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December 22, 2025 6:14 pm ⌚ 4 min read



Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee have put forward a 2026 homeland security spending bill that would staunch some workforce cuts at the Department of Homeland Security.

The committee released a [draft \(https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_homeland_security_bill_text.pdf\)](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_homeland_security_bill_text.pdf) version of the fiscal 2026 homeland security appropriations measure on Friday. Lawmakers will return to Capitol Hill after the holidays with a deadline to pass annual spending bills for most federal agencies by Jan. 30, when the current continuing resolution expires.

Lead appropriators in the House and Senate reached an agreement on funding allocations for the remainder of fiscal 2026 over the weekend. While they did not release specific numbers, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-Okla.) [said \(https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/cole-collins-deliver-bicameral-agreement-fy26-funding-allocations\)](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/cole-collins-deliver-bicameral-agreement-fy26-funding-allocations) the allocations

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What's the topline Senate DHS funding package?

Senate appropriators' draft homeland security spending bill includes \$92.3 billion for DHS in fiscal 2026, including nearly \$66 billion in discretionary spending and \$26.3 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund.

Those totals roughly align with [what House Appropriations included in their homeland security spending package](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/budget/2025/06/house-appropriators-soften-cisa-cuts-call-for-dhs-contractor-cyber-readiness-pilot/) (<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/budget/2025/06/house-appropriators-soften-cisa-cuts-call-for-dhs-contractor-cyber-readiness-pilot/>) over the summer. It also comes after DHS received \$165 billion in additional funding through fiscal 2029 [under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed in July](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/budget/2025/07/dhs-prepares-for-unprecedented-spending-surge-under-big-beautiful-bill/). (<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/budget/2025/07/dhs-prepares-for-unprecedented-spending-surge-under-big-beautiful-bill/>)

However, Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) slammed the Senate committee's draft proposal, calling it a "partisan bill" and saying Republicans didn't work with Democrats to finalize a negotiated bill.

"We need more accountability from President Trump's out-of-control Department of Homeland Security, and as we proceed to conference negotiations on this bill and the remainder of our bills, I am going to keep working to produce the strongest possible legislation," Murray said. "American families should be able to count on their own government to support them through serious natural disasters and to enforce our immigration laws humanely and in accordance with the law."

FEMA staffing concerns

The [report](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_homeland_security_report.pdf) (https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_homeland_security_report.pdf) on the draft homeland security spending bill, however, shows committee Republicans have some concerns about workforce cuts at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Roughly 2,500 FEMA staff have left the agency since the spring. The Trump administration has also expressed a desire to move more of FEMA's responsibilities to state and local governments.

"The committee is concerned that staffing levels are insufficient to effectively and efficiently execute FEMA's statutory missions," the report on the draft bill states.

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The bill would provide an additional \$40 million for FEMA to hire staff to critical positions in its regional operations, and response and recovery divisions, respectively.

The report on the draft bill also stipulates that FEMA "shall maintain a workforce consistent with the personnel and full-time equivalents funded by the pay and non-pay amounts provided in this act."

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Lawmakers direct CISA to provide a briefing "on the NRMCM's strategic engagement with election stakeholders, including engagement progress to date, future engagement plans and priorities, and information regarding any identified election security risks and shortfalls that should be mitigated in the near-, mid-, and long-terms."

CISA has lost one-third of its workforce, roughly 1,000 staff, since the spring through a combination of voluntary departures, early retirements and terminations.

The Trump administration's budget request [would reduce CISA's annual budget by nearly \\$500 million.](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2025/05/dhs-budget-request-would-cut-cisa-staff-by-1000-positions/) [\(https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2025/05/dhs-budget-request-would-cut-cisa-staff-by-1000-positions/\)](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2025/05/dhs-budget-request-would-cut-cisa-staff-by-1000-positions/) It also proposed staff cuts at some CISA divisions, including the NRMCM.

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Like with FEMA, Senate appropriators also include language in their bill that CISA "shall maintain a workforce consistent with the personnel and full-time equivalents funded by the pay and non-pay amounts provided in this act."

"CISA shall not reduce staffing in such a way that it lacks sufficient staff to effectively carry out its statutory missions," the bill states, pointing to the agency's efforts to secure federal civilian executive branch agencies, work with state and local governments, other sector risk management agencies, international partners and other stakeholders.

It further stipulates that CISA should maintain "no fewer" than 10 regional field offices across the country and directs CISA to employ at least one cybersecurity advisor per state.

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