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Latest News

- The House and Senate are in session this week. The House is expected to consider a handful of non-controversial homeland security bills, which passed out of the Homeland Security Committee last week. Additionally, a House Transportation Subcommittee will hold a hearing on FEMA grants, while a House Judiciary Subcommittee will hold a hearing on child exploitation.
- **President's FY 2018 Skinny Budget** - President Trump released his FY 2018 "skinny" budget on Thursday, which provides an overview of the Administration's budget priorities. The President's budget is largely considered dead-on-arrival, as Congress typically has their own funding priorities. However, it could give some guidance as to where those Congressional priorities might lay given one party control. The President is expected to submit his full budget sometime in mid-to-late May, at which time Congress should have already begun work on the FY 2018 Appropriations bills. **Note, there are some significant changes/reductions to the FEMA grants that would have significant consequences for many law enforcement agencies. You can view the budget [here](#).** Some highlights of the budget blueprint includes:
 - Eliminates or reduces State and local grant funding by \$667 million for programs administered by FEMA that are either unauthorized by the Congress, such as FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, or that must provide more measurable results and ensure the Federal Government is not supplanting other stakeholders' responsibilities, such as the Homeland Security Grant Program.
 - Proposes establishing a 25 percent non-Federal cost match for FEMA preparedness grant awards that currently require no cost match.
 - Safeguards Federal grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement and victims of crime to ensure greater safety for law enforcement personnel and the people they serve. Critical programs aimed at protecting the life and safety of State and local law enforcement personnel, including Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, are protected.
 - Supports efforts at the Department's law enforcement components by providing a combined increase of \$175 million above the 2017 annualized CR level to target the worst of the worst criminal organizations and drug traffickers in order to address violent crime, gun-related deaths, and the opioid epidemic.
 - Eliminates approximately \$700 million in spending on "outdated programs" including \$210 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.
- **DHS Statement on Southwest Border** - Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kelly released a statement on recent illegal border crossing data. From January to February, the flow of illegal border crossings as measured by apprehensions and the prevention of inadmissible persons at our southern border dropped by 40 percent. You can view the release [here](#).

- **Reintroduction of the National Criminal Justice Commission Act** - On March 8, a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Senator Peters (D-MI), Senator Cornyn (R-TX), and Senator Graham (R-SC), reintroduced the National Criminal Justice Commission Act. This legislation would create a commission to review the criminal justice system from top to bottom and propose reforms to address the most pressing issues facing the nation's criminal justice system. Several major law enforcement groups have come out in support of the legislation. You can view the Peters press release [here](#). You can view the support letter from the Major County Sheriffs of America [here](#).

- **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

- **Sessions: Changes coming to policies on drug charges**

- **Politico | Josh Gerstein**

- Attorney General Jeff Sessions is signaling that the Trump administration plans to make changes to policies the Obama administration implemented to seek less serious charges in some drug cases. In a memo sent to federal prosecutors nationwide Wednesday, Sessions called on them to crack down on violent crime. Most surely already view that as a core part of their duties. However, another passage in the directive says changes in Justice Department charging policies are in the offing. "I encourage you to employ the full complement of federal law to address the problem of violent crime in your district," Sessions wrote. "Further guidance and support in executing this priority — including an updated memo on charging for all criminal cases— will be forthcoming."

- **Continue reading [here](#).**

- **Strengthening cyber defenses through fusion center engagement**

- **GCN | Jayne Friedland Holland**

- After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the 9/11 Commission highlighted shortcomings in information sharing as a key factor in the failure to protect the nation from terrorist activity. The Commission's 2004 report prompted the Department of Homeland Security to issue grants that established fusion centers in states and larger metropolitan areas. These intelligence-gathering entities fight domestic terrorism and criminal activity, including cyberattacks, by serving as conduits for information sharing between federal, state and local governments, private companies and law enforcement. The nation's 78 fusion centers are owned and operated at the state and local levels. **Continue reading [here](#).**

