



BROOKS BAWDEN LLC

Weekly Update

March 28 – April 1, 2016

Content in this Weekly Update:

- Highlighted Issues 1
- Previous Hearings/ Markups 2
- Previous Floor Actions 4
- Introduced Legislation 5

Links to Previous Updates:

- [Homeland Grants in FY 2017 Budget](#)
- [DOJ Equitable Sharing Fact Sheet](#)
- [FirstNet RFP](#)
- [Omnibus Summary](#)
- [Weekly 3/21/16](#)
- [Weekly 3/14/16](#)
- [Weekly 3/7/16](#)
- [Weekly 2/22/16](#)
- [Weekly 2/15/16](#)
- [Weekly 2/8/16](#)
- [Weekly 2/1/16](#)

Latest News

• **ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Department of Justice announced today that the Asset Forfeiture Fund will resume disbursement of equitable sharing payments immediately. All submissions placed in the queue since the program's suspension in December will begin to be payed out in the order they were submitted. DOJ anticipates being caught up with past payments within the next couple of months, and will then resume the processing of current submissions. Please see the following [letter](#) and [fact sheet](#) from DOJ.

• The House is not in session this week, and will return on April 12. The Senate is meeting in pro-forma sessions this week, and will return for legislative business on April 4. When both chambers return, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are expected to continue consideration and begin markup of the FY 2017 appropriations bills. The Senate is expected to begin marking up their bills beginning April 15, pursuant to the chambers rules that will deem a budget as passed based off of last years bipartisan budget agreement. If the House is unable to pass a new budget, their chamber rules do not allow them to move on an appropriations bill on the floor until May 15, at which point they are expected to begin moving some bills that have been written to reflect last year's budget agreement.

• Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein are expected to begin circulating draft legislation upon their return to force technology companies to comply with court orders when directed to help law enforcement agencies access encrypted data in criminal investigations. The House recently appointed a bipartisan working group on encryption to study the issue.

• **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

New ISIS recruits have deep criminal roots

Washington Post | Joby Warrick and Greg Miller

One perpetrator was an automobile thief before he got religion, and served time in a Belgian prison on a carjacking charge. Another was an armed robber who once shot a police officer while fleeing from a crime scene. Others had convictions for burglary, drug-dealing, larceny and assault. Nearly to a person, all had been violent men, long before they became foot soldiers for the hyper-violent Islamic State. **Continue reading [here](#).**

My Journey Through Brussels' Terrorist Safe Haven

Politico | Matthew Levitt

The office of the mayor of Molenbeek municipality sits alongside a picturesque, typically European cobblestone square. Across the square, within plain view of the municipal government, sits the family home of Salah Abdeslam, the Islamic State terrorist who was finally captured two weeks ago after evading authorities since the November Paris attacks. Nothing separates the two buildings, but they are a world apart. This is the bifurcated Brussels I saw when, coincidentally, I was in Belgium a few days before the terrorist attacks that killed 31 people and wounded hundreds. I was there to meet with senior counterterror-

ism, intelligence and law enforcement officials, as well as with local officials in the troubled municipality of Molenbeek, the subsection of Brussels where Abdeslam grew up and which even Molenbeek's mayor, Francois Schepmans, describes as "a breeding ground for violence." **Continue reading [here](#).**

Police step up patrols in wake of Brussels attacks
WPRI | Shaun Towne; Reporting by Kim Kalunian

"The Massachusetts State Police, including our personnel assigned to the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, continue to monitor today's multiple terror attacks in and around Brussels. As it is gathered, intelligence about the attacks is being shared among federal, state and local law enforcement partners. Troopers constantly maintain a high level of situational awareness. Additionally, patrols have been directed to increase presence in areas near transportation centers in the state. As always, a multi-layered security plan is in place at the airports and seaports. While we do not discuss specific tactics and deployments, security operations at those facilities is constantly evolving to address current situational awareness. **Continue reading [here](#).**

