

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

October
20th, 2025

Senate to Vote on Legislation to Pay Fed Workers and Troops During Shutdown

The Senate is scheduled to consider legislation this week that would allow servicemembers and civilian federal employees to receive pay while the government is shuttered. It's unclear whether the bill will garner the necessary support to advance in the Senate, where a two-thirds majority is required for passage. There's also the question of whether the bill would even be brought to the floor in the House, which has been in recess since passage of the GOP-backed stopgap over a month ago. The vote comes as members of both parties express concerns about the White House's move to redirect defense research funding to pay troops last week. The White House has confirmed that the President will continue to shift funding for military paychecks during the shutdown, if Congress doesn't pass a government funding bill before the next pay date later this month.

Bipartisan No Budget, No Pay for Congress Legislation Introduced

Last week, Representatives Bill Huizenga (R-MI) and Scott Peters (D-CA) announced the introduction of the No Budget, No Pay Act. The bipartisan bill would prevent Congress from being paid unless it passes a budget and all 12 appropriations bills on time before the start of a new fiscal year. In the nearly five decades that the current system for budgeting and spending tax dollars has been in place, Congress has passed all its required appropriations measures on time only four times: fiscal 1977, 1989, 1995 and 1997. The bill comes as other lawmakers float proposals to safeguard against future shutdowns, including sequestration.

Federal Judiciary Funding Dries Up

The U.S. federal court system will begin furloughing employees and curtailing non-essential operations tonight after funds reserved to maintain paid operations during the shutdown have been depleted. Civil litigation across federal district courts faces mounting delays as non-essential proceedings halt. Civil trials, motion hearings, and discovery deadlines in cases without constitutional implications will be postponed indefinitely. Criminal prosecutions will continue as an excepted-activity, ensuring the Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial and to maintain public safety operations.