- **Don't let Big Marijuana prioritize profits over public safety**

- **The Washington Post | Patrick Kennedy & Kevin Sabet**

- Last month, White House press secretary Sean Spicer sent shock waves through the nascent — but growing — marijuana industry when he indicated that the Trump administration intends to pursue "greater enforcement" regarding non-medical marijuana. The comments drew quick rebuke from elected officials in several states that have begun experimenting with pot legalization. Certainly, we shouldn't lock people up for marijuana use or low-level offenses, or revert to a "Reefer Madness"-style war on drugs. But we should also recognize legalization for what it is: the large-scale commercialization and marketing of an addictive — and therefore highly profitable — substance. **Continue reading [here](#).**

- **Facebook says police can't use its data for 'surveillance'**

- **The Washington Post | Elizabeth Dwoskin**

- Facebook is cutting police departments off from a vast trove of data that has been increasingly used to monitor protesters and activists. The move, which the social network announced Monday, comes in the wake of concerns over law enforcement's tracking of protesters' social media accounts in places such as Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore. It also comes at a time when chief executive Mark Zuckerberg says he is expanding the company's mission from merely "connecting the world" into friend networks to promoting safety and community. Although the social network's core business is advertising, Facebook, along with Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram, also provides developers access to users' public feeds. The developers use the data to monitor trends and public events. For example, advertisers have tracked how and which consumers are discussing their products, while the Red Cross has used social data to get real-time information during disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Senators seek to reform justice system nationwide by launching National Criminal Justice Commission

The Washington Post | Tom Jackman

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators introduced a bill Wednesday to create a National Criminal Justice Commission, which would work for 18 months to review every aspect of the nation's criminal justice system, from policing to prosecution to prisons, and then issue a set of proposed reforms for not only federal but state and tribal systems as well. The legislation aims to accomplish what a similar Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice did when it was created by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965. That group produced more than 200 recommendations, which had a lasting impact on the justice system, such as calling for the creation of the 911 emergency call system, improving training for law enforcement and establishing research organizations such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Hearings & Markups Happening This Week

Senate Commerce Committee - Surface Transportation Subcommittee Hearing

[Continuing to Improve Truck Safety on our Nation's Highways](#)

March 14 @ 2:30 pm - 253 Russell

Senate Homeland Security Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - March 15 @ 10:00 am - 342 Dirksen

[Nomination of Elaine Duke, to be Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security](#)

Status: To be considered by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on 3/15

[S. 500 - Securing our Agriculture and Food Act](#)

Status: To be considered by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on March 15

Summary: Amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.

[H.R. 366 - DHS SAVE Act](#)

Status: To be considered by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on March 15; Approved by the House on 1/31.

Summary: This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for overseeing and managing vehicle fleets throughout DHS, including: ensuring that DHS components are in compliance with federal law, executive branch guidance, and DHS policy regarding fleet management and use of vehicles from home to work; developing and distributing a standardized vehicle allocation methodology and fleet management plan; ensuring that components formally document fleet management decisions; and approving component fleet management plans, vehicle leases, and vehicle acquisitions.

House Homeland Security Committee - Oversight Subcommittee Hearing

[Immigration Benefits Vetting: Examining Critical Weaknesses in USCIS Systems](#)

March 16 @ 9:30 am - 210 CVC

House Transportation Committee - Economic Development Subcommittee Hearing

[Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: The National Preparedness System](#)

March 16 @ 10:00 am - 2167 Rayburn

House Judiciary Committee - Crime Subcommittee Hearing

[Combating Crimes Against Children: Assessing the Legal Landscape](#)

March 16 @ 1:00 pm - 2141 Rayburn

Legislation on the Floor This Week

House:

[H.R. 1238](#) - **Securing our Agriculture and Food Act**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.

[H.R. 1294](#) - **Reducing DHS Acquisition Cost Growth Act**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches.

[H.R. 1297](#) - **Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews.

