

To the office of U.S. Senator Roger F. Wicker

Re: S 4784 (119th Congress), National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027 • Latest action (2026-07-27): Motion to proceed to consideration of measure made in Senate. (CR S4276)
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Streamlined Defense Authorization and Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2027

The measure, as described from the official record: Authorize appropriations for FY2027 for DoD military activities, military construction, DOE defense activities, and set military personnel strengths.

THE PROPOSAL

Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the 'Streamlined Defense Authorization Act of 2027'.

Section 2. Authorization of Appropriations. There is authorized to be appropriated \$850,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 for Department of Defense military activities, military construction, and Department of Energy defense activities, subject to the limitations in this Act.

Section 3. Personnel Strengths. The authorized end strength for active-duty Armed Forces for FY2027 shall be 1,295,000, and for reserve components 810,000. The Secretary of Defense shall ensure no personnel expenditure exceeds the amount authorized under Section 2.

Section 4. Cost-Containment Measures. All major defense acquisition programs (defined as programs with total expenditure over \$5 billion) shall include a baseline cost cap, with automatic sequestration of 10% of program funds if costs exceed 110% of baseline. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) shall audit program costs quarterly.

Section 5. Oversight and Transparency. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) shall submit to Congress a full life-cycle cost estimate for each program within 90 days of this Act's enactment. The Comptroller General shall report annually on compliance with cost caps and on any unjustified cost overruns.

Section 6. Sunset. All authorizations in this Act shall expire September 30, 2027, unless renewed by Congress before that date.

Section 7. Funding Source. The amount authorized under Section 2 shall be drawn from general Treasury revenue. No increase in the statutory debt limit is provided by this Act.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Funding Source General Treasury revenue; no separate tax or borrowing authorization provided.

Funding Amount	Up to \$850 billion total, capped, with automatic sequestration triggers.
Sunset Years	1 years
Oversight Body	Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Congressional Budget Office (CBO).
Enforcement Mechanism	Automatic sequestration of program funds if costs exceed 110% baseline; GAO quarterly audits with public report.
Effective Date	October 1, 2026, or upon enactment, whichever is later.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 (To raise and support Armies)
 - Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 (To provide and maintain a Navy)
 - Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (Power to tax and spend for the common defense)
 - Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations must be by law)
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WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

Honors Democratic priorities by including robust cost-containment, transparency via GAO/CBO audits, and automatic sequestration to control spending. Honors Republican priorities by maintaining strong personnel levels, fully funding defense activities, and avoiding tax increases or debt-limit increases. Both parties can support because the bill reduces waste while ensuring military readiness within existing revenue.

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