

Bill Creating Council to Address Threats to Supply Chain Security Passed in the Senate

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On December 18, 2018, the Senate unanimously passed a bill which would create a council responsible for addressing federal supply chain security. Because the bill was not presented for a vote in the House of Representatives, it will begin the legislative process again in the current Congress.

The Senate bill provided for the establishment of the Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Council, which would be comprised of a number of individuals from different departments and agencies. The council would work with the private sector to create criteria that could be used to identify products that present risks to the supply chain including terrorism, piracy, and theft. It would also establish protocols for sharing information between federal and non-federal bodies. Further, the council would develop rules regarding the issuance of exclusion or removal orders that prohibit the purchase of particular products. Such orders, issued either by the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary of Defense, or Director of National Intelligence, could be challenged in the D.C. Circuit.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the council would spend \$2 million annually.

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