

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
GREYSTONE GROUP WASHINGTON REPORT
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Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget And Appropriations

On Friday, September 27, President Trump, signed the Continuing Resolution (CR) that will keep the federal government funded through November 21. The legislation, which passed in the House earlier in the month, and late last week in the Senate, keeps FY 2019 funding levels in place while lawmakers work out a broader spending deal.

The measure cleared the Senate by a vote of 82-15. The House passed the legislation by a vote of 301-123. The CR funds most federal agencies through November 21.

The Senate Appropriations Committee also marked up five more FY 2020 spending bills last week. Only the FY 2020 Labor-HHS bill, which includes the Social Security Administration's administrative funding, and the Military Construction-VA bill have not been reported out of Committee. There is still no clear plan for Senate floor action, but Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) have floated the idea of bringing appropriations bills that had unanimous support in Committee to the floor in the absence of a larger agreement over the Defense and Labor-HHS bills.

In the meantime, there are only five legislative weeks before the November 21 deadline and lawmakers have left Washington for the next two weeks with none of the FY 2020 spending bills signed into law.

Before House and Senate negotiators can reconcile the differences between their measures and produce final bills, they will need to agree on a set of topline spending allocations for all twelve bills. Last week Chairman Shelby said that conversations on those allocations had started between he and House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Lowey (D-NY), and that House and Senate appropriations staff could try to work out common Subcommittee allocations over the current two-week October recess. Once they reach agreement, they could start pre-conferencing the FY 2020 bills. This process could begin even if the Senate has not passed any of its appropriations bills on the floor.

In addition, Chairman Shelby was scheduled to meet with President Trump and other officials last Friday to discuss next steps and finding a bipartisan path forward on FY 2020 spending bills. We will continue to communicate with the Hill and others regarding SSA's administrative funding needs and provide updates.

NCSSMA Twitter Account

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