

FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations

On Saturday, December 17, 2011, Congress agreed on funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and several other agencies for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2012, or through Sept. 30, 2012. While the measure overall reduces money for the department (\$39.6B for FY 12, which is approximately \$2B below FY 2011), both Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) saw increased amounts of funding—CBP to the tune of \$362M, and ICE similarly being awarded a \$50M increase from FY 2011.

With immigration enforcement spending already sky high, Congress *increased* spending for detention beds raising the number of daily detention beds from 33,400 to 34,000 in FY 2012. Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services [projects](#) this will mean the detention of 6,000 more immigrants this year. The measure also increased funding for the controversial Secure Communities program by \$5M (to a record level of approximately \$189M). Border Patrol staffing will also remain at record levels (21,370 agents) despite the U.S. Southwest border experiencing historically low levels of illegal crossings.

DHS FY 12 Conferenced Appropriations Measure (HR 2055)

DHS: FY 12 - \$39.6B (\$3.6B below the President's original request and \$2B below FY 11)

Customs and Border Protection (CBP):

\$11.651B, or \$362M above FY 11 (\$93M of which is targeted for anti-terrorism efforts)

- Maintains the 21,370 Border Patrol agent staffing level (same amount from the [FY 10 supplemental border bill](#))
- Provides for 21,186 CBP officers at ports of entry (increase of 312 new officers and additional canine teams from FY11)
- Adds \$33.4M for procurement, operations and air & marine to defend the border (including 1 Black hawk helicopter and potentially 1 additional drone)
- \$400M for Secure Fence Initiative (includes detailed instructions for the Commissioner to provide a plan with justifications for how to use the money)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):

\$5.862B, or \$50M above FY 11

- \$189M to the Secure Communities program or a \$5M increase from FY 11
- Provides \$12M for a new initiative to address a backlog of visa overstay investigations (the Senate originally wanted \$20M) – language in the bill declares that 45% of current undocumented immigrants had overstayed their visas
- Maintains current staffing levels of special agents
- 34,000 daily detention beds (increase from 33,400 in FY 11–the 600 bed increase was originally proposed in the House bill and was never conferenced out)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

\$102.4M in direct appropriations, or \$44M below FY 11

- \$102.4M to maintain E-verify (a \$1M decrease from FY 11)
- \$10M for immigrant integration grants to be taken from the Examinations Fee Account – not from direct appropriation (consistent with the Senate bill). Includes language that this money is not to be used for undocumented immigrants
- \$0 was appropriated for the processing of applications for refugees and asylees. As a result, processing fees for immigration benefit applications may increase to cover this shortfall

The Senate Committee on Appropriations Conference Report Summary for FY 12 Homeland Security Appropriations is available [here](#), and the House Appropriations Summary is available [here](#).