

## House Passes FY2013 Funding Bill; Future in the Senate Uncertain

Just a little while ago, the House passed a six-month spending bill to keep the government funded past March 27. The bill would continue current funding levels for most government agencies and programs in place, but would lock in the across-the-board cuts that went into effect on March 1. The bill would, however, allow the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran's Affairs some flexibility in applying the cuts. All other agencies and programs must apply the cuts indiscriminately across all programs and activities.

The bill, [H.R. 933](#), passed that House on a 267-yeas to 151-nays vote, and will now head to the Senate for consideration. Preliminary reports out of the Senate suggest that Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) may attempt to broaden other agencies' flexibility when implementing the cuts. From what we've heard, the agencies would include Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security and Transportation, as well as major science agencies.

Under sequestration, most agencies will face a cut of 5% as outlined in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) [directives](#). However, because the cuts are being implemented over seven months, instead of the originally anticipated ten months, the effective cut equals approximately 10%. Defense budgets face a slightly higher effective spending cut.