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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: And We're Back...

And we're back, ladies and gentlemen...after a two week legislative hiatus, life is once again seen in the halls of Congress as Members returned from their districts. Unfortunately, July provides precious few legislative days in which to accomplish much, but that doesn't prevent the "to do list" from being voluminous.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY24, an ongoing Appropriations schedule, the possibility of a supplemental and potential July Continuing Resolution (CR) all found headlines this week. For the emergency management community, the most pressing issue is ensuring the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is recapitalized as expeditiously as possible. With FEMA still pointing to "late August" as the likely exhaustion date, that leaves us short [checks a calendar...] a month of funding. The DRF is likely one of the cornerstones of two potential solutions.

Many are speaking of the desire for a supplemental to including additional funds for the DRF and Department of Defense. A delegation of Florida Members have introduced legislation adding \$11 billion to the DRF. For those spending hawks not wanting to see a supplemental, a summertime CR might be the solution. This would be attractive because it eliminates September 30 as a drop-dead date for funding the government, and the DRF is able to receive its year-long apportionment under a CR. Either way of attractive to those wanting to see the DRF fully funded, but the solution will be rife with politics.

Despite these question marks, the House Appropriators continued their efforts at making progress on FY24 spending bills, completing work on legislation for DHS and other agencies. Details on how that impacts emergency management and homeland security can be seen below.

### Hearings Next Week

Tuesday, July 18

2:00pm; House Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

[Opening the Floodgates: Biden's Broken Border Barrier](#)

Wednesday, July 19

2:00pm; House Homeland Security

[Biden and Mayorkas Open Border: Advancing Cartel Crime in America](#)

Thursday, July 20

9:30am; Senate Environment & Public Works

[Hearings to Examine the Water Resources Development Act, focusing on non-federal stakeholder views](#)

10:30am; Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[Business meeting to consider "Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act," and other pending business](#)

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

### HOUSE APPROPRIATORS MOVE DHS SPENDING BILL

Before leaving for their respective districts last week, the House Appropriations Committee completed their work on a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), ending September 30, 2025. The Senate is currently working on their versions of the same spending bills. They are working under draft allocations but proceeding with drafting bill and report language. As a sign of things to come, House leadership is already discussing the possibility of completing a Continuing Resolution (CR) in July, well before the September 30 deadline for funding decisions. While unusual, this move would be helpful to FEMA and the DRF as the fund is dwindling perilously low on funding and a CR would provide a full year of funding for the account.

For DHS, the bill includes \$91.515 billion in total discretionary appropriations for DHS, including \$62.793 billion within the bill's allocation, \$5.837 billion in discretionary appropriations offset by fee collections, and \$20.261 billion as an allocation adjustment for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). The total, within the allocation, is \$2.090 billion above the FY23 level.

For FEMA, the bill provides \$26.063 billion, which is \$390.1 million above FY23 and \$179.9 million above the request. The majority of grant funding is level-funded to FY23 levels. A full summary outlining additional details was sent to the NEMA membership on Monday.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES BILL ADDRESSES LONG-TERM RECOVERY

In addition to the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee completing their work, the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Subcommittee did the same. While we closely monitor all the Appropriations bills, it is unusual for FSGG to make it onto our radar. With them having oversight of the White House and National Security Council (NSC), however, the FY24 report included the following language which was topical, timely, and a welcomed brake lever on an ongoing NSC effort.

*Federal Disaster Recovery.—The Committee is concerned about an effort to centralize Federal disaster recovery activities in the National Security Council without adequate input across the Federal interagency or state and local stakeholder organizations. The National Security Council is directed to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act on the roles and responsibilities of a Federal recovery coordination office, as well as required resources.*

### FEMA HOSTS LISTENING SESSIONS ON COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES

The [Community Disaster Resilience Zone \(CDRZ\) Act of 2022](#), which NEMA supported, requires FEMA to use a data and mapping tool to identify and designate community disaster resilience zones. This new initiative designates high-risk geographic zones to advance resilience in our nation's most vulnerable communities through targeted financial and technical support.

In addition to the [Request for Information](#) published in the Federal Register, FEMA is hosting several listening sessions for states, tribes, territories, local communities, public and private sector entities and non-profit organizations to provide feedback. FEMA is seeking public input on the risk methodology, designation of zones, and post-designation support for each zone. There are four listening sessions planned in July and August. There is a maximum of 1,000 participants. All of these opportunities will be on Zoom and recorded.

Risk Assessment Methodology & the method to Designate CDRZ:

- Tuesday, July 18, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time. [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, July 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Eastern Time. [Register here](#)

Frameworks for Delivery Services and Technical Assistance to Designated Zones

- Thursday, July 20, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time. [Register here](#)

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

BloombergLaw: [FEMA Stretched Beyond Climate Response as Disasters Balloon](#)

WAFFB: [State Demands Transparency on Insurance Rate Calculations](#)

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