



**Legislative Bulletin.....May 29, 2014**

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**Amendments to H.R. 4660 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Wolf, R-VA) – Part I**

**Further Updates on amendments will be sent as they become available.**

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**Amendments to H.R. 4660 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Wolf, R-VA) – Part I**

The Committee Report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

**Amendments with Requested Votes:**

1. **Pompeo (R-KS)**: Eliminates funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The underlying bill funds EDA at \$248 million. According to the amendment sponsor, “the Administration uses the EDA as a vehicle to spend taxpayer money on its own personal pork-barrel projects.” The GAO has said that EDA grants “did not have a significant effect” on project success, and the EDA IG has found that up to 29 percent of grant money has been wasted.

The EDA has not been authorized since 2008. The RSC budget proposed to eliminate this program. **Conservative Support:** American Conservative Union, [Americans for Prosperity](#), and [Club for Growth \(Key Vote\)](#). Many outside groups have supported eliminating the EDA, including: [Cato](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), [FreedomWorks](#), [Heritage Action](#), and [National Taxpayers Union](#).

2. **McNerney (D-CA)**: Increases funding for the COPS program by \$3 million and reduces the Census account by the same amount. The COPS program is meant to provide federal funds to hire new local police officers, a role that many conservatives believe is best fulfilled by state and local government.

The [Heritage Foundation](#) conducted an impact study which found that this program “did not have any endogenous relationship with crime rates,” and that “cities may have used the grants to supplant local police expenditures.” In FY14, the House Appropriations Committee proposed to eliminate COPS. The COPS program has not been authorized

since 2009. Several outside groups have called for eliminating the COPS program, including [Heritage](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), and [National Taxpayers Union](#).

3. **[Bridenstine \(R-OK\)](#)**: Would increase funding for NOAA weather research by \$12 million and reduce Census funding by the same amount. According to the amendment sponsor, this amendment will “give NOAA the tools to improve the prediction of high impact weather events, such as tornadoes and hurricanes.” This amendment is in line with H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvements Act, which passed the House by voice vote in April, 2014.
4. **[Nugent \(R-FL\)](#)**: Would increase Veterans' Mental Health Treatment Courts by \$2 million, increase Mentally Ill Offender Programs by \$2 million, and reduce the Census by \$4 million. These services support mental health courts, reentry services, and state and local law enforcement training.
5. **[Thompson \(D-CA\)](#)**: Increases funding for [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#) Initiative grants by \$19.5 million. These funds are meant to provide federal grants to states to upgrade criminal and mental health records for NICS, as authorized by the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007. NICS is already funded at \$58.5 million, a level that is already \$3.5 million above the President’s budget request.

This increase is offset by reducing Commerce Departmental Administration by \$1 million, Justice Information Sharing Technology by \$3 million, Federal Prison System Buildings and facilities by \$5.5 million, and National Science Foundation Agency Operation and Awards Management by \$10 million.

6. **[King \(R-IA\)](#)**: The purpose of this amendment it is to establish the Congressional intent that \$5 million of the DOJ General Administration funds are to investigate the Department of Homeland Security’s discretionary enforcement decisions regarding immigration. According to the [Center for Immigration Studies](#), “ICE freed 36,007 convicted criminal aliens from detention who were awaiting the outcome of deportation proceedings,” and another 68,000 criminal aliens ICE encountered in 2013.
7. **[Cohen \(D-TN\)](#)**: Increases funding for DOJ Administrative Review and Appeals by \$2 million and reduces Bureau of Prisons-Salaries and Expenses by the same amount. The intent of this amendment is to fund a [new clemency program](#) recently announced by the [Department of Justice](#). CJS Subcommittee Chairman Wolf said in opposition to this amendment: “There is no authorization. There is no appropriation. Congress never approved it. It is almost like an executive order out of nowhere.”

**RSC Staff Contact:** Matt Dickerson, [matthew.dickerson@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.dickerson@mail.house.gov), 6-9718

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