

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**April 13, 2026**



## **Washington Update**

### FY 2026 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations

The Department of Homeland Security has been without full-year appropriations for 59 days.

On April 1, President Donald Trump directed Congress to send a budget reconciliation bill by June 1 to provide funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This request aligns with prior Senate action on a DHS appropriations measure that would fund the department for the remainder of the fiscal year. That bill has not yet been considered by the House.

Congressional leadership, including Senate Majority Leader John Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson, indicated that DHS funding may proceed through both the appropriations process and the budget reconciliation process.

The Senate approved a partial DHS appropriations measure again on April 2 during a pro forma session. The House has not yet acted on the bill. Some House members have indicated a preference to consider appropriations alongside progress on reconciliation legislation.

### Pro Forma Sessions

During congressional recess periods, both chambers hold brief pro forma sessions to meet constitutional requirements that Congress convene every three days unless otherwise authorized. These sessions typically involve minimal activity, although legislative business can occur with unanimous consent.

### Executive Action on DHS Pay

On April 3, the President issued an executive order to ensure continued pay for DHS personnel not covered by prior actions. This measure provides

temporary continuity while Congress considers longer-term funding solutions.

### Budget Reconciliation Process

Budget reconciliation is a legislative process that allows certain tax, spending, and debt-related measures to pass the Senate with a simple majority. It is governed by specific procedural rules regarding eligible provisions.

Current discussions indicate that a reconciliation bill may focus on multi-year funding for DHS immigration enforcement and border security functions. Additional proposals and priorities from members may also be considered, though the scope of the legislation remains under discussion.

Leadership has suggested the possibility of multiple reconciliation measures during the year, though the timeline and feasibility remain uncertain.

### Timeline Considerations

The Administration has requested that reconciliation legislation be completed by June 1. Historically, reconciliation bills have taken several months to pass, though timelines have varied.

The Senate is expected to begin the process by considering a budget resolution later this month, which is required to initiate reconciliation.

### FY 2027 Budget and Appropriations

The Administration released its FY 2027 discretionary budget request on April 3. The proposal outlines increased defense spending and reduced non-defense discretionary spending. Presidential budget requests serve as a starting point for congressional consideration but are not binding.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to begin marking up FY 2027 spending bills this month.

### Election Legislation

The Senate is continuing consideration of the SAVE America Act (S. 3752). An amendment related to voter identification requirements was considered but did not advance.

Separately, an executive order issued on March 31 addresses mail-in voting procedures and voter eligibility verification. Legal challenges to the order have been filed.

### FISA Section 702 Extension

Authority under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is scheduled to expire within one week. The House is expected to consider legislation to extend this authority.

Procedural considerations in the House may affect how the legislation is brought to the floor and debated.

### Iran War Powers Resolutions

Members in both chambers are expected to introduce or seek votes on War Powers resolutions related to U.S. involvement in Iran. These measures may receive floor consideration, though further legislative outcomes are uncertain.

### Congressional Composition Updates

- The Senate composition remains 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats, and 2 Independents who caucus with Democrats.
- In the House, following a recent special election, the anticipated party division is 219 Republicans and 214 Democrats.

### House Floor Activity

The House is scheduled to consider several measures, including:

- Legislation amending the Clean Air Act
- Aviation safety and agricultural disaster assistance bills
- Post office naming bills
- A resolution related to tax policy

Additional items under consideration may include surveillance authority legislation and other measures brought forward through standard or expedited procedures.

### Senate Floor Activity

The Senate will resume debate on election-related legislation and may consider nominations and other measures during the week.

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## **Act Now to File, Pay, or Request an Extension**

With the April 15 tax deadline fast approaching, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that there is still time to file their federal income tax return electronically and request direct deposit for any refund due. Taxpayers can avoid interest and some penalties by filing their tax return, and if they owe, paying the full amount due by the deadline.

**Use [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for the quickest and easiest information**

IRS.gov is available 24 hours a day and offers a variety of tools and resources to help taxpayers meet their tax obligations.

- [Let Us Help You](#). This page provides tips, tools, and answers to frequently asked [tax questions](#).
- [IRS Individual Online Account](#). Taxpayers can securely view tax account information, manage payments, check the status of refunds, and communicate with the IRS.

### **No-cost electronic filing options**

Filing electronically reduces errors because tax software performs calculations, flags common mistakes, and prompts users for missing information. Most taxpayers qualify to file electronically at no cost, and when they choose [direct deposit](#), they usually receive their refund within 21 days.

