

HHS Gets \$2.3 Billion Bump as Senate Passes Spending Bill

By Shira Stein

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- Senate passes spending measure 93-7
- House has one week to vote before end of fiscal year

The Senate Sept. 18 passed a spending bill 93-7 that would boost funding to the HHS by \$2.3 billion in fiscal year 2019. Now the House must act.

The \$90.5 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services was part of a package (H.R. 6157) of funding measures for the departments of Defense, Labor, and Education. Most of the funding increase will go to the National Institutes of Health, which received a \$2 billion bump in funding.

The House will return Sept. 24 and have one week to vote on the measure before the fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The package includes \$6.7 billion to combat the opioid crisis and increase access to mental health services. This is in addition to the grant money in a package of opioid-related bills that the Senate passed Sept. 17.

The package also includes three measures that would address the separation of children and parents at the southern border.

To contact the reporter on this story: Shira Stein in Washington at sstein@bloomberglaw.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Brian Broderick at bbroderick@bloomberglaw.com

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