

FY2025 Department of Defense Appropriations Act: Status of Legislative Activity

August 9, 2024

On March 11, 2024, the Biden Administration released an FY2025 [budget](#) requesting \$7.484 trillion in net [budget authority](#), initiating the annual [congressional appropriations cycle](#). The Administration requested \$850 billion (11.35% of the total) in [discretionary funding](#) for U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) military programs (budget subfunction 051), along with \$22 billion for DOD [mandatory](#) spending.

Of the 12 annual appropriations measures under the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, two bills provide discretionary funding for DOD military programs: the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The Department of Defense Appropriations Act provides discretionary funding for nearly all military-related activities of the DOD except the construction of facilities and the provision of family housing for authorized military personnel. To date, the House has passed its version of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025 (H.R. 8774); and a Senate Appropriations Committee-reported version (S. 4921) awaits further action. See **Table 1**.

House-passed H.R. 8774

Between March and June 2024, the House Committee on Appropriations (HAC) Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D) held five [open hearings](#) and ten [classified sessions](#) to receive testimony on defense-related portions of the President's FY2025 budget request, along with a Member Day for Members to share their defense priorities with the subcommittee. [Topics](#) for the open sessions included assessments of Air Force and Space Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps budgets, including reserve and National Guard requests.

In compliance with statutory provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA; P.L. 118-5) and Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA; P.L. 99-177), along with [congressional procedures](#) established in consequence of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-344), the House Appropriations Committee on May 23, 2024, [voted](#) on initial allocations of budget authority across all 12 appropriations measures. Under these “302(b) allocations,” the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025, would appropriate a maximum of [\\$833.053 billion](#) in new budget authority.

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On June 4, 2024, the HAC released a [draft measure](#) and a [summary](#) of a Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025. On June 5, the subcommittee held a [closed session](#) and approved by voice vote its version of the FY2025 defense appropriations bill. On June 13, HAC [convened](#) a full committee [markup](#) of the legislation and voted on [amendments](#), including [roll call votes](#) on amendments not contained in the subcommittees' marks. The committee voted [34-25](#) to report the bill as amended to the House. On June 17, the HAC reported the bill and accompanying report to the House (H.R. 8774; H.Rept. 118-557).

On June 24, the Biden Administration sent a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) (SAP) to the HAC-D chairman, Representative Tom Cole, strongly opposing the committee-reported version of H.R. 8774 due to what the Administration characterized as “numerous, partisan policy provisions with devastating consequences for the readiness and wellbeing of America’s military and their families.”

On June 25, the House Committee on Rules reported a resolution (H.Rept. 118-559) containing a special rule that would govern floor consideration of the defense bill, determining which amendments would be considered and how much time would be allocated for debate. This special rule was adopted by [floor vote](#) on June 26, setting the conditions for a full House debate of the defense bill. On June 27 and June 28, the full House debated additional amendments to the bill, ultimately passing a version of H.R. 8774 (containing provisions to which the SAP objected) by a roll call [vote](#) of 217-198, with 17 Members not voting. On July 8, the House-passed version of the bill was received in the Senate.

Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC)

Between April and June 2024, the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) Subcommittee on Defense (SAC-D) held six [open hearings](#) and two closed [hearings](#) to review and receive testimony on the President’s FY2025 budget request for defense and intelligence programs. Open hearings included a [hearing](#) on select DOD [acquisition programs](#) and reviews of the FY2025 budget request for the [Navy and Marine Corps](#); [Air Force and Space Force](#); [Army](#); [DOD](#); and [National Guard and Reserve](#). Closed hearings reviewed the FY2025 budget request for the [Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency](#); and “[space matters](#)” related to the National Reconnaissance Office, Air Force, and Space Force.

The SAC released initial 302(b) allocations on July 10, 2024 (S.Rept. 118-190) and revised the allocations on July 24 (S.Rept. 118-197) and July 31 (S.Rept. 118-203). On August 1, SAC convened a committee [hearing](#) and voted [28-0](#) to report to the Senate an original bill (S. 4921) “as a Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House companion measure.” The bill was accompanied by a Senate Report (S.Rept. 118-204) reflecting the July 31 suballocations for DOD military programs and detailing \$20.8 billion in [emergency-designated requirements](#) exempted from FRA and BBEDCA discretionary defense budget authority constraints.

