

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8902

Making continuing appropriations for essential Transportation Security Administration pay and operations during the lapse in appropriations beginning on February 14, 2026, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2026

Ms. POU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

Making continuing appropriations for essential Transportation Security Administration pay and operations during the lapse in appropriations beginning on February 14, 2026, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Workforce Assurance
5 for Transportation and Critical Homeland Personnel Act
6 of 2026” or the “WATCH Personnel Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER RATES OF PAY FOR**
2 **TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRA-**
3 **TION PERSONNEL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Trans-
5 portation Security Administration shall—

6 (1) not later than 90 days after the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, set the minimum annual sal-
8 ary for a Transportation Security Officer to \$40,000
9 for fiscal year 2026; and

10 (2) for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year
11 thereafter, adjust the minimum annual salary for a
12 Transportation Security Officer as provided by sub-
13 section (b).

14 (b) ADJUSTMENT OF SALARY FOR INFLATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall ad-
16 just the minimum annual salary for a Transpor-
17 tation Security Officer, on October 1, 2026, and at
18 the beginning of each fiscal year thereafter, to re-
19 flect the percentage (if any) of the increase in the
20 average of the Consumer Price Index for the pre-
21 ceding 12-month period compared to the Consumer
22 Price Index for fiscal year 2026.

23 (2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CALCULATION OF AD-
24 JUSTMENT.—In adjusting under paragraph (1) the
25 minimum annual salary for a Transportation Secu-
26 rity Officer, the Administrator—

1 (A) shall round the amount of any increase
2 in the Consumer Price Index to the nearest dol-
3 lar; and

4 (B) may ignore any such increase of less
5 than 1 percent.

6 (3) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In
7 this subsection, the term “Consumer Price Index”
8 means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
9 sumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
10 of the Department of Labor.

11 **SEC. 3. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRANSPOR-**
12 **TATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PER-**
13 **SONNEL.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated for
15 fiscal year 2026, out of any money in the Treasury not
16 otherwise appropriated, for the period beginning on Feb-
17 ruary 14, 2026, during which interim or full-year appro-
18 priations for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect, such sums
19 as are necessary—

20 (1) to provide standard rates of pay, allow-
21 ances, pay differentials, benefits, and other pay-
22 ments otherwise payable on a regular basis to em-
23 ployees of the Transportation Security Administra-
24 tion; and

1 (2) to provide a \$10,000 bonus to each Trans-
2 portation Security Officer employed and working for
3 the Transportation Security Administration as of
4 February 14, 2026.

5 (b) LIMITATION ON TREATMENT OF BONUSES.—A
6 bonus paid under subsection (a)(2) shall not be considered
7 basic pay for purposes of retirement, life insurance, or any
8 other employee benefit.

9 (c) LIMITATION TO INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY
10 LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts provided under
11 subsection (a) may not be used to provide pay, allowances,
12 pay differentials, benefits, or other payments under para-
13 graph (1) of that subsection or a bonus under paragraph
14 (2) of that subsection to an employee of the Transpor-
15 tation Security Administration for any portion of the pe-
16 riod described in subsection (a) for which the employee
17 is provided with such pay, allowances, pay differentials,
18 benefits, or other payments using amounts other than
19 amounts provided under subsection (a).

20 (d) CHARGE TO FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—Ex-
21 penditures made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be
22 charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or author-
23 ization whenever an Act in which such applicable appro-
24 priation, fund, or authorization is included is enacted into
25 law.

1 (e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Pay, allowances, pay
2 differentials, benefits, and other payments provided by the
3 Transportation Security Administration using amounts
4 provided under subsection (a) shall be subject to the re-
5 quirements, authorities, conditions, and limitations appli-
6 cable with respect to the provision of pay, allowances, pay
7 differentials, benefits, and other payments by the Trans-
8 portation Security Administration under the Full-Year
9 Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025
10 (Public Law 119–4; 139 Stat. 9).

11 **SEC. 4. TERMINATION.**

12 Appropriations and funds made available and author-
13 ity granted under section 3 shall be available until which-
14 ever of the following first occurs:

15 (1) The enactment into law of an appropriation
16 (including a continuing appropriation) for any pur-
17 pose for which amounts are made available in sec-
18 tion 3.

19 (2) The enactment into law of the applicable
20 regular or continuing appropriations resolution or
21 other Act without any appropriation for such pur-
22 pose.

23 (3) September 30, 2026.

1 **SEC. 5. RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect as if enacted on February
3 13, 2026.

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