



BROOKS BAWDEN MOORE
LLC



Photo of the Week: Vice President Vance, Defense Secretary Hegseth, and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Miller visit National Guard Troops inside Union Station in Washington, DC.

Weekly Update and Analysis

August 22, 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?

While Congress remains in August recess, the Administration has been making moves that are drawing attention in Washington.

This week, the Attorney General and FBI Director announced that Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey will step in as the FBI's new Deputy Director, serving alongside Dan Bongino. At the same time, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard rolled out a sweeping initiative dubbed "ODNI 2.0," a plan to significantly restructure her office and reduce its workforce.

Meanwhile, as the government barrels toward the end of the fiscal year, a high-stakes budget fight is looming. When Congress returns in September, lawmakers will have only a few weeks to prevent a [government shutdown](#). Federal funding runs out at the end of the month, and with only a handful of appropriations bills passed so far, a stopgap "continuing resolution" (CR) looks like the only option. At the center of the debate are pocket rescissions—a maneuver the Trump administration argues could allow them to cancel spending already approved by Congress simply by running down the clock. You can read more

about this issue [here](#). Lawmakers are also weighing whether to include earmarks as part of any fall funding fix, which could further complicate negotiations. You can read about these discussions [here](#).

Finally, in a show of unity, sixteen national public safety associations issued a joint letter urging Congress to take action on the growing threat posed by the criminal misuse of unmanned aircraft systems, or drones. The letter calls for comprehensive legislation to give state and local law enforcement agencies the authority to detect, track, and, when necessary, safely mitigate unlawful drone activity. You can read more on that effort below.

As drones continue to transform both criminal activity and public safety, we've pulled together several key resources we've published on the topic. This includes coverage of recent congressional hearings and briefings. We invite you to explore these materials.

- [Drones: Confronting Threats & Supporting Public Safety](#)
- [Briefing Recording: Law Enforcement Tools Transforming Public Safety](#)
- [Major Public Safety Associations Participate in Congressional Briefing on Drone Threats \(Briefing Recording\)](#)
- [Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing Examines Growing Drone Threats to Correctional Facilities and Public Safety](#)

Public Safety Leaders Urge Congress to Act on Counter-Drone Authority

Sixteen national public safety associations are calling on Congress to pass comprehensive legislation to give state and local agencies the authority to detect, track, identify, and mitigate drones that threaten public safety.



August 20, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, and Leader Scalise:

On behalf of the undersigned national public safety associations - representing thousands of local and state agencies and personnel responsible for protecting communities across the country, we

[Read the letter and view additional resources on counter UAS and drones for public safety](#) below.

[Read More 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.

- [Congress Faces Another Shutdown Fight](#)
- [Guns and Marijuana: The Supreme Court May Step In](#)
- [FBI Releases Monthly Crime and Law Enforcement Data](#)
- [The Hill: "Tulsi Gabbard to slash offices, nearly half of staff at ODNI"](#)
- [POLITICO: "The unusual GOP alliance pushing earmarks in this fall's funding fight"](#)
- [The "Pocket Rescissions" Clash](#)
- [ICYMI: Axios – "FBI gets 2 co-deputy directors: Missouri AG tapped to serve alongside Bongino"](#)
- [Public Safety Leaders Urge Congress to Act on Counter-Drone Authority](#)
- [The Hill: "Rogue drones are a ticking time bomb — let police intervene"](#)

Floor Activity



Senate

The Senate was not in session this week.

House of Representatives

The House of Representatives was not in session this week.

