



NASCOE

Legislative Update

2024 Legislative Committee Update

February 26, 2024

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As the expiration of a 3rd Continuing Resolution (CR) approaches, the NASCOE Legislative Team and Consultant Hunter Moorhead wanted to provide an update concerning the FY 2024 budget.

Both the U.S. House and Senate are returning this week facing yet another lapse in funding deadline. Last Friday night, House Republicans conducted a conference call to review the status of negotiations. According to our contacts, the House and Senate Leadership were negotiating this weekend to close out remaining policy riders for bills scheduled to expire on the following:

- **March 1, 2024-** Four appropriations bills: **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**; Energy and Water Development; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.
- **March 8, 2024-** for the remaining eight appropriations bills: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; Legislative Branch; and State, Foreign Operations.

According to the latest information available, appropriators and staff are awaiting direction regarding policy riders across the first four bills. While multiple open items remain, we believe the process can still be wrapped up before the March 1 deadline. House Speaker Mike Johnson will need significant support from House Democrats to pass any conference reports due to a narrow majority in the House.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer released a “Dear Colleague” letter to Members yesterday to provide an update regarding the appropriations process and need for providing additional funds for Ukraine’s war against Russia. “While we had hoped to have legislation ready this weekend that would give ample time for members to review the text, it is clear now that House Republicans need more time to sort themselves out. With the uncertainty of how the House will pass the appropriations bills and avoid a shutdown this week, I ask all Senators to keep their schedules flexible, so we can work to ensure a pointless and harmful lapse in funding does not occur.”

The following are 3 possible scenarios which could take place regarding the appropriation bills:

1. House and Senate negotiators finalize March 1 bills no later than Tuesday. The likelihood of passing the first four measures hinges on the resolution of policy riders. We view this as difficult considering the number of open items and the House returning on Wednesday.
2. The second scenario is the subcommittee bills will need another short-term CR. This could lead to a shutdown lasting through the weekend and part of the next week. While this remains the worst-case scenario, maybe opportunity FY 2024 bills toward resolution.
3. The third and less likely scenario would be reordering the bills. This would result in certain bills becoming public law while others receive funding through another short-term CR or funded through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The pathway moving forward for any of the 12 appropriation bills remains unclear. There appears to be a significant majority of House and Senate members who prefer finalizing negotiations and passing new appropriations measures. The NASCOE Legislative Team will provide updates later this week.

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