



*Photo of the Week: Family members of fentanyl overdose victims join President Trump as he delivers remarks during the signing of the HALT Fentanyl Act.*

# Weekly Update and Analysis

## July 18, 2025

Brooks Bawden Moore's Weekly Update and Analysis highlights congressional, administrative, and regulatory activity related to justice, public safety, and homeland security. Feel free to reach out to us if you would like to discuss any items described in the update. Additionally, please feel free to distribute this product as you see fit.

## What Happened This Week?

With the August recess fast approaching, Congress is in overdrive racing to advance key priorities, hold critical hearings, and push legislation forward.

This week, both the House and Senate approved a rare measure to claw back roughly \$9 billion in previously authorized funding, targeting foreign assistance and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Such a move—known as a rescission package—hasn't been enacted in over 25 years, making this a significant development.

The House also advanced legislation aimed at strengthening wireless communication security and passed the [FY 2026 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill](#). Meanwhile, the House Armed Services Committee approved its version of the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), setting the stage for upcoming negotiations.

On the oversight front, Congress held a series of timely hearings on public safety issues, including [drone threats](#), [organized retail crime](#), and parole reform.

In a particularly contentious session, the Senate Judiciary Committee [advanced the nomination of Emil Bove](#), the Department of Justice's current third ranking official, for a lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

Over in the Senate Appropriations Committee, progress was made on the Commerce, Justice, and Science funding bill—after a week of delay due to disputes over the Trump administration's proposal to relocate the FBI headquarters within Washington, D.C. The committee has now released the [bill text, report, and summaries](#), offering the first in-depth look at FY 2026 funding priorities and policy directives. Our team is closely reviewing the report language and will highlight key provisions in the coming days. Additionally, BBM has updated its [comprehensive budget and appropriations chart](#) to reflect the latest agency and program funding levels included in the bill.

As the August recess looms, the clock is ticking. Lawmakers face a growing list of high-stakes decisions, mounting political tensions, and looming deadlines—including the urgent need to avert a potential government shutdown past September 30. Melissa Nee has put together a comprehensive blog post analyzing the path ahead and the challenges Congress must navigate to keep the government running. [We encourage you to check that out here.](#)

At the White House this week, President Trump hosted law enforcement officials and victim families for the signing of the [HALT Fentanyl Act](#). This legislation permanently classifies fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I controlled substances, marking a major step in the fight against synthetic opioid abuse. Lastly, the Justice Department has proposed new rule to allow certain non-violent offenders to apply for restoration of their Second Amendment rights. You can learn more about this development [here.](#)

## BBM Blog Posts of the Week

BBM posts timely updates on topics of interest to the public safety community. Please explore this week's blog posts below and click on any topic that interests you to stay updated. Email a member of the BBM team today to get our blog content delivered directly to your inbox.

- [Senate Committee Releases Commerce, Justice, and Science Funding Bill Details](#)
  - [Here's what we're watching as Congress barrels toward August recess.](#)
  - [Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Commerce, Justice, Science Funding Bill](#)
  - [Senate Judiciary Committee Advances Emil Bove's Third Circuit Nomination](#)
  - [Major Public Safety Organizations Participate in Capitol Hill Briefing on AI](#)
  - [ICYMI: The Hill – "Trump administration rhetoric on FEMA moves toward reform rather than termination"](#)
  - [DOJ "Justice Department Publishes Proposed Rule to Grant Relief to Certain Individuals Precluded from Possessing Firearms"](#)
- [Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Organized Retail Crime Hearing](#)
  - [HALT Fentanyl Act Signed Into Law](#)
  - [House Homeland Security Committee Holds Drone Threats Hearing](#)
  - [Commerce, Justice, Science Funding Bill Advances in House Subcommittee](#)
  - [House Plans Vote on FY 26 Department of Defense Spending Bill](#)
  - [House Appropriations Committee Releases FY 2026 CJS Text](#)
  - [Continued Momentum to Support HIDTA Funding and Administration Under ONDCP](#)
  - [Senate Report Criticizes Secret Service for "Cascade of Failures" in Trump Rally Shooting](#)

## Capitol Hill Briefing Highlights AI's Role in Public Safety Recording Now Available



Capitol Hill Briefing Highlights AI's Role in Public Safety

The Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute, in partnership with the bipartisan Congressional AI Caucus, hosted a Capitol Hill briefing exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) is being effectively and responsibly applied across the public safety landscape. The event featured expert voices representing the Major County Sheriffs of America, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), American Correctional Association (ACA), National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), National Center for State Courts (NCSC), National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), and leading AI industry partner C3.ai.