- **IRS Free File and Fillable Forms.** Qualified taxpayers with income of \$89,000 or less in 2025 can use [IRS Free File](#) to prepare and file their federal tax returns. Taxpayers who are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use [IRS Free File Fillable Forms](#), regardless of income.
- **MilTax.** Military members and some veterans can use the Department of Defense program [MilTax](#) for free return preparation and electronic filing.
- **IRS-certified volunteers.** The [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly](#) programs provide free basic tax preparation to eligible individuals in communities nationwide.

### **Payment options for taxpayers who owe**

Taxpayers can make [payments](#) directly from a checking or savings account using their IRS Individual Online Account. Other electronic payment options include IRS [Direct Pay](#), [debit or credit cards](#), [digital wallets](#), [Electronic Federal Tax Payment System](#), and [electronic funds withdrawal](#).

Taxpayers who cannot pay the full amount owed by the tax deadline should pay what they can now and apply for an [online payment plan](#). Most applicants receive immediate notification of approval or denial, without having to call or write to the IRS.

### **Unable to file by the April 15 deadline**

Individuals who cannot file their tax return by April 15 can request an automatic extension of time to file. An extension to file is not an extension to pay; taxpayers must estimate and pay any taxes owed by the deadline to avoid penalties and interest. Taxpayers can request an extension by:

- Making an electronic payment using Direct Pay, a debit card, a credit card, or a digital wallet, and indicating the payment is for an extension.
- Filing a [Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](#), using [IRS Free File](#), regardless of income.
- Mailing [Form 4868 PDF](#) if filing an extension on paper. The form must be completed and postmarked by the tax deadline and mailed to the address listed in the instructions.

Taxpayers servicing in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty areas, living outside the United States, or affected by certain disaster declarations may be eligible for additional time to file and pay. Taxpayers should check their eligibility before the tax deadline.

### **More information**

- [Publication 594, The IRS Collection Process PDF](#)
- [Publication 6103, Get Help with Tax Debt PDF](#)

Both publications provide details on payment options and plans for paying a tax balance over time.

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## **Treasury, IRS Issue Proposed Regulations on the New Remittance Transfer Tax Established Under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill**

The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued proposed regulations that would provide rules and definitions related to the new excise tax imposed on certain remittance transfers, also referred to as the remittance transfer tax, under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, a 1% remittance transfer tax applies to remittances sent from the United States to recipients in foreign countries when the sender provides cash, a money order, a cashier's check, or other similar physical instrument to the remittance transfer provider. The sender is liable for the tax, and remittance transfer providers are required to collect the remittance transfer tax from certain senders, make semimonthly deposits, and file quarterly returns with the IRS. If the remittance transfer provider does not collect the tax from the sender, the tax becomes a liability of the remittance transfer provider.

The proposed regulations clarify the application of the remittance transfer tax, including:

- specifying the amount on which the remittance transfer tax is imposed;
- determining the full scope of physical instruments that trigger the tax; and
- providing examples illustrating the application of these proposed definitions and rules.

Remittance transfer providers report the new remittance transfer tax on Form 720, Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return PDF, with the first semimonthly deposits due Jan. 29, 2026. In October 2025, the IRS issued Notice 2025-55 PDF providing limited penalty relief for remittance transfer providers who fail to deposit the correct amount of the remittance transfer tax as required during the first three quarters of 2026.

Treasury and IRS request comments from the public within 60 days to be made through [Regulations.gov](#). Complete instructions on submitting comments can

be found in the proposed regulations. Comments on the proposed regulations are due by June 12, 2026.

For more information, see [One, Big, Beautiful Bill Provisions](#) on IRS.gov.

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## **TIA Right to Repair- Send a letter! Report Your Issue Webpage/QR Code**

Today's vehicles rely on advanced software, diagnostics, and data to perform even routine tire and service work. **Right to Repair** ensures tire dealers and service professionals have access to the tools and information needed to safely diagnose, repair, and recalibrate modern vehicles—without being forced to rely solely on automakers.

The **REPAIR Act**, now before Congress, would protect this access at the federal level, helping preserve consumer choice, support roadway safety, and ensure independent tire and service businesses can continue to compete and serve their communities.

**Take action today:** [Urge your members of Congress to support the REPAIR Act by sending a quick letter at repairact.com.](#)

**Add your voice and help protect Right to Repair for the tire and service industry.**

[To view the “Right to Repair - Report Your Issue” webpage click here.](#)

Report your issue QR code:



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