At press time, OSHA was set to receive a $5 million budget increase, after the House and Senate resolved their differences in a Sept. 13 congressional conference committee meeting on a “minibus” appropriations bill. The spending package includes funding for the Department of Defense and a continuing resolution to keep the government open until Dec. 7.

The minibus, which includes the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act of 2019 and the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2019, was passed by the Senate on Sept. 18. It still needs approval from the House – which likely will come before the federal fiscal year 2018 ends Sept. 30 – as well as President Donald Trump's signature.

The appropriations bill provides about $557.8 million for OSHA in FY 2019, a $1 million increase from the Senate’s initial minibus – which passed Aug. 23 – and $12.5 million more than the House’s proposed budget. The agency received $552.8 million in FY 2018; the Trump administration allocated $549 million.

The conference committee also chose to allocate no more than $102.4 million to OSHA State Plans, an increase of $1.5 million. It would be the first hike since FY 2014, according to a post from the agency’s former Deputy Assistant Secretary Jordan Barab on his “Confined Spaces” website.

The Susan Harwood Training Grants Program is slated to remain viable for another fiscal year, receiving around $10.5 million. The administration’s previous attempts to cut that program have