

Defense appropriations

Key recent federal actions on defense appropriations and potential future actions

July 2017:



House passes National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 344-81: The House NDAA authorizes \$613.5 billion for base defense spending and \$74.6 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding; with the mandatory defense spending of \$7.5 billion, the total authorized to be appropriated is \$695.9 billion

July 2017:



House passes Defense Appropriations Act for FY18 235-192: Appropriations total \$658.1 billion for the Department of Defense, and the bill included a proposed amendment revoking the AUMF issued after the 9/11 attacks

September 2017:



Senate passes National Defense Authorization Act 89-8: The House and Senate will form a joint conference committee to reconcile the two versions of the legislation.

Potential actions

- Although the defense authorization passed both houses of Congress, the broader debate over the defense budget is likely to be contentious, with Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) proposed total defense budget topline of \$700 billion, according to the Senate Armed Services Committee report. The defense appropriations bill is \$41.9 billion under the defense authorization levels.
- According to an algorithm developed by John Nay that uses congressional data from 1993, H.R. 3219, Making America Secure Appropriations Act that contains defense appropriations for FY18, has a 59% chance of passing the Senate and being signed into law

Legislative timeline

May 2017

Trump releases his FY18 budget request:

President Trump requested a \$54 billion increase to the sequestration level budget cap for FY18. If Congress does not agree to a budget resolution by the start of the fiscal year, they will have to pass another continuing resolution

June 2017

House Appropriations Committee approves FY18 defense appropriations bill:

The House bill includes a total of \$658.1 billion for the Department of Defense: \$584.2 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$68.1 billion above the FY17 enacted level, and \$73.9 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding

June 2017

House Appropriations Committee approves an amendment repealing the 2001 AUMF:

The 2001 authorization is still used to wage war against ISIS and al Qaeda. Proponents on the panel argue that the 2001 authorization is overly broad and advocate for a new authorization more tailored to the current conflict

Sources: National Journal Research, 2017; Jeremy Herb and Deirdre Walsh, "House panel votes to repeal war authorization for fight against ISIS and al Qaeda," CNN, June 29, 2017; Leo Shane III, "Senate unveils \$700B defense authorization plan," Military Times, June 28, 2017; US House Armed Services Committee, 2017; US Senate Armed Services Committee, 2017; H.R. 3219 —115th Congress, GovTrack.us.