The discussion focused on real-world AI applications in law enforcement, corrections, and the courts - alongside the governance frameworks and ethical guardrails guiding their implementation.

A central highlight was the [IJIS AI Playbook](#) - a comprehensive, practical framework designed to support the responsible deployment of AI in public safety. Attendees also experienced a live AI demo and heard case studies illustrating measurable impact in the field.

[Listen to the recording here](#)

## Floor Activity



## Senate

Confirmation of Joseph Edlow to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; **Confirmed 52-47**

### **H.R. 4- Recessions Act of 2025**

This bill rescinds \$9.4 billion in unobligated funds that were provided to the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), various independent and related agencies, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Passed Senate (51-48)

## House of Representatives

### **H.R.1709 - Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act**

This bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to examine and report on the cybersecurity of mobile service networks and the vulnerability of these networks and mobile devices to cyberattacks and surveillance conducted by adversaries.

Passed House (360-10)

### **H.R.1717 - Communications Security Act**

This bill provides statutory authority for a council established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide advice regarding the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks. (This advice is currently provided by the FCC's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council.)

Passed House (380-33)

### **H.R.1765 - Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2025**

This bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to encourage companies and other relevant stakeholders to participate in organizations that set standards for wireless communications networks and equipment. NTIA must also offer technical assistance to facilitate such participation.

Passed House (Voice Vote)

**H.R.1766 - NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act**

This bill establishes an Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to analyze and develop policies related to internet and communications technologies.

Passed House (Voice Vote)

**H.R. 4016- Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026**

This bill provides FY2026 appropriations to the Department of Defense (DOD) for military activities.

Passed House (221-209)

**H.R.4 - Rescissions Act of 2025**

This bill rescinds \$9.4 billion in unobligated funds that were provided to the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), various independent and related agencies, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Passed House, Passed Senate ( Agreed to Senate Amendment 216-213)

# Congressional Hearings



## Hearings This Past Week

**Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

**Surveillance, Sabotage, and Strikes: Industry Perspectives on How Drone Warfare Abroad Is Transforming Threats at Home**

Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee  
(House Homeland Security Committee)  
10:00 PM, 310 CHOB

## Hearings Next Week

**Monday, July 21, 2025**

**Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Services and General Government Bill**

Financial Services and General Government  
Subcommittee (House Appropriations Committee)  
5:30PM, H-140 C

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025**

**Antisemitism in Higher Education: Examining the Role of Faculty, Funding, and Ideology**

House Education and Workforce Committee  
10:15 AM, 2175 RHOB

**Beyond the Smash and Grab: Criminal Networks and Organized Theft**

Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
10:15 AM, 216SHOB

**Case by Case: Returning Parole To Its Proper Purpose**

Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability  
Subcommittee (House Homeland Security Committee)  
2:00 PM, 310 CHOB

**How Leftist Nonprofit Networks Exploit Federal Tax Dollars to Advance a Radical Agenda**

Oversight Subcommittee (House Judiciary Committee)  
2:00PM, 2141RHOB

**Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

**Nominations Hearing : Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

Senate Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation Committee  
10:00 AM, 253RSOB

**An Inside Job: How NGOs Facilitated the Biden Border Crisis**

House Homeland Security Committee  
10:00AM, 310 CHOB

**Future of United States Maritime Part 1: Review of Fiscal Year 2026 Federal Maritime Commission Budget Request**

Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation  
Subcommittee (House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee)  
10:00AM, 2167 RHOB

**Fully Operational: Stuxnet 15 Years Later and the Evolution of Cyber Threats to Critical Infrastructure**

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection  
Subcommittee (House Homeland Security Committee)  
10:00AM, 310CHOB

**Foreign Abuse of U.S. Courts**

Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and  
the Internet Subcommittee (House Judiciary  
Committee)  
10:00AM, 2141RHOB

**Bid Protest Reform: Understanding the Problem**

Government Operations Subcommittee (House  
Oversight and Government Reform)  
10:00AM, HVC210

**Securing the Skies: Law Enforcement, Drones, and Public Safety**

Senate Judiciary Committee  
10:15AM, 216HSOB

**Task Force on Enhancing Security for Special Events in the United States - Lessons Learned: An Examination of Major Security Incidents at Mass Gathering Events**

House Homeland Security Committee  
2:00PM, 310CHOB

**Too Big to Prosecute?: Examining the AI Industry's Mass Ingestion of Copyrighted Works for AI Training**

2:30PM, 226DSOB

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**

**Legislative Markup/ Nominations**

9:15AM, 216HSOB

**Full Committee Markup of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Acts**

11:00 AM, 106DSOB

**Examining the Trump Administration's Work Combatting Transnational Cartels in Indian Country**

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (House Natural Resources Committee)

2:30 PM, 13334HR LHOB

**Biden's Border Betrayal: Criminal Aliens in America**

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration (Senate Judiciary Committee)

2:30PM, 226 DSOB

**Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

**Catch and Release, Lose and Forget: Addressing the Crisis of Unaccompanied Alien Children – Part I**

Federal Law Enforcement Subcommittee (House Oversight and Government Reform Committee)

2:00PM, 2247 RHOB

**An Update on Mail Theft and Crime**

Government Operations Subcommittee (House Oversight and government Reform Committee)

2:00PM, HVC210

**Today's Reform for Tomorrow's Victory: Strategic Transformation of U.S. Counterintelligence**

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

10:30PM, HVC210

**Bureau of Counterterrorism FY26 Budget Posture Hearing**

Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee (House Foreign Affairs Committee)

2:00PM, 2172 RHOB

**Ending Illegal DEI Discrimination & Preferences:  
Enforcing Our Civil Rights Laws**

Senate Judiciary Committee  
2:30PM, 226DSOB  
**Thursday, July 24, 2025**

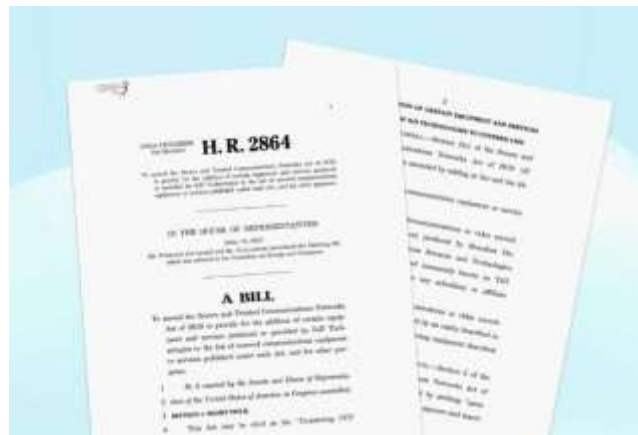
**Nominations ( DHS, CISA,ODNI)**

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Committee  
9:30AM, 342DSOB

**Legislative Markup**

Senate Judiciary Committee  
10:15AM, 216HSOB

## New Bill Introductions



BBM has compiled a list of this week's newly introduced legislation relevant to Justice, Public Safety, and Homeland Security in the 119th Congress.

You can download the information as an Excel spreadsheet by clicking [below](#).

## Congressional Calendar

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su   | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|      |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6    | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13   | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20   | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27   | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |



House and Senate  
in Session



Senate in Session  
Only



House in Session  
Only



Federal Holidays

Check out and download the **BBM 2025 Combined Congressional Calendar** below.

[BBM 2025 Congressional Calendar](#)

## Community and Client News



# Homeland Security

### **Homeland Security Task Force Created in Houston**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations Houston field office and FBI Houston announced the establishment of a regional Homeland Security Task Force July 17 to combat emerging threats from transnational criminal organizations in Southeast Texas.