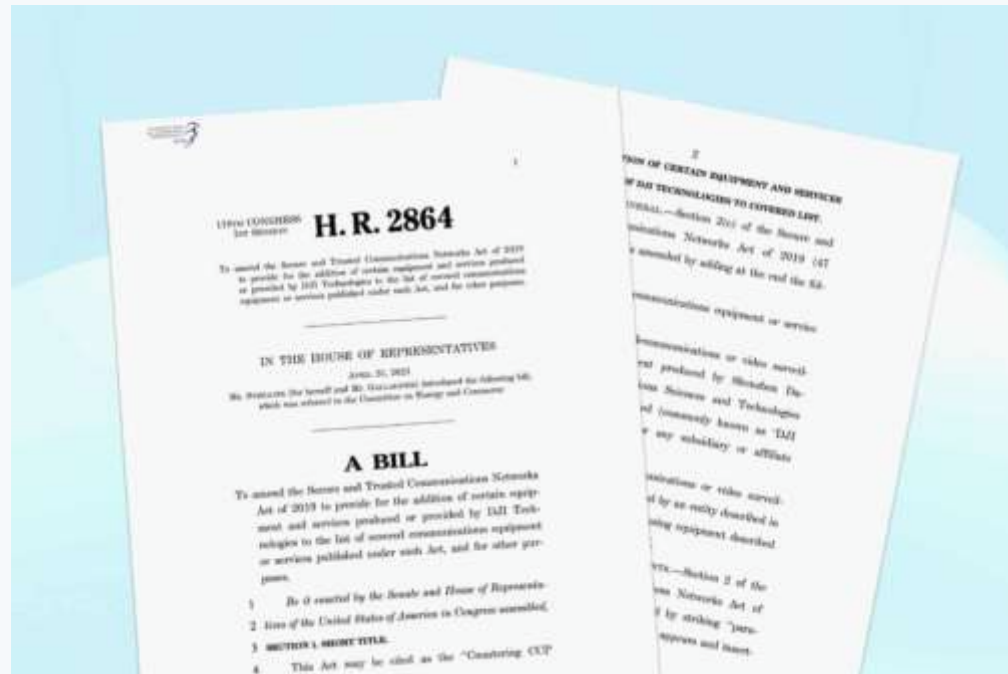
Congressional Hearings



Hearings This Month

The House and Senate are scheduled for a State and District Work Period until September 2.

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](#).

[Newly Introduced Legislation](#)

Congressional Calendar

AUGUST						
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.

Community and Client News



Rogue drones are a ticking time bomb — let police intervene

By Sheriff Don Barnes and Fire Chief Brian Fennessy

When fighting wildfires, we need every advantage possible to help us save lives and protect property. Aircraft remains an essential tool that can quickly douse flames or create firebreaks to slow the spread of fire, often before ground crews can reach the scene.

The list of wildland firefighting aircraft successes is long and impressive. During last month's [Rancho Fire](#) in Laguna Beach, the force multiplier of a robust air attack saved an entire community.

Similar results were recently seen in [San Bernardino](#) and [Riverside](#) counties when two fires that threatened homes were quickly extinguished using air support.

The difference between a fire you have never heard of and a fire you never forget is often won or lost in the initial attack. That's when time matters to the second, precision matters to the foot and volume of water matters to the gallon — measurements that can only be filled by aircraft.

On the few fires that do escape initial attack, aircraft again become one of the most valuable resources in a firefight, as evidenced by the helitankers that [saved the community of Brentwood](#) during the Los Angeles Fires.

Unfortunately, aircraft can be grounded just as rapidly as they are deployed. When natural factors like high winds or poor visibility cause grounding there is nothing that we, as first responders, can do.

However, when aircraft are grounded due to interference by unauthorized drones, there should be something we can do. As the leaders of the two largest public safety agencies in Orange County, that is precisely what we write to advocate for.

In January, a [drone struck a Super Scooper working the Palisades Fire](#), tearing a hole in the aircraft's left wing. The plane was grounded for five days for repairs during the height of the firefight, significantly impeding operations and further imperiling life and property.

While this was the most damaging disruption caused by a drone during the Los Angeles fires, there were more than 700 other instances of unauthorized drone incursions on the Palisades Fire alone, causing multiple pauses of the air attack.

More recently, in July, as aircraft worked to contain the Steele Fire in San Diego County, [a near-collision occurred](#) between a drone and a firefighting helicopter, endangering the crews and the public.

While there are heavy fines and jail time associated with this crime, there is no immediate way for local law enforcement to disable and bring down an unauthorized drone.

With speed and force from firefighting aircraft being our most effective weapon, this gap in our ability to prevent drone threats will continue to unnecessarily impede operations and ultimately cause property destruction and loss of life.

Unfortunately, the danger of illicit drone use goes beyond interference with wildfire response. Drones have been used to disrupt mass gathering events, violate protected privacy, deliver contraband to incarcerated individuals and other nefarious acts by various criminal organizations, including drug cartels and terrorists.

[According to the Department of Homeland Security](#), in the last six months of 2024, over 27,000 drones were detected within 500 meters of the southern border, mostly at night and above permitted height limits.

These are hallmarks of cartel activity that empower coordinating illegal border crossings, scouting drug trafficking paths and dropping explosives on government authorities.

To be clear, the technology to bring down an illegally operated drone exists, but federal law only authorizes a select few federal agencies to utilize counter-drone equipment.

While we appreciate our federal partners, the growing prevalence of drones and the associated risks tied to their ubiquity cannot be adequately handled by a limited number of federal officers. Finite mitigation authorization means that the public safety threats posed by drones go unaddressed until tragedy strikes.

It is crucial that local law enforcement is equipped and empowered to address crimes stemming from locally operated drones.

It is worth noting that cartels have reportedly used [counter-drone technology](#) against law enforcement efforts. However, agencies like the Orange County Sheriff's Department (where one of us is sheriff) that have the staff, local knowledge and expertise to quickly and effectively ground a drone threat, currently are not permitted to do so.

Earlier this year, the president issued an [executive order](#) concerning drone technology and potential associated threats, expanding the counter-drone infrastructure, particularly at mass gathering events like the upcoming World Cup and the 2028 Olympics.

Although the executive order makes some equipment funding available to state and local agencies, it does not provide local jurisdictions with counter-drone authority, as that requires a law passed by Congress.