[H.R. 1302](#) - **Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: This legislation requires an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel. It requires a stress test of U.S. government protection and prevention programs against terrorist travel.

[H.R. 1309](#) - **TSA Administrator Modernization Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: This legislation would streamline the office and term of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

[H.R. 1353](#) - **Transparency in Technological Acquisitions Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain additional information to be submitted to Congress regarding the strategic 5-year technology investment plan of the Transportation Security Administration.

[H.R. 1249](#) - **DHS Multiyear Acquisition Strategy Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a multiyear acquisition strategy of the Department of Homeland Security.

[H.R. 1252](#) - **DHS Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

[H.R. 1365](#) - **Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act**

Status: To be considered in the House on 3/15; Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation.

Senate:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security community.

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.

Senate Judiciary Committee - [Nomination Hearing](#) - March 7
[Nomination of Rod J. Rosenstein](#), to be Deputy Attorney General
[Nomination of Rachel L. Brand](#), to be Associate Attorney General

Senate Homeland Security Committee - [Nomination Hearing](#) - March 8
[Nomination of Elaine C. Duke](#), to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security

House Homeland Security Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - March 8
[H.R. 876 - Aviation Employee Screening and Security Enhancement Act of 2017](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration.

[H.R. 1238 - Securing our Agriculture and Food Act](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.

[H.R. 1249 - DHS Multiyear Acquisition Strategy Act of 2017](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a multiyear acquisition strategy of the Department of Homeland Security.

[H.R. 1252 - DHS Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

[H.R. 1258 - HSA Technical Corrections Act](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Makes technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

[H.R. 1282 - DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2017](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Acquisition Review Boards in the Department of Homeland Security.

[H.R. 1294 - Reducing DHS Acquisition Cost Growth Act](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches.

[H.R. 1297 - Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2017](#)
Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8
Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews.

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Summary: This legislation would streamline the office and term of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

[H.R. 1353](#) - Transparency in Technological Acquisitions Act of 2017

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain additional information to be submitted to Congress regarding the strategic 5-year technology investment plan of the Transportation Security Administration.

[H.R. 1372](#) - Homeland Security for Children Act

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning.

[H.R. 1365](#) - Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation.

[H.R. 1370](#) - Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on 3/8

Summary: Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign.

House Oversight Committee - Full Committee Hearing - March 9

[Reviewing ATF's Failures in the Death of ICE Agent Jaime Zapata](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the death of ICE Agent Jaime Zapata using firearms linked to two buyers in Texas. ATF had monitored the two buyers trafficking firearms in 2010 but made no effort to further investigate or arrest the buyers until after Zapata's death. Concerns continue to remain over the lack of sharing of information amongst law enforcement agencies, and what is being done to improve communication and coordination on investigations.

House Homeland Security Committee - Cybersecurity Subcommittee Hearing - March 9

[The Current State of DHS Private Sector Engagement for Cybersecurity](#)

Summary: This hearing heard from private sector stakeholders on the value and effectiveness of current engagement with DHS. Members heard from private sector officials on what is working well with current partnerships, and what can be improved. Members testified on the importance of having a qualified trained labor force who has expert knowledge on cyber issues. Additionally, it is important for DHS and other agencies to have a defined cyber operation to allow for easier coordination amongst the public and private sectors. Members also discussed the different security precautions and steps to secure the "cloud" vs. hardware and physical security.

Senate Judiciary Committee - **[Full Committee Markup](#)** - March 9

[S. 419](#) - PSOB Improvements Act

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/9

Summary: This bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to revise administrative requirements for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program. Specifically, it authorizes the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to establish PSOB program rules, regulations, and procedures based on standards developed by another federal

agency. In determining eligibility for death or disability benefits, the BJA must give substantial weight to evidence and facts presented by a state, local, or federal agency. Additionally, the BJA must publish and update information on pending claims and report to Congress on submitted claims for death, disability, and educational benefits.

