



Analysis of the
**FY 2015 Senate Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill**
and Implications for Social and Behavioral Science

June 6, 2014

On June 5, the full Senate Appropriations Committee marked up and reported out the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Bill. The bill now heads to the Senate floor. Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) noted during the markup that the bill could be on the Senate floor as soon as June 16; she is said to be in discussion with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) about bringing a “minibus” to the floor containing a number of FY 2015 appropriations bills, which would include the CJS bill.

The Senate CJS bill totals \$51.2 billion, which complies with the spending caps set in the bipartisan budget agreement brokered in late 2013 and is nearly \$400 million less than the bill’s FY 2014 allocation. There were no amendments offered during the subcommittee or full committee markups impacting the National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice, or other agencies or programs important to the social and behavioral science community.

As previously reported, the House passed its version of the FY 2015 CJS Appropriations Bill on May 30 (see [June 2, 2014 Update](#)). Should the Senate vote on its bill this month, it is conceivable that we could see a final, confereed FY 2015 CJS bill enacted before October 1.

The following pages provide details of the Senate CJS bill for the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Census Bureau.

National Science Foundation

The Senate bill would provide the National Science Foundation (NSF) with a total of \$7.26 billion, which is equal to the President’s budget request, 1.2 percent above the FY 2014 level, and 2.1 percent below the amount passed by the House last week. The Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account—the budget line that funds NSF’s science directorates—would receive slightly more (0.5 percent) than the President’s request.

The Senate bill and accompanying report does not include language on social and behavioral science research. Further, unlike in the House, no amendments were offered during the subcommittee or full committee markups that seek to reduce funding for social science programs.

For the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR), the Senate bill would provide \$889.8 million, which is equal to the request, 5.1 percent above the FY 2014 level, and 1.6 percent above the House level. Regarding STEM education and the interagency [Committee on STEM Education](#) (CoSTEM), the committee report includes the following language:

“Committee on STEM Education. —The Committee believes that NSF is well suited to handle undergraduate and graduate fellowships, internships, and specific grants similar to its current mission and, if there are general needs across Government, that NSF could similarly serve as a clearinghouse for such students. However, the Committee remains concerned that moving all or too many graduate related fellowships and scholarships to NSF will not meet the long-term, mission-specific, STEM workforce needs of the entire Government. The Committee requests that NSF continue to work with OSTP [Office of Science and Technology Policy] on refining a plan for ways NSF could implement a broader program for graduate and undergraduate programs across the entire Federal Government, and to identify which programs across Government could benefit from such a program.”

The CJS bill does not provide appropriations for NSF’s individual science directorates; that will be decided by the agency via its spending plan once the FY 2015 appropriations process has been completed.

<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 House	FY 2015 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2014	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Research and Related Activities (R&RA)	5,808.9	5,807.5	5,978.6	5,838.7	0.51%	0.54%	2.4%
Education and Human Resources (EHR)	846.5	889.8	876.0	889.8	5.1%	--	-1.55%
NSF Total	7,171.9	7,255.0	7,409.6	7,255.0	1.16%	--	2.13%

Department of Justice

The bill includes \$28 billion for the Department of Justice (DOJ), \$260.2 million more than FY 2014, \$123 million less than the House level, and \$23.3 million above the President’s request. Within the Office of Justice Programs, which includes the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Committee recommends \$38 million and \$42 million respectively. This would represent a decrease of 5 percent for NIJ from FY 2014, 20 percent below the President’s request, and 10.5 percent below the House level. For BJS, this would represent a decrease of 6.7 percent from FY 2014, 24.2 percent below the President’s request, and 12.6 percent below the House-passed level.

The Senate bill recommends an additional \$5 million for the Forensic Initiative, which was excluded in the version passed by the House. Four million of this amount would be transferred to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to support Scientific Working Groups. The language also stresses that these funds should be used to support state and local law enforcement, “given that 95 percent of all criminal cases are investigated and prosecuted at the state and local levels.”

Additionally, the House bill called for an additional \$4 million to NIJ for research on domestic terrorism. The Senate bill does not include this request, which explains in part the overall lower totals. Included in the Senate request but left out of the House request is \$2 million for a gun safety technology initiative, which would “encourage the development of innovative and cost-effective gun safety technology.” The FY 2014 enacted bill also provided funding for this initiative.



