trump to maintain 50,000 detention beds, which House and Senate Republicans' draft bills funded. At most, this funding level allows the administration to maintain the fiscal year 2024 enacted level of 41,500 detention beds—thousands fewer than the current level.

While the bill flat-funds ICE, it increases funding for medical care by \$108 million.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): The bill provides \$5.7 billion for FEMA, an increase of \$873 million above fiscal year 2025—excluding \$26.367 billion provided for the Disaster Relief Fund.

The bill rejects proposed staffing reductions in key areas, like disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It also includes:

- New language prohibiting harmful pauses in FEMA's non-disaster grant funding;
- New public reporting requirements on the status of FEMA's review of states' reimbursement requests for declared disaster costs, and financial penalties for the Department if it unnecessarily delays those reimbursements.

This includes \$3.086 billion in funding for the following grant programs administered by FEMA:

- \$494 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, of which \$ 85.5 million is for Operation Stonegarden Grants and \$14.25 million is for Tribal Security Grants;
- \$584.25 million for Urban Area Security Initiative grants;
- \$300 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program;
- \$99.75 million for Public Transportation Security Assistance, of which \$9.5 million is for Amtrak and \$1.9 million is for Bus Security;

- \$95 million for Port Security Grants;
- \$342 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants;
- \$342 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants;
- \$337.25 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants;
- \$297.12 million for RiskMAP;
- \$11.4 million for Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants;
- \$11.4 million for High Hazard Potential Dam Grants;
- \$123.5 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program; and
- \$48 million for Next Generation Warning System.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): The bill provides \$122.9 million for USCIS. Of that amount, \$112 million supports the E-Verify program and \$10 million supports reducing the backlog of applications.

Coast Guard: The bill provides \$12.7 billion for the Coast Guard, including funding for targeted investments in major acquisition programs not funded in the reconciliation bill, maintenance and sustainment of the Coast Guard's aging surface vessels, shore facilities, and technology systems. It also includes additional funding to increase child care subsidies and to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment.

U.S. Secret Service (USSS): The bill provides \$3.25 billion for USSS, including \$44 million for planning and coordination of upcoming National Special Security Events throughout the country, such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup, America250, and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): The bill provides \$2.6 billion for CISA, including \$20 million to undo many of the administration's irresponsible cuts to critical positions, and \$40 million to continue election security activities funded in fiscal year 2024.

Transportation Security Agency (TSA): The bill provides \$7.96 billion for TSA, including \$300 million for the checkpoint property screening system and full funding for exit lane staffing, the Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program, and the Canine Reimbursement Program. It also includes \$13.9 million to reimburse airports for the installation of explosive detection systems.

Science and Technology Directorate (S&T): The bill provides \$831.21 million for S&T, including \$41.5 million for Plum Island Closure and Support and \$47 million to restore all Centers of Excellence that were abruptly terminated in 2025.

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