After Brussels, Metro beefs up presence, on strip and off
KSNV | Jeff Gillan

"Like all of you this morning, I woke up to the same news that you did," said Clark County Assistant Sheriff Todd Fasulo, referring to the morning attack in Brussels, which killed at least 30 people. Fasulo wanted to make something clear, as he stood in the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center, the valley's terrorism-fighting central command post. "We've no credible or specific threats to Las Vegas, and I think that needs to be emphasized." Fasulo said, in light of the attack, Metro plans to put more officers on the street. "We've increased our presence more so than we do normally on a full-time basis in our resort corridors." **Continue reading [here](#).**

Troy University student from Belgium reacts to terror attacks
WSFA | Lindsey Rogers

Governor Robert Bentley also spoke out about the attacks Tuesday, calling the news coming out of Brussels "tragic." "My thoughts and prayers go to the families of those injured or killed in the bombings," he said in a statement. "The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and its Fusion Center are in regular contact with federal partners in the intelligence community. There are no known imminent threats to Alabama, but ALEA will stay in close contact with its federal partners." **Continue reading [here](#).**

Recap of Last Week's Hearings & Markups

Note: For more details on any of the following hearings, we can provide access to hearing transcripts upon request.

House Oversight Committee - Full Committee Hearing - March 22

[America's Heroin and Opioid Abuse Epidemic](#)

Summary: This hearing looked at the growing heroin and opioid abuse epidemic. While opioid overdoses are decreasing, heroin overdoses have rose dramatically. Mexican based criminal organization are the principal supplier of heroin across the southern border, and more needs to be done to disrupt the flow of drugs. Discussions also entailed what more can be done regarding primary and secondary prevention programs to reduce the use of gateway drugs and steer youths and others away from turning towards heroin use.

House Judiciary Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - March 22 @ 10:15 am - 2141 Rayburn

[H.R. 4676](#) - **Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2016**

Status: To be marked up by the House Judiciary Committee on 3/22

Summary: This bill amends the federal criminal code to declare that any person who knowingly engages in any scheme or artifice to defraud a veteran of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for that veteran, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

House Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing - March 22

[Budget for the Drug Enforcement Administration](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the proposed budget for the Drug Enforcement Administration. A few questions were asked about how do we increase the distribution of Naloxone, and should it be made available for over-the-counter purchase. Acting Administrator Rosenberg said that while he has not studied the idea of making the drug over-the-counter, he discussed the efforts by DEA to increase training of its own agents not only in how to properly administer the drug, but also training in basic cardiac incidences. Members also discussed the new focus on not only addressing the supply side of illegal drugs, but also the demand side. Additionally, Drug take-back program efforts were discussed, as well as what direction the DEA is being given with regards to marijuana cases. Administrator Rosenberg stated that marijuana is against federal law, and that if one of his agents encounters a large marijuana case, they are instructed to try and make it.

House Oversight Committee - Government Operations Subcommittee Hearing - March 23

[National Security: Threats at Our Borders](#)

Summary: This hearing examined what is being done to secure our southern and northern borders, what resources are needed to do so, and whether or not we are doing enough to accomplish that task. Witnesses testified that more resources needs to be allocated to complete this task, including more Border Patrol officers, more use of technology, and more resources for immigration courts.

House Homeland Security Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - March 23 @ 9:00 am - 311 Cannon

[H.R. 4482](#) - **Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016**

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: This bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit a southwest border threat analysis that includes an assessment of: terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking to unlawfully enter the United States through the southwest border or seeking to exploit border vulnerabilities along such border; improvements needed at and between ports of entry along such border to prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; gaps in law, policy, cooperation between state, local, or tribal law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counterterrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along such border; and the current percentage of situational awareness and of operational control of U.S. borders achieved by DHS of the international land and maritime borders of the United States.

[H.R. 4509](#) - **State and High-Risk Urban Area Working Group Act**

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: Clarifies membership of State planning committees or urban area working groups for the Homeland Security Grant Program.

