Trump to cite wall emergency,

President expected to use executive power to fund barriers for funding bill

WASHINGTON — Administrators and officials Thursday that President Donald Trump will sign a $1.37 billion government spending bill even though it lacks border-wall funding and thus deliver a national emergency to pull money for wall construction from other parts of the federal budget.

The declaration, which would need a two-thirds override from Congress, was a face-saving move for Trump, who had faced threats of a second shutdown if he did not sign the spending bill.

Trump's administration has said the need for a national emergency is to fund the border wall, which he promised during his presidential campaign.

The declaration would allow the president to redirect money from other parts of the budget, such as transportation or military projects, to fund construction of the wall.

The move, which would likely be challenged in court, is part of Trump's effort to achieve his top priority of building a border wall to prevent illegal immigration.

Trump has faced criticism from members of his own party who say the national emergency declaration is unconstitutional.

In the Senate, Republican leaders have signaled they will challenge the declaration in court if it is signed.

The move also comes as Trump's approval ratings have fallen in recent weeks due to his handling of the government shutdown and the partial border wall.

The president has faced criticism for his handling of the shutdown, which lasted for 35 days and affected thousands of federal workers.

Trump recently said he would not sign a bill that did not include funding for the border wall, leading to the shutdown.