Providing some flexibility in disbursement of the OJP’s funding, the Committee included language in the report that states:

“Section 213 permits up to 3 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs to be used for training and technical assistance, permits up to 2 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to that office to be transferred to the National Institute of Justice or the Bureau of Justice Statistics for criminal justice research and statistics, and permits up to 5 percent of discretionary grant and reimbursement program funds made available to OJP to be used for tribal criminal justice assistance.”

Finally, the Senate bill includes the same funding, \$75 million, and language regarding the Comprehensive School Safety initiative as the President’s request, the House bill, and the FY 2014 enacted bill. However, the Senate bill directs NIJ to provide a report to Congress on its progress in “developing a strategy and model for comprehensive school safety.”

<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 House	FY 2015 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2014	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45.0	55.4	47.3	42.0	-6.67%	-24.19%	12.62%
National Institute of Justice	40.0	47.5	42.0	38.0	-5.0%	-20.0%	-10.53%

Bureau of Economic Analysis and Census Bureau

The CJS bill would provide \$106 million for Economic and Statistical Analysis within the Department of Commerce, which includes the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). This is 10.7 percent more than the FY 2014 level, 1.2 percent below the President’s request, and 6.6 percent more than the House-passed level. The bulk of the proposed increase in the President’s budget request was to pay for relocation of BEA’s headquarters. While the House bill would not provide additional funds for this purpose, the Senate bill would, further directing BEA to work with the General Services Administration to find the most cost-effective option.

The Senate bill would provide the Census Bureau with \$1.15 billion, an increase of 21.6 percent over FY 2014, 2.7 percent more than the House-passed level, but 5.2 percent below the amount requested for the ramp up to the 2020 Decennial Census. The Salaries and Expenses line would receive a small increase over the President’s request. As the committee report states:

“The increase above the request shall be used to expand the sample of the Current Population Survey’s Annual Social and Economic Supplement, which shall compare health insurance statistics to baseline data from 2010 and 2013. In collecting additional health insurance data, the Census Bureau is directed to ensure that it maintains sufficient comparative data points to allow for data collected from 2010 to 2013 in the interest of preserving statistical rigor.”

The Periodic Censuses and Programs line would see an increase of 29.4 percent above FY 2014 and 3 percent above the House level, but 6.9 percent below the President’s request.



The committee report states that controlling costs for the 2020 Decennial Census is the Committee's top concern, with an intention that the 2020 Census will cost less than the 2010 Census and make progress toward spending less than the 2000 Census. The report continues, "The Census Bureau is directed to prioritize spending for activities that have the greatest potential to reduce cost and reduce risk for the 2020 census."

Regarding Census Bureau plans to utilize existing administrative data records to reduce cost in the 2020 Census, the committee report states concern that the agency is "counting on these cost savings without adequately or accurately assessing the steps that need to be taken in order to secure access to this data. The Bureau is directed to work expeditiously with Federal, State, tribal, local, and other partners to obtain the necessary records."

The Senate CJS bill maintains the American Community Survey as mandatory.

<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 House	FY 2015 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2014	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of the Census	945.0	1,211.4	1,117.5	1,148.9	21.58%	-5.16%	-2.74%
Salaries and Expenses	252.0	248.0	248.0	252.2	0.08%	1.69%	-1.67%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	693.0	963.0	869.5	896.7	29.4%	-6.92%	-3.04%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	95.8	107.2	99.0	106.0	10.65%	-1.16%	-6.6%

Research Policy Provisions

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) section of the committee report includes language on the issues of open access and STEM education. Regarding open access, the Committee notes its pleasure with progress made by agencies to develop and implement public access policies. Agencies are expected to enter into the implementation phase of their policies by early calendar year 2015.

Regarding President Obama's proposal to consolidate and eliminate some federal STEM education programs across federal agencies, the committee report states, "...while the Committee maintains its support of greater efficiencies and consolidation, several proven and successful programs have again been eliminated with no evaluation on why they were deemed duplicative or ineffective." The report goes on to encourage OSTP to work with non-federal education communities to garner wider support for future consolidation proposals. In the meantime, the Senate bill would maintain agency STEM programs as they currently exist.

