



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 II

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

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

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](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), [Club for Growth \(Key Vote\)](#), [FreedomWorks \(Key Vote\)](#), [Heritage Action](#), and [National Taxpayers Union \(Key Vote\)](#).

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. **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. Heritage Action supports this amendment.
5. **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.”
6. **Cohen (D-TN)**: Increases funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) by \$15 million and reduces DEA Salaries and Expenses by \$18 million.

The LSC has not been authorized since 1980. The RSC Budget calls for the elimination of the LSC, explaining “the LSC has evolved into an organization that also takes part in the advocacy of political causes and lobbying. Coupling the misuse of taxpayer funds with the redundancy of free legal services provided by states and other organizations eliminates the need for this federally funded entity.” Several outside groups have advocated eliminating the LSC, including [Heritage](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), and [Cato](#).

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