

- Requires agencies procuring sensitive information technology systems to conduct supply chain risk assessments in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Requires contractors and grantees receiving more than \$5,000,000 to certify that they are not delinquent on their Federal taxes.
- Withholds funds from certain law enforcement agencies until the Attorney General demonstrates to the Committee that the recommendations of the Inspector General regarding sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct are being implemented.
- Limits the number of agency staff that can attend an overseas conference.
- Requires agencies to track undisbursed grant balances.
- Requires agencies to submit spending plans for the Committee's review.
- Requires agencies to notify the Committee of project cost overruns and mitigation plans.
- Addresses Patent and Trademark Office management failures by requiring extensive reporting on reforms of their telework programs, information technology system spending, and patent quality.

REPROGRAMMING PROCEDURES

Section 505 of the bill contains language concerning the reprogramming of funds between programs, projects, and activities. The Committee reminds the departments and agencies funded in this bill that the reprogramming process is based on comity between the Congress and the Executive Branch. This process is intended to provide departments and agencies sufficient flexibility to meet changing circumstances and emergent requirements not known at the time of congressional review of the budget while preserving congressional priorities and intent. In the absence of comity and respect for the prerogatives of the Appropriations Committees and the Congress in general, the Committee may opt to include specific program limitations and details in legislation and remove language providing the flexibility to reallocate funds. Under these circumstances, programs, projects, and activities become absolutes and the Executive Branch shall lose the ability to propose changes in the use of appropriated funds except through legislative action.

The Committee expects that each department and agency funded in this bill shall follow the directions set forth in this bill and the accompanying report, and shall not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein. Reprogramming procedures shall apply to funds provided in this bill, unobligated balances from previous appropriations Acts that are available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2016, and non-appropriated resources such as fee collections that are used to meet program requirements in fiscal year 2016. As specified in section 505, the Committee expects that the Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the House and Senate will be notified by letter a minimum of 15 days (or in the case of the Department of Justice 45 days) prior to any reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project or activity;

- (2) eliminates a program, project or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;
- (4) relocates an office or employees;
- (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs or activities;
- (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;
- (7) augments existing programs, projects or activities in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or
- (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects or activities as approved by Congress.

Any reprogramming request shall include any out-year budgetary impacts and a separate accounting of program or mission impacts on estimated carryover funds. The Committee further expects any department or agency funded in this bill that plans a reduction-in-force to notify the Committee by letter at least 30 days in advance of the date of any such planned personnel action.

RELATIONSHIP WITH BUDGET AND COMPTROLLER OFFICES

Through the years the Appropriations Committee has channeled most of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the budget offices or comptroller organizations of the various departments, agencies, and commissions. Such relationships are necessary to accomplish the work of the Committee. While the Committee reserves the right to call upon all organizations in the departments, agencies and commissions for information and assistance, the primary contact between the Committee and these entities must be through the budget offices and comptroller organizations, or through a legislative affairs unit designated by the Committee to work on appropriations and budget matters.

The workload generated in the budget process is large and growing; therefore, a positive, responsive relationship between the Committee and the budget and/or comptroller offices is essential for the Committee to fulfill the Constitutional appropriations responsibilities of Congress.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends \$472,000,000 in total resources for the programs of the International Trade Administration (ITA), which is equal to fiscal year 2015 and \$34,750,000 below the request. This amount is offset by \$10,000,000 in estimated fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of \$462,000,000.

Support for firms.—The Committee encourages ITA to ensure that it is providing adequate support and services for women-, minority- and veteran-owned firms that are seeking assistance in gaining access to foreign markets for their products and services.