- Require any State or high-risk urban area receiving funding under the State Homeland Security Grant Program or the Urban Area Security Initiative to establish a State planning committee or urban area working group to assist the State in preparation and revision of threat and hazard identification and risk assessments and determining effective funding priorities for grant funds.
- Require State planning committees and high-risk urban area working groups to include representatives from each of the following stakeholder communities: (1) local and tribal government officials; (2) emergency response providers (fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services and emergency managers); (3) public health officials and appropriate medical practitioners; (4) individuals representing educational institutions, including elementary schools, community colleges, and other institutions of higher learning; (5) State and regional interoperable communications coordinators, as appropriate; and (6) State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate.
- Require members of the State planning committee or urban area working group to be from the counties, cities, towns, and Indian tribes within the State or high-risk urban area, including rural, high-population, and high-threat jurisdictions.
- Clarify that States or high-risk urban areas that already use a multi-jurisdictional planning committee or commission that meets the requirements of this act are not required to create a new State Planning Committee or urban area working group.

[H.R. 4549](#) - **Treating Small Airports with Fairness Act of 2016**

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: Requires the Transportation Security Administration to conduct security screening at certain airports.

[H.R. 4698](#) - Securing Aviation from Foreign Entry Points and Guarding Airports Through Enhanced Security Act of 2016

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: Enhances aviation by requiring airport security assessments and a security coordination enhancement plan.

[H.R. 4780](#) - Department of Homeland Security Strategy for International Programs Act

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy for Department of Homeland Security operations abroad.

[H.R. 4785](#) - DHS Stop Asset and Vehicle Excess Act

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: directs the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in managing the Department's vehicle fleet.

[H.R. 4820](#) - Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/23

Summary: Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former or estranged violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment.

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

[H.R. 4314](#) - Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2016

Status: Approved by the House on 3/21/16 (371-2)

Summary: To require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes.

[S. 1180](#) - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015

Status: Awaits signature of the President; Approved by the House on 3/21/16 (voice); Approved by the Senate on 7/9/15 (UC)

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to: (1) modernize the integrated U.S. public alert and warning system to help ensure that under all conditions the President, federal agencies, and state, tribal, and local governments can alert and warn the civilian population in areas endangered by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety; and (2) implement such system to disseminate timely and effective warnings.

Senate:

The Senate met in pro-forma sessions, conducting no legislative business.

Legislation Introduced Last Week

Date Introduced	Bill Number	Sponsor	Description
3/23/2016	HR 4889	Kevin Yoder	To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require providers of a covered service to provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user of such service to an investigative or law enforcement officer in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical injury or in order to respond to the user's call for emergency services.
3/23/2016	HR 4886	Jackie Speier	To require purchasers of pre-paid mobile devices or SIM cards to provide identification, and for other purposes.
3/23/2016	HR 4874	Patrick Meehan	To require that States receiving grants under the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program set aside sufficient amounts to facilitate electronic information sharing among States in compliance with the Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange National Architecture, and for other purposes.
3/23/2016	HR 4861	Rosa DeLauro	To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to health centers to expand access to evidence-based substance abuse treatment services.
3/23/2016	HR 4856	Paul Gosar	To make aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible, deportable, and ineligible for various forms of relief.
3/23/2016	HR 4843	Lou Barletta	To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes.
3/22/2016	HR 4840	Bonnie Watman Coleman	Hire For a Second Chance Act of 2016 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum wages allowed under the work opportunity tax credit for ex-felons, and for other purposes.
3/22/2016	HR 4839	Matt Salmon	Protect Our Devices Act of 2016 - To prohibit the Government from requiring any person to assist in devising a method for breaking the encryption of a wire or oral communication.
3/21/2016	HR 4824	Todd Young	Taxpayers Second Amendment Protection Act of 2016 - To prohibit restrictions on possession, storage, or use of firearms in Federal programs, and for other purposes.
3/21/2016	HR 4820	Chuck Fleischmann	Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016 - To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former or estranged violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes.