

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

May 18th,
2026

House Passes First FY27 Spending Bill, 3 Markups Pending

The House easily passed its FY27 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs appropriations bill on Friday by a vote of 400-15. The bill includes \$481 billion for Veterans Affairs operations - the largest total in department history - roughly \$4.4 billion of which is for suicide prevention and outreach programs (an 11 percent increase from FY26), and about \$3.5 billion would go to homeless assistance programs (no change). The bill includes about \$19 billion for military construction. The House's passage of MilCon-VA funding comes a full month earlier than last year, when the proposal passed in late June.

This week, the House Appropriations Committee will mark up its Energy and Water and Legislative Branch bills at the full committee level, which would make more than half of the FY27 spending bills ready for a floor vote. The Committee will also consider the Interior-Environment and Transportation-HUD bills at the subcommittee level.

Senate Prepares Vote on Second Reconciliation Bill

Senate Republicans are pushing to pass a \$72 billion ICE and CBP funding package later this week, after the Budget and Homeland Security committees mark up their respective portions of the bill on Tuesday and Wednesday. The effort is being complicated by a fight over \$1 billion in funding for the Secret Service tied to President Trump's White House ballroom project. House and Senate Republicans are hesitant to support the funding amid high living costs and gas prices.

The Senate parliamentarian ruled over the weekend that the provision does not comply with reconciliation rules, though GOP leaders are expected to keep revising the language during the Byrd Bath process. If the provision survives, Democrats are planning to force politically difficult amendment votes to strip or redirect the money.