The task force was created as a regional component to the national Homeland Security Task Force established by the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice pursuant to an executive order issued by President Donald J. Trump on Jan. 29 to protect the American people from invasion by transnational criminals.

The Houston HSTF's objective is to end the presence of criminal cartels, foreign gangs and transnational criminal organizations operating in Southeast Texas through a collaborative, whole-of-government approach. To accomplish this mission, the HSTF will conduct intelligence-driven, multijurisdictional investigations targeting drug trafficking, money laundering, weapons trafficking, human trafficking, alien smuggling, homicide, extortion, kidnapping, child exploitation and other transnational crimes. The Houston HSTF will work closely with state and local partners to identify, investigate and eliminate violent criminal organizations and associates operating in communities throughout Southeast Texas.

The HSTF will be headquartered in Houston and have a satellite office in Corpus Christi. The heads of HSI Houston and FBI Houston will co-lead the task force with input from a regional executive committee comprised of leaders from participating agencies. Task force personnel will include law enforcement agents, intelligence analysts and professional staff.

Participating agencies will include the Drug Enforcement Administration, the ATF, the U.S. Marshals Service, the IRS' Criminal Investigative Division, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office

of Field Operations, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area director, U.S. attorneys from the Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas, and other federal, state and local partners.

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### **Dover Police Department Unveils Virtual Training Equipment**

Dover Police Department unveils new technology it says will bolster police training across the First State.

Dover Police Chief Thomas Johnson introduced the half-a-million-dollar investment into an augmented reality simulation police training device Tuesday,

The technology offers a 300 degree semi-circle, made up of five screens, that take officers through one of several law enforcement scenarios. Scenarios range from active shootings to de-escalation training.

Johnson expects it will better prepare officers to handle situations appropriately.

“So, if a scenario or a situation calls for law enforcement to take use of force action, it can teach us to do that. If the idea is that the situation is not critical, and de-escalation is an appropriate solution, it will coach that response as well” Johnson said.

Dover At Large Councilman Andre Boggerty says the move to boost training can help address community concerns.

“All throughout our community, we are always asked about training for our police department, and we always ask, ‘What can we do to enhance our training?’ Our chief and the Dover PD have taken that seriously, we have heard our community, and we have to make the investment.” Boggerty said.

The \$500,000 price tag covers the technology itself, as well as a proper heating and air conditioning system for the top floor area of the Dover PD headquarters where the tech is installed. Johnson says previous temperatures in that area were not suitable for the new equipment.

Funding for the HVAC system comes from the state's Fiscal Year 2025 Bond Bill, while money from the Grants-in-Aid bill pays for the simulation tech and equipment.

Since the state is covering the cost, Dover PD is opening the system up for use by all Delaware law enforcement agencies according to Johnson, who says Dover's central location makes it reasonably accessible to all First State police departments.

Virtual shooting ranges and "skill tests" are also expected to cut costs for law enforcement agencies on live rounds and firearms.





## **FirstNet Users Summit**

Robust Discussions with Public Safety Thought Leadership, Industry Leaders, and Hands-On Product Demonstrations to include: Customized Workshops highlighting FirstNet Cutting-Edge Innovations, Products, and Applications.

September 8-11, 2025

The Westin Indianapolis

Downtown Hotel & Conference Center

Targeted content for all FirstNet Eligible Users, Administrative Leadership, Unified Emergency Support Functionality, and their Technical Support Teams.

Primary and Extended Primary users include:

- First Responders
- Dispatch Communications
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Planning and Management Teams
- Local, State, and Federal Government
- and all Agencies and Services supporting First Responders (hospitals, transportation, public utilities, & other agencies who may provide critical support to an incident).

[Learn More Here](#)

## Articles We Read This Week



### **Hochul asks federal government for increased drone detection, mitigation strategy**

"Granting states the authority they need to improve detection and mitigation of UAS threats, in coordination with federal agencies, is no longer a matter of preference," Hochul said in a letter to President Donald Trump and Congressional leaders. "It is a matter of urgent concern."

