



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Senate FY 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill | September 27, 2019

The Senate Appropriations Committee [approved](#) its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill on September 26. This bill contains annual funding proposals for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and Census Bureau, among other federal departments and agencies. Overall, the Senate bill is favorable to agencies important to the COSSA community, with increases proposed across the bill's jurisdiction.

At a Glance...

- **The Senate CJS bill includes \$8.3 billion for NSF in FY 2020**, which would translate to a 3 percent increase over FY 2019. While it is less than the House proposal for NSF, the Senate number is 17.7 percent above the amount requested by the Trump Administration.
- **The Senate bill would provide NIJ and BJS with \$37 million and \$43 million, respectively.** This would represent flat funding for NIJ and BJS compared to their FY 2019 funding levels and is identical to the House proposal.
- **The Senate's proposal would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$7.558 billion for FY 2020**, which is \$1.4 billion above the Administration's request but \$891.7 million below the House bill.
- **The Senate bill includes \$107 million for BEA**, which is \$6 million above the FY 2019 level, but \$1 million below the amounts proposed by both the Administration and the House.

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full Senate. The Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 26 that will keep the government open until November 21, which, assuming it is signed by the President, would give the chamber additional time to pass the bill and reconcile it with the House.

Summarized below are the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposals for the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Census Bureau.

The bill and Committee's full report can be found [here](#). An audio recording of the markup can be found [here](#).

National Science Foundation

The Senate CJS bill includes \$8.3 billion for NSF in FY 2020, which would translate to a 3 percent increase over FY 2019. While it is less than the House proposal for NSF, the Senate number is \$1.25 billion (17.7%) above the amount requested by the Trump Administration.

The report accompanying the bill includes important directives to the agency. Regarding NSF’s [10 Big Ideas for Future NSF Investment](#) the report states:

*“The Committee is supportive of NSF using its position as the lead Federal agency in supporting basic research in all fundamental science areas and expects that as NSF uses the 10 Big Ideas as a focusing tool, the funding for the fundamental scientific disciplines will be maintained... Therefore, **NSF shall maintain its core research at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2017...**”*
[emphasis added]

This is similar to language included in last year’s Senate CJS bill and this year’s House CJS bill. The intent is to ensure that existing research activities (i.e. NSF’s core programs, including SBE) do not become a bank for investments in the Big Ideas initiatives.

In line with national headlines, the Senate report includes new language this year encouraging NSF to “consider additional research efforts that could help counter foreign influence efforts from our adversaries, like Russia, on U.S. social media platforms designed to influence U.S. elections.”

Finally, within the funding proposed for the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR), the Senate report “urges NSF to focus on populations underrepresented in the STEM fields and encourages NSF to fund out-of-school time STEM engagement program activities.”

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
National Science Foundation	8075.0	7066.0	8636.1	8317.0	3.0%	17.7%	3.8%
Research and Related Activities	6520.0	5663.0	7106.3	6769.7	3.8%	19.5%	5.0%
Education and Human Resources	910.0	823.5	950.0	937.0	3.0%	13.8%	1.4%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	295.7	223.2	223.2	253.2	-14.4%	13.4%	-11.8%
Agency Operations and Award Management	328.5	336.9	336.9	336.9	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%
National Science Board	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.5	3.0%	9.8%	-2.9%
Office of the Inspector General	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.7	2.3%	2.3%	-2.2%

National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Senate bill would provide the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with \$37 million and \$43 million, respectively. This is identical to the House proposal and would represent flat funding for NIJ and BJS compared to their FY 2019 funding levels. The report accompanying the bill includes some notable language. Of particular importance to the social science community, the report includes language encouraging the Department of Justice to reestablish the Science Advisory Board within the Office of Justice Programs:

“Science Advisory Board.-The Committee recognizes the contributions of OJP’s Science Advisory Board [Board] and encourages the re-establishment of the Board. The Board worked to provide extra-agency review of, and recommendations for, OJP’s research, statistics, and grants program. The re-established Board should be comprised of scholars and practitioners in criminology, statistics, sociology, and practitioners in the criminal and juvenile justice fields and should be

tasked with ensuring the programs and activities of OJP are scientifically sound and pertinent to policymakers and practitioners.”

The report also includes many directives for NIJ and BJS for the coming fiscal year. Some of the directives include specific amounts that NIJ and BJS must allocate from their appropriation, while others simply direct the agencies to assign funds they deem necessary. In particular, the committee allocates \$3 million of NIJ’s appropriation to be used to establish a National Center on Restorative Justice, \$1 million for grants to expand the National Juvenile Prostitution Study, \$2 million to create opportunities for medical students to train as deputy medical examiners/coroners, and \$1 million to develop a model and best practices for comprehensive school safety.

Additionally, the committee directs NIJ to conduct studies on the short- and long-term psychological effects of human trafficking, impairment detection technology, mental health services at law enforcement agencies, and campus sexual assault prevention interventions. The committee directs BJS to maintain a dataset on police suicides and, similar to previous years, a dataset on deaths and injuries from police pursuits. The House proposal for NIJ and BJS shares no research priorities with the Senate proposal, except for research on human trafficking.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Justice Statistics	43.0	48.0	43.0	43.0	0.0%	-10.4%	0.0%
National Institute of Justice	37.0	46.5	37.0	37.0	0.0%	-20.4%	0.0%

Census Bureau

The Senate bill includes \$107 million for the Bureau of Economic Statistics (BEA), which is \$6 million above the FY 2019 level, but \$1 million below the amounts proposed by both the Administration and the House. Language in the report directs BEA to develop income growth indicators and to produce gross domestic product (GDP) estimates for Puerto Rico.

The Senate’s proposal would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$7.558 billion for FY 2020, the year of the decennial Census, which is \$1.4 billion above the Administration’s request but \$891.7 million below the House bill. The Senate bill would provide \$274 million to the Bureau’s Current Surveys and Programs, a \$4 million increase compared to FY 2019. The Periodic Censuses and Programs account, which includes the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey, would receive a total of \$7.284 billion.

The bill includes \$6.7 billion to complete preparation for and conduct the 2020 Census, \$1.4 billion more than the Administration requested but \$804 million less than proposed by the House. The House bill had included lengthy language to prevent the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. However, in the time between the introduction of the House and Senate bills, the Administration [halted its plans to ask about citizenship](#) but [committed the Census Bureau to produce citizenship estimates](#) using other data sources. The Senate bill does not comment on these efforts.

The Senate report repeats language from prior years recognizing the importance of the American Community Survey (ACS) both for its innovative methods and techniques and for its importance as a data source for state and local agencies as well as rural areas. However, unlike the House bill, which proposed a \$6.6 million increase for the ACS, the Senate bill elects not to specify a funding level for the survey.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Economic Analysis	101.0	108.0	108.0	107.0	6.0%	-0.9%	0.9%
Bureau of the Census	3821.4	6149.4	8450.0	7558.3	97.8%	22.9%	11.8%
Current Surveys and Programs	270.0	264.0	275.0	274.0	1.5%	3.8%	0.4%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	3551.4	5885.4	8175.0	7284.3	105.1%	23.8%	12.2%

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