

Managers' Package

FY2016 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

1. Senator Kirk – Report language: Front Matter, Accountability and Oversight regarding government printing
2. Senator Baldwin – Report Language: ITA, Increase information sharing between ITA and Customs and Border Protection.
3. Senator Kirk – Report Language: USTR, Supports the creation of a healthcare trade expert position.
4. Senators Cochran and Feinstein – Report language: NTIA, Directing continued assistance for State and local grant awards
5. Senator Lankford – Report language: NTIA, internet stewardship and quarterly reports.
6. Senators Feinstein, Murkowski, and Merkley – Report Language: NOAA, Encourages the use of genetic stock identification to better manage salmon stocks.
7. Senators Collins and Shaheen – Report Language: NOAA, Directs the National Marine Fisheries Service to address at-sea monitoring issues in the Northeast U.S.
8. Senator Cassidy – Report Language: NOAA, Encourages the National Weather Service to co-locate local forecast offices and facilities with research universities when feasible.
9. Senator Kirk – Report Language: DOJ, Adds a reference to RICO in gang violence text.
10. Senator Baldwin – Report Language: DOJ, Adds explanatory language for an Office on Violence Against Women grant program.
11. Senator Udall – Report language: NSF, Requests report on transition plan for solar observatories.

1. Amendment proposed by Senator Kirk

On page 4 of the report, under “Fighting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse”, immediately after the second paragraph ending with “,and other similar items.”, insert as a separate paragraph:

“The Committee is concerned about the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on wasteful printing practices each year and the lack of clear printing policies within each of the agencies. While progress has been made to better utilize the cloud and digitalize records, little progress has been made to reform in-house printing practices. The Committee directs each agency to work with Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction by 34 percent and report to the Committee within 60 days after enactment of this Act on what steps have been taken to reduce printing volume and costs. The report should specifically identify how much money each agency will be saving.”

2. Amendment proposed by Senator Baldwin

On page 11 of the report, at the end of the paragraph beginning with “Duty Evasion and Circumvention”, insert:

“In instances where an AD/CVD order exists, ITA shall share with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection information or product obtained under an Administrative Protective Order, as necessary, that relates to circumvention or evasion of AD/CVD orders. If ITA believes there are statutory limitations to sharing this information or product with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, ITA shall report to the Committee within 90 days after enactment of this act as to the specific impediments.”

3. Amendment proposed by Senator Kirk

On page 12 of the report immediately before the paragraph beginning with “Economy Act Transfers”, insert:

“*Healthcare Trade.*— The Committee notes the growing importance of the broad healthcare industry to U.S. jobs, exports, and the economy. The Committee also recognizes the unique challenges facing this industry from foreign trade barriers and the challenges facing USTR in trying to expand access to life-saving U.S. products and services through trade agreements. The Committee supports the efforts of USTR to improve its management of these issues through the creation of a dedicated healthcare position at USTR to coordinate with its various functional and regional offices.”

4. Amendment proposed by Senators Cochran and Feinstein

On page 19 of the report, in the paragraph beginning with “*Broadband*.—The Committee’s recommendation”, at the end after “recipients.”, insert the following new paragraph:

“The Committee directs the NTIA to continue assisting States and localities that have received broadband grant awards, including those for which the performance period has ended but whose grants have not been cancelled, that improve public safety networks. The Committee notes that doing so would prevent undue burden on State and local governments working in good faith in the public interest and would maximize previous federal investments in public safety infrastructure. The Committee intends to continue to explore further legislative action to assist the Administration in achieving these worthy goals.”

5. Amendment proposed by Senator Lankford

On page 19 of the report, within the paragraph beginning with “Internet Governance”, strike the sentence that begins with: “The Committee continues to be concerned...”

And insert:

“The Committee continues to be concerned about this process and supports the continued stewardship role of the United States over the domain name system in order to ensure the security of the .gov and .mil domains and to protect the freedom of speech and expression internationally. The Committee directs NTIA to continue quarterly reports to the Committee on all aspects of the transition process, and further directs NTIA to inform the Committee and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, not less than 45 days in advance of any decision with respect to a successor contract.”

6. Amendment proposed by Senators Feinstein, Murkowski, and Merkley

On page 33 of the report, at the end of the paragraph beginning with “Salmon Management Activities”, insert:

“The Committee also encourages NOAA to consider funding for activities to modernize and expand salmonid research, testing, and monitoring through use of genetic stock identification management techniques that improve the protection of federally protected and managed salmonids, including the use of near real-time data to minimize closures of commercial fisheries.”

7. Amendment proposed by Senators Collins and Shaheen

On page 34 of the report, immediately before the paragraph beginning with “Observers and Training” insert:

*“At-Sea Monitoring.—*The Committee recognizes NMFS’s responsibility to satisfy the observer coverage standards of the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM), but is very concerned by the impacts of NMFS’s decision to fund such activities by decreasing funding for at-sea monitoring in fiscal year 2015. NMFS’s decision came as a surprise to fishermen and communities and will negatively disrupt the Northeast groundfish fishery in the middle of the season. Therefore, NMFS shall work with the New England Fishery Management Council to find a resolution to the disruption caused by this funding decision. The Committee reminds NMFS that future direction from this Committee and Congress should be treated as a priority and followed accordingly.”

8. Amendment proposed by Senator Cassidy

On page 42 of the report, at the end of the text, insert:

*“NWS Office Relocations.—*The Committee encourages NWS to co-locate its local or regional facilities with universities, including land-grant research universities, particularly in States with emergency management offices that have forecast capabilities for atmospheric events and that place priority on developing more accurate and timely warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events. NWS should utilize funding provided for planning, design, and long-term co-location lease agreements wherever it is feasible. Furthermore, priority shall be given to areas most impacted by recent extreme weather events where current leases may be expiring.”

9. Amendment proposed by Senator Kirk

On page 57 of the report, under “*Gang Violence*”, after “The Committee urges these agencies to intensify current efforts,” and before “while enhancing coordination across the Federal Government and with State and local law enforcement in order to maximize the impact of limited personnel resources.” insert:

“including supporting and prosecuting cases under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO),”

10. Amendment proposed by Senator Baldwin

On page 89 of the report, at the end of the text, insert:

Grants to Encourage Arrests. – The Committee urges the Office on Violence Against Women to prioritize funding within the Grants to Encourage Arrests Program to support Family Justice Center models that are community-based, co-located multi-agency collaborations that provide integrated services to both domestic violence and child abuse victims.

11. Amendment proposed by Senator Udall

On page 123 of the report, in the Paragraph starting with “Astronomy.—U.S.-based”, after “Astronomy Observatory.”, insert the following:

“NSF is also directed to report to the Committee no later than one year after enactment of this Act on a 5-year transition plan for the continued use of existing solar observatories.”