APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Nov. 16th, 2026

Senate Republicans Release Seven FY27 Funding Bills

Congress remains without a bipartisan agreement on FY2027 funding as the December 11 government funding deadline approaches. Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) released five additional funding bills on November 12, covering Interior-Environment, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy-Water, Homeland Security, and the Legislative Branch, following the release of Agriculture-FDA and Military Construction-VA earlier in the week.

The releases provide a starting point for negotiations, but significant disagreements remain over overall spending levels. Incoming Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) criticized the proposals as insufficient and called for a bipartisan agreement on defense and nondefense funding totals before advancing individual bills. With limited time to resolve those differences, some Democrats are considering a continuing resolution extending funding into the spring, which would avert a December shutdown and shift final FY2027 funding decisions to the incoming Democratic majority.

Senate Interior Funding Proposal Sets Conditions on USDA Reorganization, Defers Broader Wildfire Consolidation

The Senate's draft FY2027 Interior-Environment funding bill and accompanying explanatory statement would subject qualifying agency reorganizations and workforce changes to advance notification and appropriations committee approval, while requiring the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain staffing needed to fulfill their missions. The proposal also funds Interior's existing U.S. Wildland Fire Service, while the explanatory statement says the bill does not provide the funding or authority necessary to combine Forest Service and Interior wildfire operations in FY2027. The committee leaves that broader proposal open for reconsideration in a future fiscal year following an independent feasibility study. All provisions remain subject to negotiations and enactment.