

House Appropriations Highlights

Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Bills

Last updated July 8, 2022

Draft Bill Highlights: Defense

Procurement and Satellites: The [FY 2023 Draft Report](#) provides that the Committee recommends approximately **\$144 billion** for procurement (a decrease of **over \$956 million** below the budget request), which includes approximately **\$647 million** for the procurement of two Global Positioning System satellites.

The Committee also recommends **\$20 million** in funding for university research on next generation small satellite technologies to, among other things, “rapidly demonstrate and transition” such technologies “to support national security.”

Installations, Microgrids and Energy: The Committee’s recommendation for “meeting the climate challenge” matches the FY 2023 President’s Budget request of **\$2.5 billion** “for increased resiliency at military installations; improved energy efficiency and logistics; and research into reducing energy demand, improved storage, and other energy supplies.” Per the report, the Committee also seeks to improve energy resiliency on military installations by “recommend[ing] an **additional \$7 million** for research of low-cost electrolyzers for hydrogen production and storage.” Another tactic aimed at addressing the climate challenge, the report notes, is the development of direct air capture technologies for use at Department of Defense (DOD) military installations.

Recognizing the value of advanced microgrid technologies at DOD installations, the Committee also “encourages the Secretary of Defense to evaluate multi-resource microgrid configurations that incorporate dispatchable, fuel-flexible, renewable-fuel-compatible, distributed generation technologies” and further recommends pairing such technologies “with variable output renewable resources and battery storage technology, to achieve substantial emissions reductions, provide multi-week resilience, and improve energy security.”

Critical Minerals: The Committee recommends approximately **\$708 million** for the Defense Production Act Purchases, including for critical minerals recycling. Recognizing the impact critical minerals have on strong supply chains, the Committee recommends an **increase of \$10**

million “to research alternative opportunities to source or reclaim these critical materials domestically from recyclables and end-of-life components.” The Committee also directs the Secretary of Defense “to develop automated processing systems to reclaim critical materials from hard disk drives and electric vehicle motors” and “encourages the Secretary of Defense to explore” Tribal Nation partnerships.

Draft Bill Highlights: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Department of Commerce and NIST: The Committee’s [summary](#) of the [draft FY 2023 bill](#) highlights the **\$11.6 billion** in funding for the Commerce Department, which represents a \$1.7 billion increase from the FY 2022 enacted level. This includes funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is funded at **\$1.47 billion** in the bill (an approximately \$244 million increase from the FY 2022 level). Included in the NIST funding provisions is **\$212 million** for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, which helps manufacturers increase innovation, examine plans for supply chain disruptions, and build their workforces.

NASA and Satellites: The bill includes **over \$25 billion** in funding for NASA (\$1.4 billion above the FY 2022 enacted level). This includes a **\$7.9 billion** investment in science - a \$290.6 million increase from FY 2022 - “to continue efforts to explore the solar system, other planets, and other solar systems,” including through planetary satellites.

The [FY 2023 Draft Report](#) directs NASA to continue working with commercial industry for purposes of deploying small satellite missions to bolster NASA’s overall scientific objectives. The Committee specifically highlights the NASA Commercial Smallsat Data Acquisition (CSDA) Program, for which it provides \$55 million. In allocating these funds, the Committee directs NASA “to utilize, to the greatest extent practicable, open contracting mechanisms that allow for the testing and evaluation of commercial data, for research purposes, on a continual rolling basis, regardless of constellation size.”

The report also highlights certain changes in the application of existing law with respect to satellites. The report notes that the bill extends Congressional notification requirements for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite programs and includes life cycle cost amounts for certain satellites.

National Science Foundation: The bill includes **\$9.63 billion** in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an over \$793 million increase from the FY 2022 enacted level. These

funds will foster research on innovations including artificial intelligence, quantum information science, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity, among other areas.

Draft Bill Highlights: Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

ERCIP and Microgrids: The [FY 2023 Draft Report](#) accompanying the MilCon-VA [bill](#) notes the Committee's support of DOD investment in energy efficiency, resilience, renewable energy systems, and energy security. Accordingly, the Committee provides **over \$653 million** for ERCIP construction (an increase of \$100 million above the request). This could include investments in microgrids through ERCIP and other investments.

Alternative Fuel Infrastructure and EV Charging: The report notes that the Committee "encourages DOD to prioritize funding for the installation of alternative fuel infrastructure at military installations to ensure continuity of operations as DOD transitions to utilizing alternative fuel vehicles." Note that the Committee also supports the allocation of **over \$163 million** to support, in part, "installation of zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure on VA campuses." The Committee also encourages VA to consider the use of accessible autonomous EVs to meet the transportation challenges that rural and remote veterans face.

Veterans, Mental Health, and Suicide Prevention: The Committee provides approximately **\$14 billion** in discretionary funding for mental health programs. Almost **\$3 billion** of these funds are for suicide prevention and treatment programs, with **over \$498 million** for suicide prevention outreach. The Committee also recommends that VA engage in public-private partnerships "to expand upon its existing efforts related to suicide prevention, PTSD, BI, and substance use disorders." The Committee provides **up to \$5 million** of the funds allocated for mental health programs for such expansion.

The report highlights the **over \$62 million** in funding for VA construction projects and notes that the Committee specifically "encourages VA to prioritize construction for expanding gender-specific care for women and mental health programs" including mental health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program facilities and new inpatient Substance Use Disorder facilities. An additional **\$1.5 billion** is allocated to support non-recurring maintenance (NRM) projects across the country, and the Committee directs VA to "prioritize projects that expand women's access to gender-specific care and that repurpose vacant and underutilized space for mental health needs."

Telehealth and Virtual Care: Citing the demand for increased access to virtual care, the Committee “encourages VA to provide veterans access to virtual cognitive behavioral therapy, including ensuring that options are available over low broadband.” The Committee further directs VA to provide a report to both Houses of Congress after enactment “on the status of efforts to utilize solutions and partners in the delivery of mental health services virtually and how to make these solutions more accessible to patients.” Note that the bill includes **over \$5 billion** for telehealth and connected care with a specific emphasis on improving telehealth and expanding telehealth availability “to include additional mental health, primary care, and rehabilitation services as a means to deliver care in rural and underserved communities.”

Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM): \$1.759 billion is included in the FY 2023 bill for EHRM with an emphasis on “strict quarterly reporting of timelines, performance milestones, costs, implementation, and change management.” The report also notes that in EHRM implementation, protection of veterans’ sensitive information must be prioritized, potentially through the use of “emerging technologies, such as blockchain technology, if future requirements drive a need to modify VA’s security architecture and technical solutions.”

Additionally, citing the potential for improved data sharing between EHRM and DOD’s MHS GENESIS, the Committee “directs the Federal [EHRM] Office, in coordination with VA” to issue a report to the Committee after enactment on such venture. The Committee also highlights its interest in the life-cycle cost analysis of EHRM “and requests monthly updates on its progress until it is completed and shared with the Committee.”

Draft Bill Highlights: Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

FAA Priorities: The [summary](#) of the FY 2023 T-HUD [funding bill](#) highlights the **\$18.7 billion** in funding for the FAA (\$193 million above FY 2022). This includes approximately **\$1.6 billion** for aviation safety activities, **\$8.7 billion** for air traffic organization activities, and **over \$65 million** for NextGen and operations planning activities. **Over \$260 million** is provided for “research, engineering, and development... including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant.”

EVs and Charging Infrastructure: The bill provides **\$11 million** for the Department of Transportation’s transition to the General Services Administration’s leased vehicle fleet and for the purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure.