[Nomination of Charles R. Breyer](#), to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission (Reappointment)

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/9

[Nomination of Danny C. Reeves](#), to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/9

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security community.

Senate:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security community.

Legislation Introduced Last Week

Date Introduced	Bill Number	Sponsor	Description
3/10/2017	HR1498	John Conyers (D-MI-13)	To eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.
3/10/2017	HR 1497	Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9)	To require all deportation officers of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to wear body cameras when engaged in field operations and removal proceedings, and for other purposes.
3/10/2017	HR 1492	Pete Sessions (R-TX-32)	To amend the Controlled Substances Act to direct the Attorney General to register practitioners to transport controlled substances to States in which the practitioner is not registered under the Act for the purpose of administering the substances (under applicable State law) at locations other than principal places of business or professional practice.
3/9/2017	HR 1487	Norma Torres (D-CA-35)	To prohibit use of Federal funds to apprehend, detain, or remove from the United States any alien who was granted deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, if the alien lost their deferred action status solely as a direct or indirect result of any action taken by the President or another Federal official.
3/9/2017	HR 1486	Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2)	To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	HR 1478	Stephanie Murphy (D-FL-7)	To repeal the provision that in practice prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from sponsoring research on gun violence in fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	HR 1477	Gwen Moore (D-WI-4)	To prohibit the use of Federal funds to build a wall along the southern border, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	HR 1475	Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12)	To prevent gun trafficking.
3/9/2017	HR 1468	Carlos Curbelo (R-FL-26)	To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	HR 1465	Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20)	To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	HR 1463	Michael Burgess (R-TX-26)	To prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from granting a work authorization to an alien found to have been unlawfully present in the United States.
3/9/2017	HR 1453	Hank Johnson (D-GA-4)	To reaffirm the commitment of the Department of Homeland Security to countering all forms of extremism, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	S 600	Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2017 - To require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance.
3/9/2017	S 597	Bob Casey (D-PA)	A bill to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

3/9/2017	S 595	Jeff Flake (R-AZ)	A bill to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with additional flexibility to expedite the hiring process for applicants for law enforcement positions, and for other purposes.
3/9/2017	S 594	John Cornyn (R-TX)	National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2017 - This bill authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with a consortium, including the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats or acts of terrorism.
3/8/2017	HR 1437	Ted Lieu (D-CA-33)	To discourage the use of payment of money as a condition of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes.
3/8/2017	HR 1428	Will Hurd (R-TX-23)	To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.
3/8/2017	S583	John Cornyn (R-TX)	American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 - To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.
3/8/2017	S 581	Joe Manchin (D-WV)	A bill to include information concerning a patient's opioid addiction in certain medical records
3/8/2017	S 573	Gary Peters (D-MI)	A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.
3/8/2017	S 565	Deb Fischer (R-NE)	A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund.
3/8/2017	S Res 83	Ed Markey (D-MA)	A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.
3/7/2017	HR 1417	Don Young (R-AK-AL)	To amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to allow the Museum to acquire, receive, possess, collect, ship, transport, import, and display firearms, and for other purposes.
3/6/2017	HR 1372	Donald Payne (D-NJ-10)	Homeland Security for Children Act - To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning
3/6/2017	HR 1370	Mike McCaul (R-TX-10)	Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017 - To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign
3/6/2017	HR 1365	Luis Correa (D-CA-46)	Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act - To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation.
3/6/2017	S 534	Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	A bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.
3/6/2017	S 533	Bill Nelson (D-FL)	A bill to modernize the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988.



BROOKS BAWDEN, LLC

Office Address:

300 M Street, SE
Suite 402
Washington, DC 20003

Mailing Address:

401 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Suite 509
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 350-0103
Fax: (202) 629-4528

Email:

rbrooks@brooksbawden.com
bbawden@brooksbawden.com
jledden@brooksbawden.com
lcooper@brooksbawden.com
fscalera@brooksbawden.com



Visit us at:

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