

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

**November
17th, 2025**

Senate Eyes Work on a Second Minibus

With three out of twelve Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills now passed through a minibus attached to the shutdown-ending continuing resolution, Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) said he plans to begin floor action on a second minibus funding package this week. The Senate is hoping to include the Defense, Labor-HHS-Education and Transportation-HUD bills in a second funding package, as well as potentially the Commerce-Justice-Science and Interior-Environment bills. Moving the latter two could be complicated by hangups about the relocation of the FBI headquarters and Sen. John Kennedy's (R-LA) objection to funding levels for the EPA.

Additional CR Provisions and Full Year Funding Details

Moving the remaining four bills not mentioned above - Energy & Water, Financial Services, Homeland Security, and State & Foreign Operations - will be a tall order. Generally, House and Senate leaders have yet to agree on a topline spending amount for FY26 spending. Partisan tensions have surged after the shutdown, and policymakers are concerned that any attempts to include poison pill provisions could tank future appropriations talks. At the same time, Democrats have an incentive to strike bipartisan deals to head off further funding freezes and cuts by the Trump Administration.

The four bills mentioned above are particularly controversial, and none have passed out of committee in the Senate. Many are already speculating that these bills are unlikely to be funded through anything other than a full-year continuing resolution.