The administration and legislators from both parties have made clear that counter-drone authority for local agencies is a nonpartisan priority in the best interest of all Americans.

As such, we respectfully ask our federal leaders to move with the urgency this public safety priority demands.

Don Barnes is the sheriff of Orange County, California. Brian Fennessy is the fire authority chief in Orange County.

[Article Link Here](#)





NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Announces 2025 National Officer Safety and Wellness Award Winners

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) is pleased to announce the winners of the Destination Zero National Officer Safety and Wellness Awards, which highlight agency-level achievements in the areas of officer safety and wellness.

This year's winners are:

- Comprehensive Safety: Madison (CT) Police Department
- Comprehensive Wellness: Independence (OH) Police Department
- General Safety: Morton Grove (IL) Police Department

- Officer Wellness: Newport Beach (CA) Police Department
- Traffic Safety: Smithfield (VA) Police Department

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, whose mission is to honor the fallen, tell the story of American law enforcement, and make it safer for those who serve, launched Destination Zero in 2014 with a goal to identify agencies conducting unique and innovative programs aimed at reducing risk factors for line-of-duty deaths, and to share the design and outcomes of these programs with the national law enforcement community. Agencies with successful programs are asked to submit details of their initiatives and be considered for a national officer safety and wellness award.

Following months of review and evaluation of the more than 40 submitted programs, a diverse committee of experts representing federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies selected the award recipients for each of the five categories.



NTER Master Training Program- NTER Equipping Partners to Counter Threats



Over the past two months, the National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program Office has conducted two Instructor Development Threat Evaluation and Reporting Courses in Boston, Massachusetts, and Albany, New York. These courses serve as the cornerstone of the NTER Master Trainer Program certification, which equips homeland security partners with the skills and knowledge necessary to train their communities and enhance organizational capabilities to mitigate threats and prevent terrorism and mass casualty incidents. NTER delivered this training to 60 federal, state, and local partners representing over 25 states, further enhancing national preparedness and resilience. These partners will become part of the nationwide Master Trainer Network, which includes over 500 federal, state, and local partners, serving as force multipliers for the Department in countering homeland threats.

NTER works directly with state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners on recognizing and reporting the early warning signs of terrorism and mass casualty attacks, advancing threat identification and mitigation capabilities. Law enforcement can access self-paced eLearning courses on our website [here](#). The Foundations of Targeted Violence Prevention course focuses on educating the public on recognizing and reporting concerning behaviors, while the online Suspicious Activity Reporting trainings provide awareness of Suspicious Activity Reporting processes and sector-specific considerations for terrorism prevention. Additionally, NTER offers resources and products to guide SLTTP partners in preventing acts of terrorism and mass violence against Americans, such as the behavioral approach to violence prevention. For more information, visit the NTER's [website](#) or contact the Program Office at NTER@hq.dhs.gov.

Articles We Read This Week



Law enforcement embraces new mobile fingerprint readers

CBI said it has distributed more than 260 devices to 37 agencies since July 2024. The handheld readers allow patrol officers to access law enforcement databases directly from the field. The devices will allow officers to confirm identities, check for active warrants and verify registry information for sex offenders.

[Text Link](#)



NJ warns of 'reckless' federal funding cuts for license plate readers that track criminals

New Jersey's top law enforcement officials are touting the results of an audit they say illustrates the value of automated license plate readers, the high-tech sensors that can scan thousands of passing plates and quickly find a specific vehicle.

[Text Link](#)



How Baltimore's violent crime rate hit an all-time low: 'This is not magic. It's hard work'

Violent crime in America's big cities has been receding from pandemic highs for about two years. But even in comparison, Baltimore's improvement is breathtaking: fewer people have been killed in the city over the last seven months than in any similar period in the last 50 years.

[Text Link](#)



Gabbard announces plan to reorganize her agency, cut staff by half

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard announced Wednesday that her office will cut nearly half its workforce and consolidate several intelligence centers as part of a sweeping restructuring initiative called "ODNI 2.0."

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Missouri AG Andrew Bailey to become FBI co-deputy director, joining Dan Bongino

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey will serve as the FBI's co-deputy director, alongside the law enforcement agency's current second-in-command, Dan Bongino.

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Democratic-led states sue Trump administration over tying grant money to immigration

Twenty Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia sued the Trump administration Monday over its decision to withhold grant money to states that refuse to work with federal officials to implement the president's aggressive immigration and deportation policies.

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Bondi ramps up pressure on 32 'sanctuary jurisdictions': Who's on the list?

Attorney General Pam Bondi said Thursday she was ramping up pressure on 32 "sanctuary jurisdictions," urging them to comply with federal immigration enforcement efforts.

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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](#)



MCCA 2025 Annual Conference

Denver, Colorado

October 15-17, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



49th Annual Training Conference

Hollywood, Florida

August 8-12, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



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

Tysons Corner, Virginia

September 9-10, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



2025 ASCIA Fall Conference

Denver, Colorado

October 16-18, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

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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