[Text Link](#)



### **Federal counterterrorism funding is late, leaving Connecticut 'vulnerable' officials say**

Grants through FEMA's Homeland Security Program are typically applied for in June and awarded in September. Last year, FEMA opened applications in April. But Connecticut has not yet received word this year that the funds are available, blowing past the statutory deadline by which FEMA must open those grant applications.

[Text Link](#)



## Florida records more than 700,000 people as victims of human trafficking in 2024

More than 700,000 people fell victim to human trafficking in Florida last year, an alarming new study has revealed. Of that number, about 100,000 were children targeted for sex trafficking.

[Text Link](#)



## A.I.-Generated Images of Child Sexual Abuse Are Flooding the Internet

A new flood of child sexual abuse material created by artificial intelligence is hitting a tipping point of realism, threatening to overwhelm the authorities. Over the past two years, new A.I. technologies have made it easier for criminals to create explicit images and videos of children.

[Text Link](#)



## A week later, there are more questions than answers surrounding mass overdose incident

It has been one week since the mass overdose in the Penn-North area that sent 27 people to the hospital. According to sources close to the investigation, Baltimore police are raising concerns about recently released lab results reportedly connected to the mass overdose at Penn North.

[Text Link](#)



## Jackson Police Department onboarding with FBI crime database is 'huge for us,' chief says

After years-long efforts, the Jackson Police Department is now in compliance with an online crime reporting system called National Incident-Based Reporting System, also known as NIBRS. "This is huge for us!" Wade said. "This has been a five-to-six-year journey. It has been a two-year journey for me to get us certified."

[Text Link](#)



## China's cyber sector amplifies Beijing's hacking of U.S. targets

Undeterred by recent indictments alleging widespread cyberespionage against American agencies, journalists and infrastructure targets, Chinese hackers are hitting a wider range of targets and battling harder to stay inside once detected, seven current and former U.S. officials said in interviews.

[Text Link](#)



## Trump Signs Bill to Toughen Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking

President Donald Trump signed legislation that strengthens criminal penalties for fentanyl, hailing it as a "historic step toward justice" in his latest effort to address the public health crisis spurred by the deadly drug.

[Text Link](#)



## **One in four Nashville schools see arrests for threats of mass violence during 2024/25 school year**

In the 2024/25 school year, more than a quarter of Nashville's public schools experienced arrests related to threats of mass violence, mirroring a growing national trend. This increase follows a crackdown by lawmakers on students making school threats, prompted by two deadly Nashville school shootings in less than two years. It also comes as police are increasingly scrutinizing social media and investigating more allegations.

[Text Link](#)



## **Local police, increasingly present at ICE raids, walk tightrope to stay out of immigration enforcement**

California law is clear. Local law enforcement agencies cannot assist federal agents with immigration enforcement. But local cops have been increasingly called to the scenes of such arrests in recent weeks as public immigration arrests continue to roil communities. Police are in a thorny spot. The community's distaste for the arrests by federal agents rubs off on local officers on the front line. In the eyes of the public, there may be little daylight between the two.

[Text Link](#)

# Upcoming Events



2025 NSA Annual Conference

Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
June 23-25, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



ACA's 155th Congress of Correction

Denver, Colorado  
August 21-26, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



2025 Annual Conference

Dallas, Texas  
September 22-24, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



2025 Small and Rural Law  
Enforcement Executives Association  
Annual Conference

Lawrence, Kansas  
July 27-29, 2025



MCCA 2025 Annual Conference

Denver, Colorado  
October 15-17, 2025



2025 ASCIA Fall Conference

Denver, Colorado  
October 16-18, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



2025 SEARCH Annual Membership  
Group Meeting

Virtual Event

July 29-31, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

[Learn More Here](#)



49th Annual Training Conference

Hollywood, Florida  
August 8-12, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

[Learn More Here](#)



Justice, Public Safety, and Security  
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit

Tysons Corner, Virginia  
September 9-10, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

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## About BBM



Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC is a team of experienced professionals who serve as trusted advisors to law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence practitioners and solution providers.

Our government relations practice helps clients advance critical policy priorities with Congress, federal agencies, and state legislatures. Our business strategy consulting practice enables companies to connect innovative products and services with market needs.

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