Table I. FY2025 Defense Appropriations: Status of Legislative Activity

House				Senate				Public Law
Bill #, Date Introduced	Report #, Date	Vote # (yeas-nays), Date Passed	Resolving Differences	Bill #, Date Introduced	Report #, Date	Vote # (yeas-nays), Date Passed	Resolving Differences	P.L. #, Date Signed
H.R. 8774 6/17/2024	H.Rept. 118-557 6/17/2023	331 (217-198), 6/28/2024		S. 4921 8/01/2024	S.Rept. 118-204 8/01/2024			

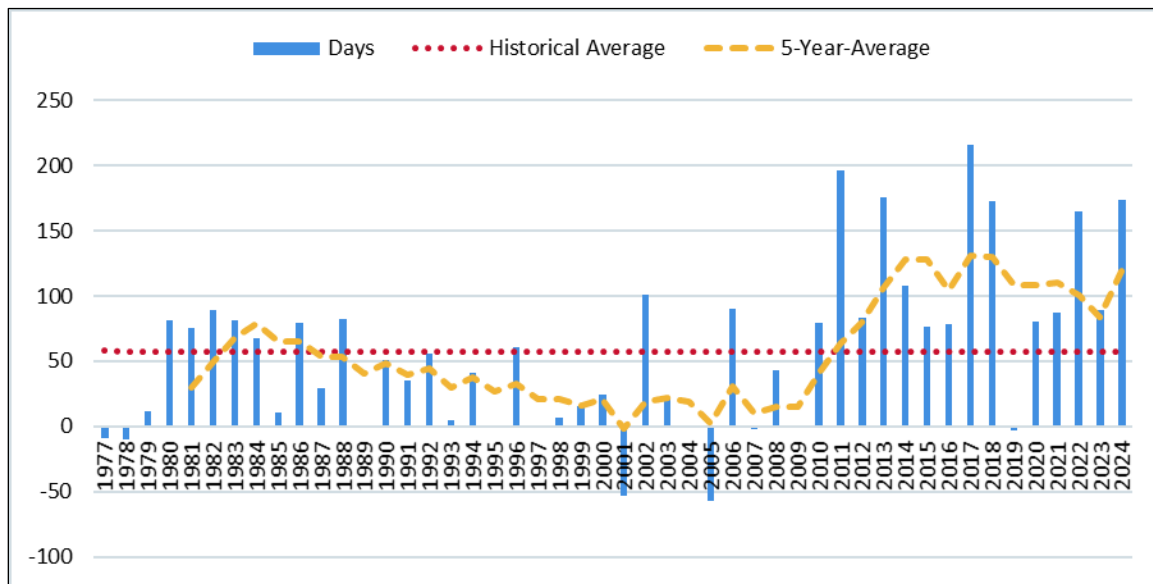
Source: CRS analysis of legislation on Congress.gov.

Notes: Amend. is “amendment.” For more information on appropriations legislation status, see CRS Appropriations Status Table, *Appropriations Status Table: FY1999 to Present*, by Justin Murray.

Figure 1 shows the timing of the annual defense appropriations act enactment since FY1977, when the federal government transitioned to a fiscal year beginning October 1. Since FY1977, annual defense appropriations legislation has been enacted, on average, 58 days after the start of the fiscal year (i.e., late November). Since FY2020, the legislation has been enacted, on average, 119 days after the start of the fiscal year (i.e., late January).

Figure 1. Days between Start of Fiscal Year and Enactment of Annual Defense Appropriations Act, FY1977-FY2024

(in number of days)



Source: CRS figure based on data from CRS Report 98-756, *Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills: FY1961-FY2021*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon and Sofia Plagakis; P.L. 117-103; P.L. 117-328; and P.L. 118-47.

Notes: Positive values indicate number of days between start of the fiscal year and enactment of annual defense appropriations acts. Negative values indicate number of days between enactment of annual defense appropriations acts and start of fiscal year.

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